

CASE STUDY

PROJECT: ANTONY GORMLEY SCULPTURE
LOCATION: TRINITY COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE
VALUE: £2K

BACKGROUND

As part of the activities to mark the 700th anniversary of the early origins of Trinity College, a striking sculpture by Sir Antony Gormley OBE has been installed on the historic Backs at Trinity College, opposite the Wren Library and near the edge of the River Cam.



Antony Gormley has links with the college, having read History of Art there between 1968 and 1971. His best known works include the Angel of the North, Another Place on Crosby Beach, Liverpool and Event Horizon at the UEA in Norwich.

The work at Trinity College – Free Object – is part of the sculptor's 'Blockwork' series. It is 5.5m in height, and being constructed from spheroidal graphite iron, weighs almost 10 tonnes.

The sculpture is bolted to a concrete base and will remain in place for the next 12 months.

Trinity College needed to carry out a ground investigation at the location in order to design the foundation for the installation.

Harrison Group were pleased to be selected to work with Trinity College on this unique project.



SCOPE OF WORK

The site is very sensitive – this was the first time that permission had been given to dig on the Backs – and we were required to leave the site in a pristine condition on completion. As a precaution, the ground investigation team were accompanied by two archaeologists from the University of Cambridge.

A number of Dynamic Continuous Sampling boreholes were sunk, soil samples taken and tested at our soil testing laboratory.



OUTCOME

Investigations revealed that ground conditions comprised 1.5m of made ground over very soft cohesive alluvium to a depth of 4.8m.

Small diameter displacement piles were recommended, end bearing in the river terrace deposits below 5m.

All work was carried out to the satisfaction of Trinity College and the sculpture has now been installed.

Once the the work is removed in 12 months time, the concrete base will remain for potential future installations.