



CASE STUDY

Clearstone lays green paving system in record time for the Royal Ballet School, Richmond Park

Project summary: The Royal Ballet's Lower School White Lodge in Richmond Park, London, had one last touch for a major renovation: it needed better pathway covering, in a short time and to demanding spec. Clearstone was able to partner highly effectively with the developers of a new green surfacing material, easylay™ to meet tight deadlines to a very satisfactory level of finish and durability

The Lodge has been the subject of ambitious and ongoing renovation since 2005, an initiative that was completed on time in February 2009 after over £22m was raised by appeal and with funding from English Heritage, the Crown Estate and the Royal Parks. The School's President, HRH The Prince of Wales, has always taken great interest in the Lodge's renovation and partly as thanks a special Royal Gala had been scheduled in the new studios in May 2009.

But Estate Manager Ian Cordery had a problem. The Lodge had a range of issues with its existing pathways, ranging from degradation of the gravel paths due to constant footfall, problems with drainage to standing water and mud. It was also far from suitable for wheelchair users.

Ian Cordery was interested in seeing if a solution existed on the market that would help him

refashion the pathways in time for the milestone of the Gala and the visit of both the Prince and The Duchess of Cornwall. Another positive - if it were possible - would be that the new surface could have some kind of 'green' credibility, given the School's commitment to recycling and minimising environmental impact.

As a result, Ian visited the EcoBuild Show at Earls Court and came across what seemed to 'tick all the boxes' - easylay™. This is a new material, the brainchild of Eco Composite Recycling, a Manchester based building materials firm. But as the firm was so new to market it had not yet developed enough capacity to install its product on the scale and to the very demanding timeline the School required.

Step forward Clearstone Paving, a Brighton & Hove based specialist in resin bound paving,

which luckily was able to step in quickly at Eco Composite Recycling's request to help complete the project. Events now moved rapidly as the team visited the client to ascertain specific requirements and then in short order produced highly detailed CAD designs for the easylay™ solution that met with both Eco Composite Recycling and the client's approval.

The job was then begun and completed to a very high standard of finish in just over three weeks, meeting the target of the landmark Gala, to budget and to a high degree of finish. In fact, so pleased are the School that it is evaluating further phases of the project to install easylay™ in further areas of the grounds.

Clearstone
permeable paving
www.clearstonepaving.co.uk



Why easylay™ ?

What is unique about the easylay™ system and why was it so appropriate for this project? easylay™ is a poured paving system comprised of a crumbed recycled rubber base and top layer of resin bound aggregate, the resulting surface being both seamless and flexible. It is thus an innovative, porous paving solution that drains water straight back into the water table or drainage system using a patented design using recycled rubber crumb from used vehicle tyres. It thus provides excellent second life for material that all too often ends up in landfills. The resulting solution is very hard wearing, easily cleaned by e.g. pressure hosing, highly resistant to weeds and as it is porous allows drainage of any water - thus avoiding puddles and mud and so is excellent at protecting house or building interiors. The combination of a beautiful, long-lasting finish that is also so simple to clean but also has impeccable green credentials means it is increasingly a solution for exterior walkways and entrances by many discerning clients.

And as easylay™ is fully porous, rainwater drains away naturally returning to the water table and the material is thus fully compliant with the

Environment Agency's SUDS (Sustainable Drainage Systems) regulations.

Another advantage of easylay™ is that it does not require a concrete or tarmac base so can be laid directly on to a consolidated MOT type 3 sub-base or similar self-binding sub base.

Why Clearstone?

Clearstone is a new and dynamic company of designers and contractors committed to using a range of innovative materials including resin-bound and rubber crumb. With very strong technical and design skills, allied to superior project management and installation credentials, Clearstone seeks to help clients in the South of England looking for durable and aesthetic finishes to even the most extensive outdoor project.

Project milestones

The job required the laying of 380 square metres with a rubber crumb layer over the existing surfaces at a depth of 25mm covered by a resin-bound top surface at 18 mm. The project commenced in mid-April 2009 and was finished in a record time of just over three weeks, to budget, and in time for the Prince's visit.

A satisfied partner – and customer

"We were impressed with the professionalism and competence of Clearstone," says Simon Bernard co-founder of ECR. "They were able to craft very exact CAD designs in short order and then took great pains to install easylay™ to a standard so high we couldn't have wished for more."

Simond Bernard, co-founder, Eco Composite Recycling, manufacturers of the easylay™ system.

"I am delighted to say that due to the highly professional job done by Clearstone," says Ian Cordery. "The finished path we think is highly aesthetic and beautifully complements the grounds. I am very pleased with the high attention to detail as regards path edging. I also found Clearstone very easy and responsive to deal with on a personal basis."

Ian Cordery, Estate Manager, Royal Ballet Lower School, White Lodge, Richmond Park.



Base, a combination of compacted coxwell self-binding gravel and old gravel on MOT.



EverEdge was installed to create an edge to work up to. www.everedge.co.uk



Pouring the easylay™ recycled tyre rubber mixture



easylay™ rubber sub-base



Applying the aggregate resin bound top coat mixture to the easylay™ rubber sub-base



The easylay™ paving provides a full porous surface, which allow water to drain back to the water table

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For more information, technical specifications and photographs of recent installations, please visit our website: clearstonepaving.co.uk
Or call **01273 358177** or email new@clearstonepaving.co.uk

We install drives, paths and terraces for both domestic and commercial projects



Driveway laid with Clearstone Hardwick grey granite resin bound paving for a contemporary new build project, Hove, Sussex