

Gatwick South Terminal Long Term Parking

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Best value upgrade minimises costs and disruption risks

In the run-up to Christmas, Gatwick Airport required urgent additional space in the airport car parks.

A scheme to provide 30,000m² of parking in the South Terminal Long Term Parking Zone D was instigated, with a further 22,000m² scheme to Zone F to be commenced after the five-week Christmas rush, to be completed before the forthcoming Easter period. Completed under the Commodity Framework, our primary objective was to deliver the scheme with a short lead-in time and high cost certainty.



Through developing a fast track programme to minimise disruption to the travelling public, not only were the two planned car park upgrades completed and integrated with the airport transport on-time, but an additional area, Zone E, was completed at the same time as Zone F to provide an even greater number of upgraded spaces.

TOP: New car park surfacing

BOTTOM: Creating additional space and facilities

Martin Fox, Gatwick Airport Project Manager:
"This was the first time a contractor had delivered the commitment given at the award meeting. We said what we were going to do and did what we said we would... re-open the car park on time."

Strict programme compliance despite unseen challenges

Upgrade of the long term car park Zone D included new surfacing, road markings, signs, delineation of safe pedestrian walkways, reconstruction of the existing bus stops and electrical ducting works. Works to Zones E and Zone F included the addition of land drainage and safety barriers.

With passengers booked into the car parks for their Christmas and Easter vacations, strict adherence to the tight programme was required to ensure the car park Zones D, E and F could be re-opened on time.

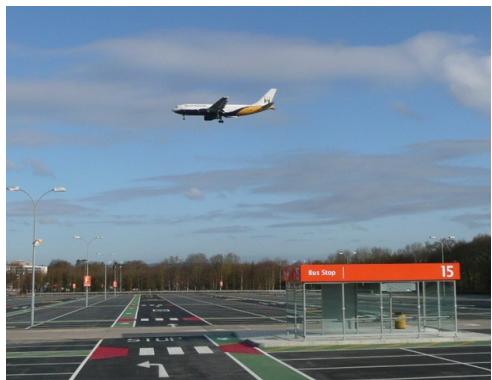
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Access Restrictions

During early stakeholder liaison it became clear that closing complete zones as originally envisaged would not be possible as the car park operator required continuous access, and half term periods needed as much parking space as possible. Through innovative phasing of the works and continued effective communications, our project strategy allowed the car park to operate without any major effect to the public. We redesigned our programme around the staged access requirements, whilst minimising site traffic and providing a segregated public access through our works at all times.



TOP: Accommodating further passengers

BOTTOM: New car park and bus link to the main airport

Flexible, Sustainable Solutions

During initial works to remove the defective surfacing, significant areas of the car park were found to have varying construction make-ups, from no base course being present to finding concrete slabs. Through detailed discussions with our Customer's Engineer, we worked together to develop a suite of technical solutions to meet the various existing conditions, whilst also minimising material movements to and from site.

An engineering solution was developed to leave the existing concrete slabs in-situ and use a structural grid to ensure even spread of the vehicular loadings to adjacent areas. This provided a highly sustainable design to re-use existing materials, minimise construction plant activities and the import of new materials, and provide savings in time and cost.

Further efficiencies were implemented, such as identifying areas where planing off the existing surface could be avoided. This provided programme savings, minimising off-site materials and reducing cost.

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IMAGE: New car park surfacing

Comprehensive integration strategy

Coincident with the car park upgrade was an independent package of works to replace the lighting. High levels of cooperation and coordination were required with the lighting contractor's works to ensure we could both complete our works efficiently.

Through effective management of all stakeholders and our systematic approach to applying procedures and obtaining the necessary permits and approvals, our project team built an excellent working relationship with our customer. A robust "Review and Learn" process was used to embed continuous improvement into our delivery methods. Through clear and timely communications and reporting, we ensured the project was delivered with a high level of confidence of cost and time predictability to integrate the new asset into the airport operations.