

Cathedral Square Improvements

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Zero Waste delivers a Lasting Legacy for Local Community

The public realm improvement scheme in Cathedral Square, Peterborough further enhances one of the most beautiful areas of the city centre which is bounded by listed and historic buildings of architectural interest.

Through early development of our Community Investment Strategy and commitment to Zero Waste, our project supported local groups and schemes to promote new skills and developments and protect the environmental and historic value of the area. "East of England Material Exchange" subsequently awarded us a Highly Commended Certificate in the "Co-ordinator's Choice" category at their Annual Re-use Conference and Awards Ceremony, complementing our project team for their 'dedication to addressing all levels of the waste hierarchy in construction and supporting the local community'.



Customer Support for Better "Whole-life" Design

Through our early involvement and customer support the scheme was progressed with the needs of the local community, surrounding businesses, and future maintenance requirements at the forefront of our planning.

Through collaborative team working with our specialist supply chain partner, early value engineering discussions identified an innovative design for the fountains that would require less maintenance. The design was also reassessed in relation to the proposed construction depths which originally fouled every statutory service within the Square.

Through comprehensive coordination and communication with the Design Team, Statutory Undertakers Teams, and Highways Department, we gained approval for an alternative design avoiding clashes with the major services, reducing programme and risk and a producing a cost saving of £800k.

TOP: Night time exterior at Cathedral Square in Peterborough

BOTTOM: Development of historic site

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Advance works also included the installation of trial panels, and trials of surface treatments to ensure that the Yorkstone would not be damaged when needing to remove any chewing gum, graffiti or the like.

Local Engagement and Stakeholder Consideration

With the main works being adjacent to historic buildings and numerous retail and commercial premises, establishing collaborative working relations with this diverse set of stakeholders was fundamental to the success of the project. Through establishing excellent relationships we:

- Gained a full understanding of their constraints and were able address them in the best way.
- Ensured the businesses were able to continue to trade profitably.
- Minimised disruption and ensured the safety of the public and residents.



A detailed Pedestrian Management Scheme included segregated bridges into the retail and commercial premises and customised directional signage for each outlet, with a dedicated marshal on-hand to liaise with pedestrians, giving directions and assistance.

Bespoke metal hoardings were used around the central square which doubled up as display areas to keep local stakeholders and visitors informed of works progress and also to advertise local events.

Quality Workmanship

As a principal open space in Peterborough City Centre it was important that the required standards for the project were fully appreciated by our workforce for the quality hard and soft landscaping and infrastructure upgrade in the busy public space around the Cathedral.



TOP: Water jets in full working order

MIDDLE: Night time lighting transforms the outside space

BOTTOM: Enhancing the beauty of this historic site

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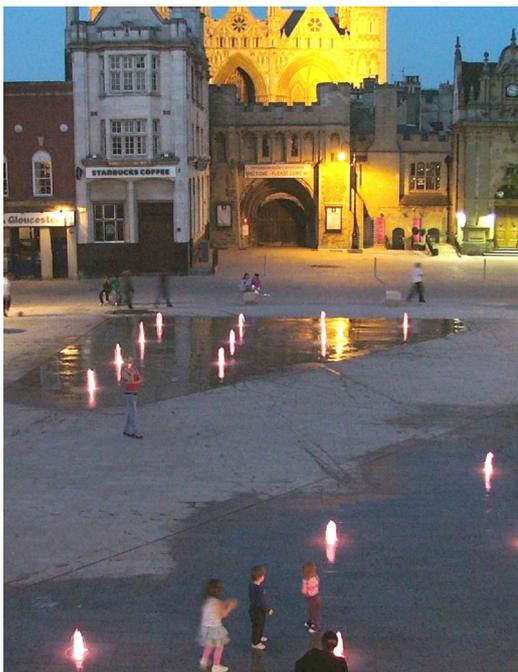
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TOP: Maintaining the heritage of the square

BOTTOM: Local community enjoying the newly renovated square

The installation of a high-quality York stone and granite paving with water jet fountains and granite block seating was programmed around the demolition of a 1960s office block. Our methodologies were carefully considered to protect the heritage of the Square including careful removal and recycling of old surfacing and protection to adjacent listed structures and scheduled monuments.

Community Investment Strategy

In full commitment to “Zero Waste,” working with Peterborough Environment City Trust and the East of England Material Exchange we reused as many materials from the site as possible on other projects around Peterborough and maximised recycling where re-use was not possible. We donated:

- Soil and bricks to “The Green Backyard Project,” a local initiative to help the community learn about growing food.
- Paving slabs to Peterborough Rugby Club, along with bike racks for its new car park.
- Paving slabs and blocks to Dogthorpe Road Allotments.
- Yorkstone slabs to Thorney Parish Council for a path replacement at Thorney Abbey.

Going the Extra Mile in making our Customer Successful

We believe in building long term successful Customer relationships, and in the truest demonstration of our personal service we assisted the Council wherever possible throughout our works. When a water main burst outside of the project area, the contractor carrying out the emergency repair threw away the expensive “Blanc de Bierges” paving sets that are a feature of Peterborough City Centre. We managed to source identical sets from within our works and repaired the damaged paving to ensure the heritage of the beautiful square was unspoilt.