



VICTORIAN RETAINING WALL ROCHDALE, MANCHESTER



Leca® LWA helps save a piece of history

An attractive Victorian retaining brick wall has been in place for nearly 100 years in Sparth Bottoms Road. The 144m run of walling varies in height along its length up to a maximum of 5.5m. The wall supports a pavement serving two blocks of terraced houses and accommodates numerous services including gas and water. The wall is also crossed in two places by sewage pipes. It is thought that over time, the weight of the traditional back fill, mostly sand and gravel, coupled with dysfunctional drainage, resulted in excessive pressure on the back of the wall, which then caused overturning of the masonry retaining wall. Further movement could have put the properties adjacent to the top of the wall at risk.

Remedial work was required by the Impact Partnership, an innovative joint venture company between Mouchel Group, Agilisys and Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council, who specified the use of lightweight Leca® LWA 10-20mm aggregate as the ideal material to replace the traditional backfill. Impact Partnership delivers highways, property and ICT services to support the regeneration of the Borough.

FACTS

Amount of material: 650m³ of [LECA LWA \(10-20mm\)](#)

Interesting Fact: The principal contractor, A.E. Yates Limited, of Bolton, excavated to a depth of two metres behind the retaining wall into the existing backfill which was then replaced along the entire length of the wall with 650m³ of Leca® LWA.

Delivery Method: 4-Wheel Tippers

Main Contractor: A.E. Yates Limited