



UK HEATWAVE DOESN'T STOP LMS HIGHWAYS DELIVERING AHEAD OF SCHEDULE.



Working on behalf of Eurovia, LMS Highways delivers full road refurbishments to Old Thanet Way and Sea Street in Kent.

For some time, the concrete urban and residential streets in Kent County Council's area have proven to be a maintenance headache for the local authority and their main contractor Eurovia. The refurbishment project which took approximately 10 weeks to complete included full depth concrete bay replacements, new kerbing, white lining and joint sealing which perfectly demonstrates the company's unique ability to deliver a wide range of services under one point of accountability.

Running through from the beginning of July to early September 2019 saw the project being delivered during a UK heatwave, with temperatures reaching a high of 38 degrees Celsius proving challenging however this didn't stop the team from finishing 3 days ahead of schedule.



With the hot weather additional care had to be taken as LMS were already using a rapid cure concrete to enable delivery of a tight programme. With concrete planned to cure in 24 hours at an ambient temperature of 18 degrees, the hot weather can give rise to problems with material work-ability / working time and there is also potential for the finished surface to crack if it is allowed to dry out too quickly. No problem for the LMS delivery team – the programme was adjusted to ensure pours were carried out on cooler days with greater cloud cover and also programmed concrete placement to take place first thing in the morning whilst substrate temperatures were at their lowest.

Concrete curing too fast isn't normally a problem that needs to be solved. Typically clients are looking to have works carried out in as short a time frame as possible with roads opened to traffic after the shortest feasible curing period.

Concrete normally needs to be left for 7 days to allow it to reach a suitable internal and surface strength to allow it to be trafficked. With increased traffic flows the ability to close lanes for this period is a rare luxury and LMS Highways have developed bay replacement systems that can be trafficked in as little as 4 hours!



Work on Sea Street brought with it a multitude of challenges including, limited space due to the heavy residential nature of the road and the extreme weather conditions. Despite these challenges, the LMS Highways team were able to work quickly within short-term partial closures, allowing residents much-needed access to their street and properties. That speed was achieved thanks to the team's refined processes including in part, the removal of existing damaged surface. An innovative custom-built bucket system and a vacuum lifting plate is employed allowing large sections to be removed as one complete piece and lifted straight onto a disposal truck.

Throughout working on Sea Street, the engagement with residents had been excellent with many taking an interest in the methods used, great feedback being received regarding the low noise levels, fast turnaround and friendly accommodating attitude of the team on-site.

With over 1000 linear metres of concrete successfully removed and reinstated on both Old Thanet Way and Sea Street, providing the roads with an expected service life of 25 years.