

UNITED KINGDOM

Burn Valley Gardens

Park Path & Embankment Drainage — Hartlepool

CLIENT
Hartlepool Borough Council

CONTRACTOR
BCE Northern Ltd

PRODUCT
Rosehill Grip Strip

CHALLENGE

As Hartlepool Borough Council renewed the paths through Burn Valley Gardens for its TVCA Town Centre to Catcote Road cycle route, uncontrolled runoff from the historic park's terraces was scouring the embankment and undermining the original stone retaining walls. Conventional piped drainage would have meant deep trenches cut through mature tree roots and hard against heritage foundations, dug by heavy excavation plant tearing up the parkland — and gullies and gratings would quickly block with leaf litter.

SOLUTION

The terraces were resurfaced in full-depth porous construction laid to falls — porous asphalt over an open-graded sub-base — directing rainwater through and across the surface to flush Rosehill Grip Strip at each terrace edge: slimline 100×200 mm recycled rubber blocks installed into shallow gravel-filled trenches using only compact plant — above the tree roots, with none of the deep excavation conventional drainage demands. The strips collect runoff at source and carry it via catchpits and pipes to discreet outlets through the beck wall into Burn Valley Beck.

600m of Grip Strip installed across the park's paths and terraces — intercepting runoff at every level from shallow 250mm trenches

RESULT

Runoff is now captured at source on every level, ending the erosion that was undermining the embankment and walls. The finished scheme is effectively invisible: water disappears through the porous surface, travels along the flush rubber strips and re-emerges only at controlled outfalls into Burn Valley Beck.

“The heritage walls and tree roots were untouched, and the flush finish is safe for everyone who uses the park. There are no gullies or gratings to clear, and the drainage lines blend in so well most visitors won't know they're there.”

Brendon Colarossi — Principal Engineer, Hartlepool Borough Council

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- 600 m of flush Grip Strip installed
- Specified by name in HBC's construction details
- Shallow trenches — no heavy plant needed
- SuDS-friendly recycled rubber system



Grip Strip outlet through the heritage wall coping



Flush drainage line along the tree-lined path



The terraced site above Burn Valley Beck