

Preston Park Footpath

Client: -Brighton and Hove City Council

Contract value: - £44k

Date: -Summer 2022

Edburton Contractors were approached by BHCC to install new footpaths in Preston Park.

- Alleviate drainage issues
- Direct people more clearly
- Allow grassed areas to flourish
- Install new bin storage area
- Restrict traffic from entering



Description of works

Brighton and Hove City Council required new footpaths in Preston Park, which is the largest urban park in the city and is recognised by the green flag award scheme. It is also home to the famous Preston Twins, elms planted 400 years ago, though sadly one had to be felled in 2019 due to DED Dutch elm disease. Many events take place here including concerts, fairs, and circuses. So this was indeed an honour to be improving the footpaths here.

Edburton were pleased to achieve their clients' vision with the new footpaths and alleviate drainage issues and muddy areas caused by heavy footfall. They now entice the public to walk on the delightful Cotswold gravel which ties in perfectly with the surrounding park. The path is constructed of permeable materials which allow the surface water to percolate into the ground below, filtering out pollutants and recharging the water table.

And in addition to installing the new footpaths. The team removed some old crazy paving paths that had fallen into disrepair and created a new bin storage area. Three large planters and bollards were installed to restrict vehicular traffic from entering the park to protect the area from damage and make it a safer environment for the public.

Method of Operations

The team started by using the excavator to remove a layer of soil and level the ground, next they marked out the path edges creating gentle curves, and this was done in small areas as a mobile works area to allow continued access for the public. Timber edging was placed and pegging into shape and position before a terram membrane was laid down to restrict grass and weeds from growing and allow optimum permeability. A primary type1 material was installed in layers compacting each time before the topping layer of Cotswold gravel was laid and rolled in leaving a natural finish matching the environment. The edges of the path were reprofiled using soil to create a blend to the path.

Removing the existing crazy paving footpath was undertaken using an excavator and hand tools so that the new path could replace it. All the excess soil from the paths was used further north in the park to make bunds protecting areas from damage.

Metal guardrailings were removed and vegetation was cleared to make space for a new bin storage area. The team used paving to surround the area which also acted as a mini retaining wall. Tarmac was the chosen material for the base of this area, and this was levelled to the carriageway for ease of refuse collection.

Three large planters were placed by our grab lorry and then filled with soil and bollards were installed, this was to restrict the entry space and deter vehicles from trying to drive through the park.

Risk management

A compound made of Heras panels surrounded the plant, materials, and welfare to keep it safe and prevent the public from harm. The works areas were surrounded by pedestrian barriers and moved along with each stage of work to protect the new works and reduce any accidents that could occur if the public strayed into the area due to abrupt level differences. Deliveries and muckaway were kept further away from the works in a separate compound area which was by the park road for ease and safety, as this meant the large trucks didn't need to drive across the grass, and a dumper was used to move the materials as required.

