

Major Projects - Clapham Road, Bedford

SITE- Clapham Rd, Northern Gateway, Bedford

CLIENT- Bedford Borough Council

VALUE- £3.6 million

SPECIALIST PRODUCTS USED - 10mm TSCS 68 PSV Surface Course



This scheme for Bedford Borough Council was a major junction improvement including a layout change to the junction, with associated signals works, road widening, drainage system and gully works, street lighting, service diversions, and civils on one of the busiest access routes to Bedford, whilst maintaining flow of traffic into and out of the city.

Project challenges included incomplete STATS for the site, in conjunction with complex underlying services, resulting in several topographic redesigns, as well as restricted space available due to the requirement to keep traffic flowing around this busy junction, which limited the working area and required operational restrictions for quality and safety. The programme also called for surfacing during the winter, which is typically problematic. This was overcome by the use of innovative 10mm TSCS 69PSV surface course, which allowed the surface to be laid at cooler temperatures whilst still maintaining the required structural integrity and high friction finish needed for safe navigation of a highly trafficked roundabout.

Works were completed over a 12 month period, working mainly during the day but with weekend and night works scheduled for particularly disruptive aspects of the project such as the service diversions and surfacing works. Traffic management included three and four way lights at the roundabouts, lane closures, and temporary crossing points for pedestrians. Traffic Management Operatives acted as safety marshalls through the works area to escort vulnerable users.

The project was completed next to the local school, and as such access had to be maintained at all times for school staff, students, and visitors. This was achieved through planned phasing of the works, and works to the school entrance area were carried out outside of term time to minimise impact on the students.