



Marshall's, the UK's leading hard landscaping manufacturer, discusses the practicalities of complying with the Government's 'Access for All' programme

The 'Access for All' programme is a ten-year initiative to address accessibility issues for disabled users across some 200 stations throughout the country. Projects aim to improve access by providing ramps, lifts and smooth routes to the wider environment which can all have a crucial effect on the quality and integrity of design.

Since 2004, designers have had to take reasonable steps to remove, alter or avoid physical features that impede access for disabled people, people accompanying the elderly or very young, and those with luggage. The Designing for Accessibility Guide helps designers plan access improvements that comply with the law.

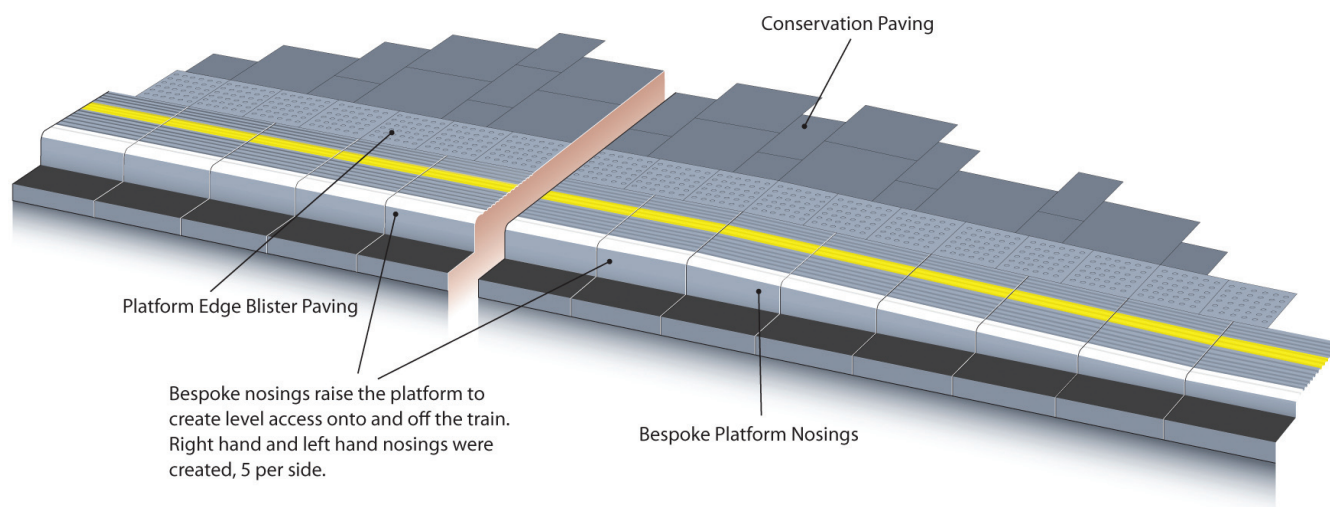


Access for disabled people should be approached from a good practice perspective. Transport Interchanges are problematic for access requirements due to their multi levels, the need for guidance measures to avoid danger, and movement by large numbers of people.

Although Access for All is a problem at many stations across the UK, nowhere is this more of an issue than on the London

Underground (LU) network. At the time building work commenced on the LU there was no consideration of passengers who may have difficulty negotiating the many stairs, from ticket hall to platforms which make up the Underground system, and this is now one of the main justifications for upgrading stations to provide access for all types of user.

As part of the upgrade programme 'platform humps' were required to raise



sections of the platform to comply with government legislation and provide step-free access for disabled users. The raised humps would allow a level access point from platform to train to ease the passage of wheelchair users, mothers with prams or travellers with large items of luggage for example.

A unique engineering challenge

Marshall's was approached by Frankham Consultancy to provide bespoke concrete copings, nosings and paving to create a platform hump offer which would raise the level of the platform at certain points along the station, allowing step-free access onto the train. Each platform is different, offering a unique engineering challenge. Working with Marshall's manufacturing facility at Sandy in Bedfordshire, Frankham Consultancy was able to marry up manufacturing capability with an engineered solution creating bespoke moulds to produce the finished product. Marshall's then added value by introducing a unique acid-etched finish, giving excellent slip-skid properties to the Coping Unit.

The Victoria Line Upgrade (VLU) design engineer and project manager were invited to Marshall's Sandy manufacturing site to meet the team and review the product manufactured. The outcome was a positive demonstration of product quality providing the necessary assurance that the VLU team needed.

The new Platform Hump design would be rolled out at Tottenham Hale, Brixton and King's Cross Underground stations. Contractors, McNealy Brown and Livis Ltd. and Engineers Frankham Consultancy agreed to conduct a 'mock-up' of the new design to test the speed of installation and as the 'platform hump' would have to be installed within a 52 hour shut-down period at

the weekend, which runs from a Friday at midnight to 4.00am on a Monday morning. Speed and ease of installation were therefore of paramount importance.

The mock-up proved to the team that this could be done well within the time allowed and it was therefore agreed that the design could be used on the first of three projects at Tottenham Hale, Brixton and King's Cross. Chris Gibbs, Frankham Consultancy said, "Marshall's provided both a partnering approach to the project and quality products. Their involvement was excellent and resulted in added value."

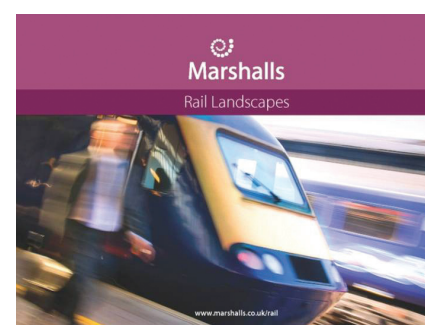
After the successful installation of Tottenham Hale and Brixton platform humps a review of the project was undertaken by the whole project team. As a result, Conservation Paving in Charcoal was introduced due to its robust nature and colour contrast with the Perfecta Paving. The size of the Perfecta paving was also reviewed and it was agreed to introduce 600 x 600mm pavers, which are smaller and easier to handle than the 900 x 600mm paving. This addressed product quality and manual handling issues on site. King's Cross Victoria line Platform Hump has now been installed.

To date, Marshall's has supplied platform edge, standard flag, Perfecta natural, Conservation paving and special platform nosings to the Victoria line upgrade programme and has demonstrated its ability to offer workable solutions to often complex and intricate problems. Allister Clarke, Marshall's project consultant said "This was a real team effort on all sides and the project is an excellent example of partnership working to achieve the main aims of the client to deliver one of their main objectives – ensuring 'Access for All'. The excellent working relationship between the project team has ensured

any problems were dealt with quickly and efficiently and Marshall's understanding of the client's exacting requirements has enabled us to demonstrate our flexibility, expertise and product.

Rail landscapes offer

Marshall's, the UK's leading hard landscaping manufacturer's response to this is the launch of a new rail landscapes offer which includes products from across the Group, ranging from core products such as paving and water management to natural stone and street furniture. Marshall's extensive range of hard landscaping products can be used to create a positive journey from the station interface to the platform edge.



The new brochure includes concise information about the breadth of Marshall's product offer and includes case studies on recent projects that Marshall's has undertaken. In addition to the brochure, a new Rail Landscapes web page has also been launched. This includes the brochure in downloadable pdf format and rail-specific case studies. ■

For further information, please contact:

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Tel: 08702 414012 for your copy of

Marshall's Rail Landscapes Brochure

Web: www.marshall's.co.uk/rail