



A SMART SOLUTION FOR PARKING IN LONDON

We're confident that residents, businesses and visitors to Westminster will have their driving and parking experience transformed in the months and years ahead.



PETER COAKLEY
project manager
at Smart Park



IN EARLY 2014 WE INSTALLED AN INNOVATIVE SYSTEM TO HELP DRIVERS FIND PARKING SPACES ON SOME OF LONDON'S BUSIEST AND HIGHEST-PROFILE STREETS.

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Westminster is one of the busiest areas of London where on average drivers spend 15 minutes looking for a parking space, all the while adding to congestion in the heart of the capital and contributing to air pollution on London's roads.

It's an acute problem given the sheer density of the city and, in late January, Westminster City Council teamed up with FM Conway and specialist company Smart Parking to implement a new, intuitive system for matching drivers and spaces.

The £220,000 project involved the installation of infra-red 'SmartEye' sensors in 3,400 paid-for and disabled parking spaces across the city. When activated, the sensors send information via 'SmartLink' masts to a mobile phone app - ParkRight - which provides drivers with a real-time map of free spaces. This significantly cuts down the amount of time spent searching for parking spaces and, crucially, reduces congestion and emissions.

Following a successful trial which saw a network of 189 sensors installed in five Westminster streets - including Savile Row, Jermyn Street and St John's Wood High Street - FM Conway was contracted by the council to manage the installation of all 3,400 sensors and 330 receivers. Three teams drilled up to 100 cores per day through a variety of sub-bases and installed the sensors using a bonding resin.

Meanwhile, our lighting team installed 330 wi-fi receivers in existing lighting columns. Each column first had to be tested to make sure it was structurally and electrically sound and, where necessary, we adapted the columns to make them safe before installing the receivers. Westminster's lighting portfolio includes a number of heritage pieces dating from the 1800s and handling them demanded an extra degree of care.

This project required intricate logistical planning due to the nature of the area - parking was already tight so every effort was made to keep suspension to a minimum and avoid road closures where possible. Our lighting and surfacing divisions worked closely with Westminster's streetworks permitting team, special events team and planning team alongside Smart Parking to ensure works proceeded smoothly.

Stuart Wilson, head of lighting at FM Conway, explains: "The physical installation of sensors and receivers was only half of the challenge on this project. Westminster is incredibly busy and its streets are constantly playing host to a range of events, so we were operating within a fairly rigid timescale. We worked hard in carefully planning the works alongside Westminster City Council so that we could keep the capital moving."

"The implementation of Smart Park in Westminster is our largest and most ambitious project to date," comments Peter Coakley, project manager at Smart Park. "It will play a key role in helping London's roads and parking spaces operate more efficiently. Smart Park delivers proven benefits for both drivers and local authorities, and we're confident that residents, businesses and visitors to Westminster will have their driving and parking experience transformed in the months and years ahead."

