

The Workhouse - National Trust Site

Southwell, Nottinghamshire, UK



Product: Advanced Turf System

Application: Overspill Grass Car Parking Area - 1,200m²



Project Story

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Built in 1824, Southwell Workhouse remains the least altered poorhouse building remaining in the UK and serves as a stark reminder of the conditions and the way of life endured by thousands of our ancestors. The derelict building was in danger of being converted into flats when the National Trust bought it in 1997 and carried out major restoration prior to its opening to the public in 2002.

An area of sweeping grassed lawn leading up to the house and adjacent to the main visitor centre car park was identified for use as overspill parking for up to 60 cars during busy opening periods. However, planning, environmental and aesthetic considerations stipulated that a natural grass surface should be retained. ABG's Advanced Turf System provided the solution, providing a reinforced rootzone with the strength and durability needed for parking, whilst retaining the aesthetic appeal of natural grass.

After over 20 years, ATS is still in use at the Southwell Workhouse site and continues to prove its longevity and durability as a sustainable natural solution for this low volume traffic area. The Netlon plastic 'mesh-element' reinforced rootzone provides a safe, free-draining and wear tolerant grassed surface. The surface is capable of resisting compaction and surface rutting, whilst sustaining increased pedestrian and vehicle traffic (up to HGV loadings) when installed with an appropriately designed sub-base.