

Historic city centre regeneration achieved through continuous collaboration

OSBORNE



PROJECT

Cathedral Square Public Realm Improvements

CUSTOMER

Peterborough City Council

LOCATION

Peterborough

Issue

Peterborough City Council required high-quality hard and soft landscaping and infrastructure upgrade to the busy public space around Peterborough Cathedral surrounded by historic buildings and retail and commercial premises.

There were several complex considerations surrounding the square's location in the historic city centre and the need to demolish an existing office block on site:

- Careful removal and recycling of old surfacings
- Liaison with archaeologists to protect nearby listed structures/scheduled monuments and divert multiple underground services following the proposed construction depth
- How to ensure minimal disruption to the city's infrastructure and nearby retail and commercial premises
- Development of water fountains as a central feature for the newly created space

Solution

The key to success for this project was effective communication and collaboration to ensure the best technical and project outcome could be achieved.

- **Value engineering discussions:** Osborne's specialist supply chain partner Ocmis were involved in the early value engineering discussions and worked with the designer to suggest a better "whole life" design for the fountains and their water supply which required less maintenance, generating less future costs to the council.
- **Works negotiations:** the original construction depth was reviewed and adjusted to 430mm through liaison with local archaeologists. This significantly minimised the need to move many major services, reduced the overall project programme and risks, and omitted the need for the council to pay for STATS diversions.
- **Intensive stakeholder liaison:** a detailed pedestrian management scheme was created, with bridges over earthworks

into retail and commercial premises and customised signage being created. A traffic marshal was assigned to open the pedestrian fencing gate and guide delivery lorries to adjacent shops and market stalls.

- **Reduction of site waste:** Osborne recycled old surfacings and donated landscaping materials to local organisations such as the Green Backyard, a project where local community groups learn to grow their own food.

Outcome

The project was successfully delivered with minimal disruption to the city's infrastructure and nearby retail and commercial premises. Through continuous collaboration, Osborne could realise the council's requirements for an enhanced contemporary public space that preserved the history of the city centre.