

Expertise ensures not just another brick in the wall

Building a brick wall is simple – it's just a matter of following straight lines – right? Wrong! When Croydon-based Withers Group rebuilt a retaining wall of a large property in Surrey, the project involved meticulous planning with attention to detail demands that would test the most experienced bricklayer.

The wall encasing the property's driveway collapsed following the torrential rain and floods in the summer of 2007. The original wall had been built without weep holes, vital if water is to escape, and this sudden accumulation of rain caused it to break apart over a two day period.



Having made the site secure and safe with Herras fencing, debris was removed and construction of the new wall commenced. This comprised a deep strip foundation and concrete block wall to secure the soil and a brick facing to match the surrounding steps and walls.



Weep holes (detailed above) were essential to ensure water build up did not occur again.

As imperial-sized bricks were used in the structure the wall had to match, the facing bricks were cut to a special order via a local merchant. Withers' Foreman Bricklayer, Jeff Moore also had to provide specifications for the cutting of the arch-way bricks to ensure it was a replica of the previous wall.



He comments: "Everything we used was to the highest quality and I welcomed the challenge of using my skills in setting out, using arch formers and pointing the wall to ensure a robust finish. This was an unusual project and it certainly tested my 25 years' bricklaying experience."



Contract details

Contract administrator – Ellipta Ltd

Insurers – Royal & Sun Alliance

Contractor - Withers Group (team of 4 for this project)

Value - £67500

Duration 12 weeks

Client feedback

“Please accept and pass on to everyone concerned, our thanks for a superb job.

The retaining wall is a particular feature of the front of the property and we were absolutely devastated when the weather took it down back in July last year. We really did not believe that anybody would have the skill to put up a perfect replacement, but Jeff and his team did it!

In addition, it is always difficult living with building works, but everyone concerned made the experience as pain free as possible and were at all times, very respectful and polite.

Given the quality of the work, I would expect that you already have plenty of reference customers, but if you ever need us to speak to someone on your behalf, we would be delighted.”

Mr & Mrs Nick Watson , Surrey.

The Withers Group provides a portfolio of specialist repair services (including subsidence and flood) for insurers and their agents.