

Diamond Jubilee Investigation in St James Park, London



We were contracted to carry out ground investigation works within St. James' Park in Central London. The object of the investigation was to establish the ground conditions at locations where it was proposed to construct temporary raised stands near The Mall and Horse Guards Parade for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Parade.

St James' Park is a busy park with high volumes of vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians using it every day. The Mall and Horse Guards Parade are also part of the Royal ceremonial route to Horse Guards parade where a number of military and ceremonial events take place. Additionally, a number of government buildings bound the park including those at Downing Street; therefore security and traffic management were of paramount importance.

The reduction of risk has always been integral to all our operations and careful planning was required before these works could commence. Detailed method statements, site specific risk assessments, and details of operatives, plant and vehicles were provided to The Royal Parks who issued permits to proceed with the work. Permits were also required for parking and storage of vehicles, plant and equipment.

Close coordination was required with The Royal Parks Authority during the investigation to minimise the impact of our works.

Geological records indicated most of the site to be underlain by Kempton Park Gravel which overlies London Clay at depth.

The scope of works specified by the Engineer included hand excavated pits and plate bearing tests at 12 separate locations. The plate bearing tests were carried out using a 500mm diameter plate, with loadings applied from a 5 tonne tracked excavator. In-situ Perth Penetrometer and DCP CBR tests were also carried out in the trial pits. All surfaces were then carefully reinstated.



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