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CASE HISTORY: GABION CLADDING AT THE NATIONAL BURIED INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITY (NBIF)

LOCATION:	University of Birmingham, West Midlands, U.K.
MAIN CLIENT:	Balfour Beatty
GABION CONTRACTOR:	Retaining Solutions Ltd
DESIGN, MANUFACTURE & SUPPLY:	Hy-Ten Gabion Solutions

GABION CLADDING & WALLING

Max. Height : 4.1m	Total Length : 124m	Total Area : 452m^2

Introduction: The National Buried Infrastructure Facility (NBIF) is a unique research, education, and training facility located at the University of Birmingham. This cutting-edge facility focuses on various geotechnical and geophysical fields, including geophysical sensing, pipeline detection and assessment, environmental engineering, soil stabilization, and buried infrastructure/ground interaction.

The project aimed to integrate gabions, provided by Hy-Ten Gabion Solutions and installed by Retaining Solutions Ltd, into the NBIF's structure, both internally and externally.

If you would like Hy-Ten to design and supply gabions & land reinforcement products for you, please contact us on 01902 712200 or email sales@hy-tengabions.com

HY-TEN GABION SOLUTIONS

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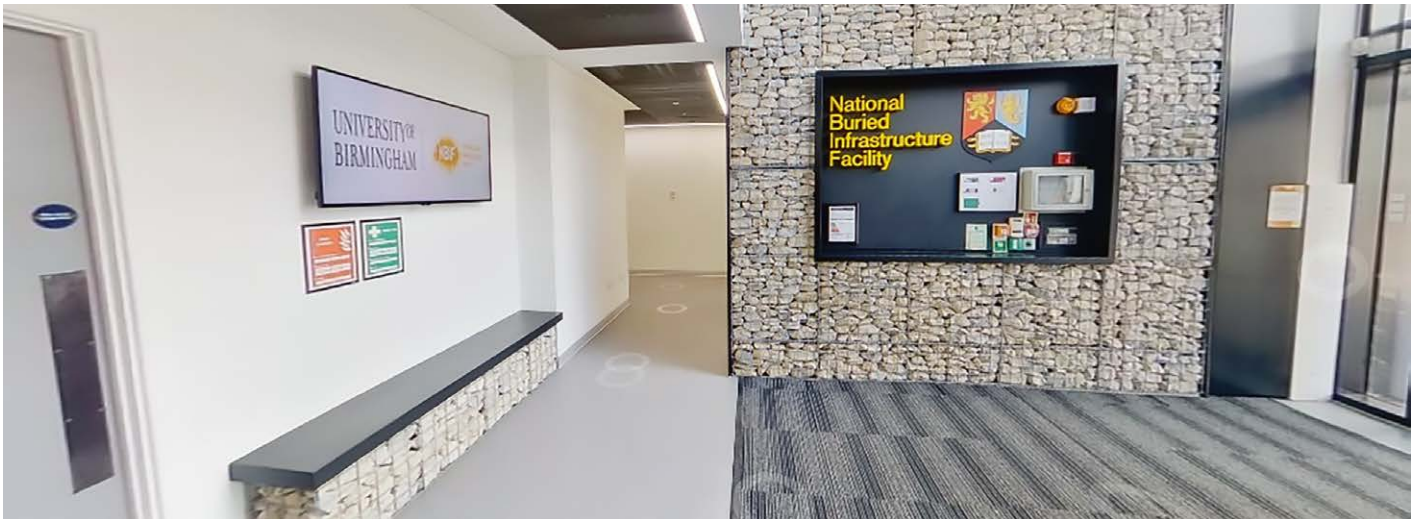

Exterior Gabion Cladding: Exterior Gabion Cladding: An impressive gabion cladding, reaching a height of 4.1 meters and spanning a total length of 124 meters, envelops the ground floor of the NBIF building. The use of light-coloured natural stone in the gabions creates a striking contrast with the dark grey standing seam cladding that covers the first and second floors of the building. This exterior cladding not only adds an aesthetic touch but also showcases the fusion of modern engineering with natural resources.

Interior Gabion Features: Inside the NBIF building, the gabions continue to play a prominent role. They are incorporated as a feature wall and seating arrangement within the entrance atrium. This interior design element combines quarried stone, exposed steelwork, and abundant natural light, resulting in a contemporary appearance that aligns with the facility's purpose and mission.

Design Collaboration: The design layout for the gabion cladding project was collaborative effort between Hy-Ten Gabion solutions and Balfour Beatty. This partnership ensured that the cladding not only met the aesthetic and functional requirements but also integrated seamlessly with the overall design of the facility.

Installation Expertise: Retaining Solutions Ltd, renowned for their expertise in gabion installation, executed the cladding installation with precision craftsmanship. Their experience in handling gabion systems ensured that the cladding was not only visually appealing but also structurally sound.

Project Conclusion: The NBIF's gabion cladding project is a testament to the successful integration of natural resources into modern engineering design. The juxtaposition of light –coloured natural stone against dark grey cladding adds a unique visual appeal to the facility. Furthermore, the gabions used as interior features create an inviting and contemporary atmosphere within the entrance atrium. This project showcases the collaborative efforts of the main client, design and supply team and gabion installation experts, resulting in a harmonious blend of functionality and aesthetics at the NBIF.

The National Buried Infrastructure Facility stands as a shining example of how gabion cladding can transform a building, making it not only a functional space but also an architectural landmark that embodies the mission and values of its purpose.

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