St Albans Cathedral benefits from an UltraScape installation





UltraScape have partnered with landscaping specialists Ground Control, to restore a cobbled driveway at the magnificent St Albans Cathedral.

CONTRACTOR: GROUND CONTROL SITE: ST ALBANS CATHERDRAL

Dating back as far 1066, St Albans Cathedral is still as majestic today as it was centuries ago. There are several groups that have a role in the governance and management of this beautiful cathedral, all of which are passionate about its conservation.

In addition to updating the soft landscaping at the front of the beautiful Cathedral, Ground Control were also asked to replace the cobbled drive – a heavily trafficked area that connects the main road to the Cathedral.

The client was disappointed that the existing cobbles were lifting and moving under regular vehicular traffic. With lots of people visiting St Albans Cathedral every day, there was the additional concerns that the loose cobbles could become a dangerous trip hazard.

Despite these issues, it was important to St Albans Cathedral that the newly laid cobbled driveway was kept in keeping with their history. It was crucial that the cobbles looked like they had been there for many years and installed with materials that would not lift or de-bond again in the future.

Following thorough and detailed conversations between the client, Ground Control and UltraScape, it soon became clear that using BS 7533 compliant paving installation materials was the only way forward.



Comprising of eco-bed bedding mortar, pro-prime slurry primer and flowpoint flowable grout, Ground Control utilised UltraScape's BS 7533 compliant mortar paving system to relay the cobbles to create an exquisite, seamless finish.

To begin, UltraScape eco-bed was applied to the area to produce the ultimate foundation for the paving. UltraScape eco-bed can be laid from 10mm – 100mm, is shrinkage compensated and can be opened to foot traffic after just 12 hours, allowing contractors to move on to the next part of the installation quickly. In addition to its superb performance qualities, eco-bed also contains 20% recycled material.



With eco-bed in place, Ground Control coated the mortar and paving with pro-prime slurry primer to create an exceptional bond. Using a primer eliminates costly failures caused by general wear and tear and gives you confidence and peace of mind that the paving slabs will not come loose.

To complete the installation, market-leading flowpoint flowable grout, in Charcoal, was used to joint the cobbles. With an initial set of just 15 minutes, and a walk on time of one hour, it is unsurprising that flowpoint has become synonymous with fast application, cost-effective and robust jointing.

The client was delighted with the finished result, so much so that they are now reviewing the area surrounding St Albans Cathedral and are looking to relay, or replace, the paving using UltraScape's mortar paving installation system.

What's more, Ground Control were so pleased with UltraScape's products and services that they are now utilising their BS 7533 compliant materials on projects in Bognor Regis and the Imperial College in London.

