

Hampton Court Palace



As part of a continuous process of conservation and improvement to the palace grounds and buildings, the authorities decided to restore one of the busiest main access approaches to the palace back to the 17th century layout and also to undertake repairs to the adjoining lawns.

Our task was two-fold. First, to remove tarmac on the road edges to a width of 3m, working tight in against historical bollards, then to bring in topsoil and re-turf the whole area, tying in the new turf with existing banks of turf. Second, to excavate and prepare the base for the new walkways between the long Barrack Block building and the main palace building and then to lay tarmac with a resin-bonded surface along these pedestrian routes.



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This operation was completed in two phases, one either side of the road, sectioning off each area so that pedestrian access was not completely disrupted. Since there were so many visitors passing close to the works there was an especially rigorous Health and Safety policy on site, with our site manager Gareth Davies running the project and a full traffic management plan with banksmen to receive deliveries of material.



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Historical bollards were protected in wooden cases to prevent accidental damage by heavy plant whilst groundworks were undertaken.



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William Page, Conservation Building Surveyor at Historic Royal palaces, recalls that the project was not all plain sailing. "There was a late start due to unforeseen circumstances caused by a number of unmarked services running across parts of the site and also much unscheduled work to the turf irrigation system being installed by the Palace Estates Department," he says.



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Tarmac was removed from the road edges to a width of 3m, revealing services which required updating.



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Walkways were excavated between the long Barrack Block building and the main palace building.



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Tarmac was layed with a resin-bonded surface along these pedestrian routes.



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Gravel was spread onto the resin-bonded surfaces giving a durable and attractive walkway.



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The finished walkways with new turf laid and tied into existing banks of turf.



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The approach to Hampton Court Palace – fit for a King!

