

Aggregate Industries

Preparing for the Olympic challenge

Aggregate Industries' preparations for the London Olympics are under way with high performance surfacing products already available and thoughts turning to the lead up to 2012.

Jubilation in Trafalgar Square as London was announced as host city for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games in July was matched at Aggregate Industries' business bases around the UK. The company believes the Olympics will promote development of facilities that can make good use of Aggregate Industries' comprehensive range of materials and infrastructure products and services.

The company has developed pavement materials and products which will fit well with the infrastructure needs of the soon to be appointed Olympic delivery authority. Moreover, award of the Olympics is a shot in the arm for grass-roots sports clubs and school facilities. They are likely to receive a boost from growing interest in sport, which should in turn lead to greater demand for

high performance sports surfacing and infrastructure products.

Asphalts, for example, have been developed by Bardon Aggregates – one of Aggregate Industries' businesses – for many different types of sports surface, including those suitable for schools, sports clubs and community centres, as well as Olympic venues. High profile events tend to encourage greater participation in sports and it should follow that more funding will be made available for sports facilities.

"The London Olympics and Paralympics represent a fabulous boost for the country, its sports and local communities," says Aggregate Industries Sports & Leisure Sector Manager Helen Little. "Aggregate Industries offers a wide range of durable and innovative sports surfacings. We hope that

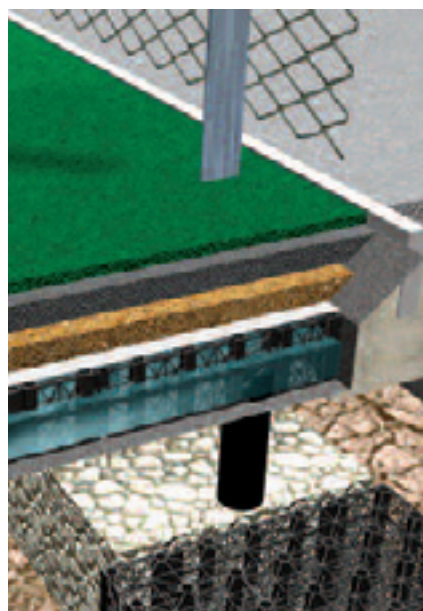
the development of new facilities and the sports stars of the future will go hand in hand," she says.

Aggregate Industries seems to be well positioned to provide a whole range of materials and infrastructure construction services in the run up to the Olympics. The company's pavement surfacing expertise is well known. As are the materials it provides, including coloured asphalts for aesthetic surfaces – Bardon Europave was used for the area around the Millennium Dome – and high performance asphalts for the base, binder and surface courses of new roads.

Then there is the company's contracting arm, Bardon Contracting, which has all the resources in place to carry out the pavement construction work for the Olympics. Supporting Bardon Contracting is a network



Bardon PlayAble is a durable and smooth surface suited to use by wheelchair athletes



Sustainable Drainage Systems can provide the best possible long term effects for the environment



Award of the Olympics should boost facilities that can benefit from Aggregate Industries' products



Bardon Europave was used to surface areas around the Millennium Dome which may become a venue for the 2012 Olympic Games in London

of materials supply in the south east, including modern rail-heads bringing dry stone into asphalt plants in London by rail, and materials development in Derbyshire. Plus, Aggregate Industries' Charcon hard landscaping business produces a wide range of paving and kerb products.

"We are continually developing materials and will have further products available by 2012, but early involvement of suppliers such as ourselves is important for delivery of the best performing and most sustainable solutions. We are especially keen to offer the benefit of our local knowledge and expertise," says Aggregate Industries' Technical Research Manager Bob Allen. "One area we are looking to develop is the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) beneath our asphalt surfacing materials."

Aggregate Industries has launched a range of SUDS products, which are already being used on several projects to produce sustainable pavement structures (see Modern Asphalts 15, archived at www.modernasphalts.com).

Pavements incorporating this form of sustainable drainage are becoming a key requirement for new developments. SUDS are recommended in the Government's latest planning guidance documents and the Environment Agency wants developers and authorities to adopt these methods for

managing rainwater. The huge Olympic development planned for east London's Lower Lea Valley is likely to include extensive paved areas. Environmental issues, such as the need for SUDS pavements that prevent flooding and pollution, are going to figure prominently.

"The London Olympics represent a fabulous boost for the country, its sports and local communities," Helen Little

"There are different types of SUDS pavement and many different material components that can be used to create them," says Allen. "Crucial for the Olympic sites and all modern developments, is the provision of new paved areas that do not have a negative impact on the environment. We are a leading supplier of such materials and products and therefore have a key role to play. For instance, the Olympics will produce both temporary and permanent development. We can play our part in advising developers of options that offer the most sustainable solutions to ensure the Olympic development produces the best possible results for the local environment."

Such positive impact can also be applied to sports clubs, schools and community

centres, says Allen. SUDS pavements are equally applicable to these facilities and can be combined with Bardon Aggregates' sports surfacing materials. These are principally categorised into two product ranges – Bardon Leisuretex and Bardon PlayAble.

All materials of both types are free draining, allowing water to disperse quickly and for play to continue soon after periods of rain. They can also be laid as part of a new sporting arena or as an overlay to an existing surface.

Variations have been developed to satisfy specific requirements of certain sports. For example, Leisuretex Multiuse is suitable for surfaces likely to be used intensively for a range of sports such as football, basketball and hockey. Bardon PlayAble is designed as a durable hard standing with a smooth finish and is particularly suited to athletes in wheelchairs who can experience difficulty with changing direction on conventional asphalt surfaces.

"Our materials are as suited to community sports schemes as they are Olympic standard facilities," adds Helen Little. "Work starts now on the country's Olympic and Paralympic preparations, both at the elite level and at the grass roots of sport."