



atm

EXCHANGE SQUARE, MIDDLESBROUGH

Location:
Middlesbrough

Client:
Meldrum

- Client feedback:
- Quality:
- Health and Safety:
- Programme:
- Cost:
- Responsiveness:
- Overall satisfaction:

SERVICES



Vegetation Management



Landscaping

OVERVIEW

Exchange Square is a street and public square in Middlesbrough that was the site of the former Royal Exchange building. It plays host to a statue of Henry Bolckow and several old keystones from the Royal Exchange, which was demolished in 1984–1985 when the A66 road was being constructed.

In 2021, work began on a revamp of the square, which has benefited from a £2 million funding boost through Historic England’s High Street Heritage Action Zone programme.

ATM planted trees, shrubs, herbaceous plantings, and seasonal bulb plantings as part of the project. Once the work was completed, we were also asked to return for 12-month maintenance periods.



CHALLENGE

We planted a variety of different trees during the project, including: six Pinus Nigra, Austrian Pine, and three Sorbus Asria Lutescens, Whitebeam Lutescens. The team also executed the planting of 1,800 plants and shrubs and 14,000 bulbs.

The goal was to enhance the look of the square with hard surface upgrades, trees and planting, new street furniture, and better lighting, complementing the architecture and character of the conservation area and supporting local businesses.



SOLUTION

Trees were planted according to landscape drawings and specifications. The locations for digging holes were determined and agreed upon with Meldrum. The holes were manually dug, and an 8-ton excavator equipped with a tree clamp was used to lift and position the trees into the prepared holes. Subsequently, the holes were filled, and the appropriate support and protection measures were applied to each tree, as specified in the landscape drawings.

For the bulb planting, a Meldrum Engineer marked out the extent of the plots to ensure accurate placement. The bulbs were then notch planted in the designated area. To ensure proper soil contact, the inserted bulbs were firmly heeled into the ground.



RESULTS

The planting has significantly enhanced Middlesbrough's Exchange Square.

The Pinus Nigra trees bring grandeur and elegance, providing shade and a pleasant microclimate. The Sorbus Aria Lutescens trees add vibrancy and contrast with their whitebeam leaves. With strategic placements, the diverse array of plants, shrubs, and bulbs brings bursts of colour, creating visually captivating displays throughout the square.

The revitalised Exchange Square now offers a harmonious blend of textures, forms, and colours, transforming it into an engaging and picturesque environment. The carefully considered selection and placement of each plant and tree have resulted in a captivating space that enriches the experience for residents and visitors.

