Chester Bus Interchange

A 'state-of-the-art' gateway for the city of Chester

£10m	September 2015	May 2017
/ Project value	/ The project commenced	/ The project was completed

The Chester Bus Interchange is a strategic transport link for the city that is helping to unlock the "economic growth benefits" of the £300m Northgate mixed-use development. Delivered on time and on budget, the "key enabling" project replaced the outdated Princess Street Exchange, and now facilitates as many as 90 bus movements per hour. Employing an innovative horseshoe design, and housing 13 bus stands, the £10m station forms an important "visual element" to the historic City Gateway site. Individually glued laminated timber roof rafters with steel purlins were used to achieve the state-of-the-art curved structure. Meanwhile, an "eco-friendly grass roof", consisting of a mixture of plants and soil, enhances the building's character, improves the air quality, and promotes the development of biodiversity and wildlife in the local area.

The brief

In September 2015, we were commissioned by Cheshire West and Cheshire Council to deliver a state-of-the-art new bus station as a gateway to Chester. The contract scope also included the associated public realm works. The development freed up the old bus station site for the Northgate regeneration masterplan.

"Receiving an award for accessibility is particularly gratifying."

Chester Councillor Brian Clarke
Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Infrastructure

> ## "The completion of the Bus Interchange marks a major milestone for Chester Northgate."

Chester Councillor Brian Clarke
Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Infrastructure

The challenges

The Chester Bus Interchange project required the comprehensive re-alignment and resurfacing of the surrounding streetscape, in addition to the creation of new public plazas. One of the main challenges was tying the site in, and complementing it, with the wider Chester masterplan. In partnership with our supply chain partners, we developed a design from RIBA Stage 3 to a BIM Level 2 standard, and subsequently implemented intelligent landscape proposals which seamlessly integrated the new interchange and road layout into the historic landscape of Chester. The creative landscape design, which utilised natural stone surfaces, anchored the new contemporary building into its historic context.

The solution

Winner of the "Accessible Transport Project of the Year" at the Smarter Travel Live Awards, the Chester Bus Interchange has significantly improved public transport access into the city, reduced congestion, and provided better integration between rail users, pedestrians and cyclists. It features a range of inclusive design characteristics, including directional and information signage, colour contrasting seating, dual-height customer services counters with a hearing loop system, unisex accessible toilets and baby changing facilities, and tactile wayfinding paving for blind and visually impaired passengers. The striking design incorporates glulam timber beams to create a curved roof form. The 3,434 sq m roof itself is covered with an extensive sedum system which adds an element of green space. Notably, the project, which was delivered to BIM Level 2, was realised thanks to complex technical design and a high quality public realm scheme that recognised the key interfaces between the landscape, architectural and engineering details.

Outputs & Benefits

/ **Sustainability:** The project has a 3,434 sq m sedum NatureMat roof with a varied pitch from 0-35 degrees installed over a Kalzip standing seam roof, helping biodiversity and wildlife

/ **Delivery as planned:** Completed on time and to budget. We also undertook additional works

/ **Award-winning:** Winner of the "Accessible Transport Project of the Year" at the Smarter Travel Live Awards

/ **Innovative design:** The Chester Bus Interchange employs an innovative horseshoe design

/ **Engagement:** We maintained strong dialogue with the local community, provided regular updates for residents, and offered bespoke on-site educational programmes for students at local schools and colleges

For more information on how we're delivering lasting impact:

☐ **+44 (0) 28 9268 9500**   ✉ **info@graham.co.uk**   ☐ **graham.co.uk**

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