

National Trust, Hidcote Manor Gardens

Renovation of the Red Borders Garden Pathway,

Design: Duncan Ross Ltd

Project Brief:

Investigate problem of wear to the garden's grassed pathway and propose and construct new, hard wearing and wear resistant natural grass surface capable of accommodating the thousands of visitors that visit the Gardens each year.



Project Overview

After several site visits and surveys different options were put forward, each with their respective advantages and disadvantages relative to the various objectives that were discussed with the client, including wear resistance and durability, speed of construction, time to adequate grass establishment, timescale to reopening the gardens for public use, and cost.

So as not to increase future maintenance costs it was also important for the solution to be maintainable using existing equipment and not to introduce more onerous or more costly maintenance regimes than those already necessary for the general upkeep of the gardens.

The option that provided the best solution to the problem statement involved construction of a high performance, reinforced turf pathway complete with a land drainage installation that would outfall to local soakaways. The agreed solution involved:

- Establishing protection to the landscaped garden areas and Pavilion steps to provide access for delivery of construction plant, equipment and materials.
- Excavating existing grassed pathway together with associated topsoil and establishing a new formation 350mm below finished ground level.
- Constructing a new polypropylene piped land drainage system complete with soakaways.
- Employing specialist laying machinery to construct a new high performance grass pathway using the technologically advanced Lindum Lockturf product on Locksand rootzone over a stone drainage layer to produce a wear resistant, fast recovering walking surface for the thousands of users who visit the gardens each year.