

## **Entry For World of Paving Award**

### **Natural Stone Category**

#### **SLOUGH HIGH STREET**

The rejuvenation of Slough High Street began in Oct 07 and completed in July 09.

The project was 15-16,000m<sup>2</sup> of black, white, green granite and Lake District green slate in 80mm and 150mm thick. The 80mm paving came in five different size modules in a set black and white pattern. The roads consisted of 150mm black and white set pattern. Another module and trims were in green granite. Green slate was used in the artwork pieces and stitches.

Our company also installed all the monuments, which involved large blocks of polished black granite weighing up to 3000kg. These were often in stacks of two so packs of ice were used to lower the block on block, melt and form a seamless join between the two. High specification granite benches and steps were also constructed.

We worked closely with various artwork pieces either installing the engraved slabs, which came in various sizes and weights of up to 400kg. Or laying and cutting the areas ready for the artists.

This was a very technical and very unique project. Cambers on the high street and roads were achieved with in some cases what seemed near impossible given the size of some of the paving.

The main problems were working in a busy high street and maintaining a safe place, access to the shops and bringing the materials onto the site. All weathers were dealt with given the length of the job; this led to ensuring the bedding material was stored appropriately.

Machines were used from vacuum lifters, stone magnets and tele handler based lifting machines to meet health and safety requirements.

In total 14,000 cuts were made all wet cuts and contained, using either disc cutters or bench saws.

Easipoint grout system was used and cleaned with specialist sponge machines.

In all this was a very difficult and testing project and I could go on all day about it. Our company is very proud of this project and the challenges it presented.