BIG Challenge 2015 submission category: Large scale permanent

Project overview
The children's age ranges from 6 years old to 10 years old (Primary School age), and are led by two teachers.

They have created eco environmental gardens, a vegetable allotment and are now in the process of a bee keeping lessons, all in very urban areas oh high rise tower blocks of flats in deprived areas. They learn to grow vegetables and then learn to cook them.

Photo: School eco-garden

What were the biodiversity conditions on site, prior to the enhancement?
Conditions on the three school sites were of concrete hard stand with no eco systems in place.

Were there any specific conditions that led to you carrying out this work?
Educational needs and pastoral awareness.

What were the biodiversity measures taken?
As the Academy grows, so the areas of diversity grow. The tending of the plants and bees are introduced into the learning pattern within the school.

Photo: School eco-garden

All three schools have created new habitat's and as the schools are in predominately 'concrete jungles' there is a huge gain to the biodiversity. Where possible the children use recycled materials and are taught the value of recycling.

How would you best describe the project?
An enhancement.

Further information
The gardens have developed over time with each year adding their own elements. There are long term benefit in that growing and cooking their own vegetables and then give guidance on nutritional values. The bee keeping involved Teachers attending training on Saturdays (in their own time).

What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?
As a school Governor over the three schools the aim is to support them in any way.

Some of the children have never been on holiday away from where they live, they have never seen the sea except in a picture, 70% of the children fall into the poverty framework
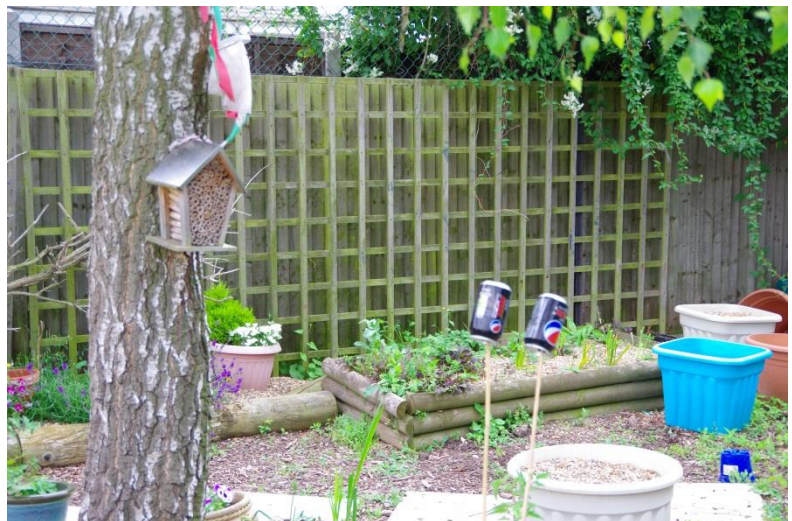

Photo: Log planter

Photo: Raised planters