



TAKING OUR TURF TO THE ROCK

An example of Britain's gardening heritage is now forming the centre-piece of a new park on Gibraltar thanks to the turf growing prowess of Yorkshire business Inturf following the design created by leading designers Landform Consultants.

The new Commonwealth Park on the island includes a publicly accessible grassed area of 4000 square metres - a landscape first for Gibraltar - on which local people can relax, just as they do in parks and public gardens in the UK.

The construction of the new park was undertaken by Gibraltar Joinery and Building Services whose site manager Jeremy Rogers describes the long process which converted a former car park into a much needed public open space. "A major part of the project was the removal and recycling of the car park surface and the relocation of the services which ran underneath it," he says. "The soil was produced from spoil from various sites within Gibraltar with material screened and the earth from the process being mixed with nutrients to create a soil which would



support the trees and shrubs - as well as form a substrate for the turf. Everything was done to the specification devised by Tim o'Hare Associates – who are pre-eminent in the field - to ensure that planting could cope with the local conditions."

Once the ground was prepared, JBS turned to Inturf to deliver and install turf to a specification which would both withstand the anticipated pounding the sward would receive whilst delivering the aesthetic appeal sought in the design concept. There is no tradition of grassed areas in public opens spaces on Gibraltar. Sports pitches, for example, are almost all of artificial turf.

"As well as producing the turf at our Yorkshire turf farm the challenge was to deliver it field fresh to Gibraltar – four days drive away," says Alex Edwards, Inturf joint managing director. "To help the turf established in such challenging conditions we incorporated TerraCottem into the substrate to improve water retention and the accessibility of nutrients in the soil."



Four refrigerated vehicles made the journey which included negotiating the border and customs control with Spain since, whilst the territory is part of the EU it is not part of the EU Trade Agreement.

"Inturf were professional and efficient at every stage," says Jeremy Rogers. "The turf and installation crew arrived bang on time and acclimatised very quickly to lay the turf exactly to schedule. The turf is establishing nicely and we are on schedule for a public opening of the new park in the early summer."

