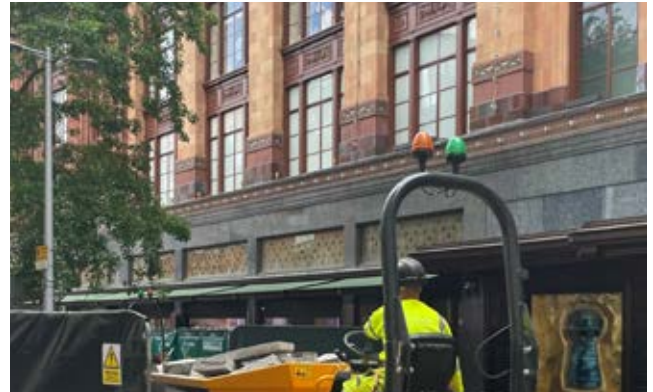


Harrods Hans Crescent



The Hans Crescent Public Realm Improvement Scheme was designed to transform the streetscape surrounding the world-renowned Harrods department store in the Borough of Kensington & Chelsea. Delivered as a £2 million public realm and Section 278 highway improvement project, the scheme focused on enhancing the quality, appearance, and functionality of the public highway through the introduction of premium natural stone materials, new lighting, and extensive landscaping.

Located on Hans Crescent, London SW1X, the project created a high-quality public environment that complements the prestigious character of the area while improving the experience for pedestrians, visitors, local businesses, and residents.

Challenge

The scheme involved delivering a complex package of public realm improvements within a busy, high-profile central London location, requiring careful coordination between stakeholders, utilities, and specialist contractors. Key elements of the project included:

Public Realm Enhancements

- Installation of new high-quality natural stone paving throughout the public highway areas.
- Construction of bespoke raised granite planters designed to provide both landscape enhancement and visual definition.
- Introduction of new trees, tree pits, and high-quality planting to soften the streetscape and improve biodiversity.

Lighting Infrastructure

- Installation of new street lighting columns to improve public safety and visibility.
- Delivery of feature lighting integrated within the public realm design to enhance the appearance of the area during evening hours.

Irrigation Systems

- Installation of irrigation infrastructure serving the new planting and trees.
- Connection of all irrigation systems to a dedicated irrigation plantroom located within the Harrods basement.

Utility Coordination

- The irrigation water supply was sourced directly from the Harrods basement plantroom.
- Electrical supplies for the feature lighting were also fed from the Harrods building, requiring close coordination between private and public infrastructure.

The constrained urban environment and the need to maintain pedestrian access around one of London's busiest retail destinations made planning and logistics a critical aspect of project delivery.

Solution

One of the most important factors in the successful delivery of the scheme was the early engagement and ongoing collaboration with key stakeholders. These included:

- Harrods Estates and Facilities Management Teams
- Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea
- Local residents and businesses
- Utility providers
- Specialist landscape, lighting, and paving contractors

Regular coordination meetings ensured that all parties remained informed throughout the programme and that interfaces between the public highway works and Harrods' private infrastructure were effectively managed. Special attention was given to:

Maintaining Access

Hans Crescent experiences significant pedestrian activity throughout the day. A carefully phased construction programme was developed to ensure safe and continuous access for:

- Harrods customers and visitors
- Local businesses and residents
- Delivery and servicing operations
- Emergency services

Quality and Craftsmanship

Given the prestigious location, the project demanded exceptional standards of workmanship. The installation of natural stone paving and bespoke granite planters required precise detailing and close quality control throughout construction.

Infrastructure Integration

The project required seamless integration between public realm assets and building services infrastructure within Harrods. Close coordination was undertaken to manage:

- Irrigation pipework connections to the basement plantroom
- Electrical connections to the feature lighting systems
- Protection of existing underground services
- Installation works within constrained highway corridors

Benefits

The completed scheme significantly enhanced the character and functionality of Hans Crescent, creating a high-quality public space befitting one of London's most prestigious retail destinations.

