

National Botanic Garden of Wales Gatehouse Hard Landscaping

This purely hard landscape contract involved the construction of hard landscape features and paving to the main entrance into the Botanical Garden of Wales

The contract involved us in the construction and surfacing of several areas within the area of the gatehouse as follows:



- The construction of a visitor arena, intended as a gathering area for group bookings into the gardens
- The construction of macadam paths to the perimeter of the gatehouse buildings which were intended for staff use only and to link a previously constructed bus park with the main gatehouse entrance
- The construction of the entrance concourse to the gatehouse with associated paths linking the new works with works previously undertaken by others
- The cladding of a pool feature and the paving of the main gatehouse courtyard
- The supply and installation of lighting columns and fittings within the car park, bus park and along the access paths linking all parking areas with the gatehouse



The Visitor Arena

The visitor arena was constructed to a circular design and was situated on the edge of a lake and involved the construction of two sets of steps, the first set bringing visitors down from the main gatehouse level into the arena and the second set leading from the arena and into the lake. In addition to the steps a ramp was constructed into the arena to allow access for wheelchairs.

The steps were constructed to a radial detail using reinforced ready mixed concrete that was then clad as follows. The step risers were constructed using internal radius granite kerbs that were imported from China and which had been hand crafted to achieve the desired radii specified upon ordering. A total of nine steps, varying in length from 20 linear metres down to 8 linear metres, were constructed to nine differing radii which gave a total combined length of 150 linear metres.

The treads of the steps were paved using 80mm square brown porphyry setts that were imported from Italy which were laid in a linear pattern to follow the line of the risers. Approximately 12 tonne of setts were imported for these works.

The arena itself was edged using silver grey granite setts that were imported from Portugal and was surfaced using a red coloured self binding stone dust from a quarry located in Monmouthshire.



The Concourse

The entrance concourse was an area to the front of the gatehouse between the car park and main entrance that was intended as an area for visitors to gather prior to entering the gardens.

The work involved the construction of a large circular gravel feature using silver grey granite setts as edgings which was then surfaced using the red stone dust that had been used to surface the visitor arena.

As part of these works, the tarmac paths that had been constructed by others during construction of the car park and bus park were extended and linked into the concourse. The extended paths and area bordering the central gravel feature were surfaced with close graded black macadam to a specification that would allow light vehicular use.

Car Park Lighting.

As an addition to the original contract we were instructed to install the lighting columns and fittings within the main car park and alongside the entrance paths.

The lighting products used included 8 metre and 4 metre galvanised and painted columns with light fittings imported from Italy and Germany.



The gatehouse area had been constructed by others who had cast a large circular concrete slab with an insitu concrete pool in the centre. Upon commencing works on site it became apparent that the concrete slab was not level and prior to undertaking the paving works the whole area was screeded with concrete to the desired levels and falls. The surface was then paved using 80mm² grey porphyry setts, again imported from Italy which were laid in a concentric circular pattern running from the walls of the pool to the outer perimeter of the gatehouse. The edge of the gatehouse was formed using 100mm² grey porphyry setts. In order to achieve the desired finish we employed a specified paving company who were based in Scotland to undertake the laying of the pavements. Upon completion of the paving to the floor we were instructed to clad the walls and floor of the pool with the same grey setts. A total of 55 tonnes of setts were imported for these works. The top of the pool was clad using faceted porphyry slabs that were cut to the desired radii in Italy prior to being delivered to site.

The Broadwalk

The final operation on site involved the completion of the 'Broadwalk' and the perimeter paths that ran behind the gatehouse buildings. The paths and 'Broadwalk' were edged using grey granite setts and were surfaced with bitumen macadam to a specification that would allow for pedestrian traffic on the paths and vehicular traffic on the 'Broadwalk'. The final topcoat of coloured chipping's fixed with a bitumen tack coat was to be applied at a later date by a specialist contractor employed directly by the client.

Click [here](#) to look at further details of our completed projects.

Client	Contract Summary	Consultant
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