



Case Study

Grass protection for overspill car park



Project: Babraham Road Park & Ride, Cambridge
Client: Cambridgeshire County Council
Contractor: Urban Forestry (Bury St Edmunds) Ltd.
Product: GRASSPROTECTA™

ISSUE

Cambridge has five 'Park and Ride' sites servicing the city centre. Babraham Road Park & Ride is located on the south of the city to reduce car congestion through a regular network of buses. Campbell Ross-Bain, Operations Manager for Cambridge Park and Ride said, "The Babraham Road car park was regularly at capacity. Many options were looked at to increase the capacity including extending the existing hard surface floodlit bays. *The costs for such a project equated to approximately £3500 per car parking bay which was not feasible. A less expensive option was required that utilised the existing grounds without extensive construction work.*"

SOLUTION

GRASSPROTECTA Heavy was specified to be installed onto a grassed area that would be used as an overflow car park when the main car park was at capacity. The grassed area was flat, well drained and adjacent to the main car park. Dropped kerbs and access gates were installed to create an IN and OUT area to control traffic flow. The 2600m² area was installed with GRASSPROTECTA directly on to the existing grass surface and pinned as required. The area was cordoned off for a period of three months and cut regularly with the mower blades set high. This allowed the grass to grow through the mesh apertures and ensured the roots intertwined with the mesh filaments creating a strong reinforced surface.

BENEFITS

The installation took place in May 2008 and was in full operation by September. GRASSPROTECTA was specified in order to offer an economical surface capable of withstanding regular vehicle loads, whilst preserving the natural grassed environment. 'We are very pleased



with the solution GRASSPROTECTA has given us. The overflow carpark is regularly utilised at the peak times usually Monday to Thursday and caters for approximately 70 additional cars', stated Campbell.



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