

Project case study

# Payers Park, Folkestone

## Product

ColourCrete

## Client

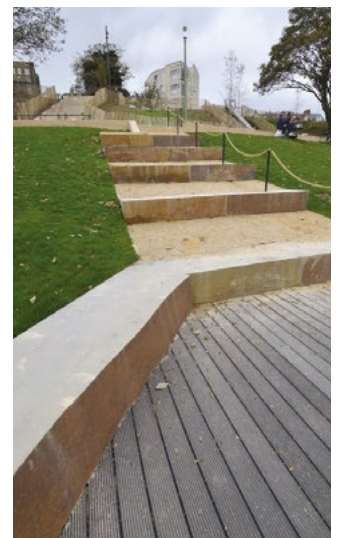
Folkestone Triennial and  
the Creative Foundation

## Contractor

Ground Control

## Overview

Heidelberg Materials supplied ColourCrete for the construction of Payers Park in Folkestone, a community space designed by muf architecture/art to blend with the town's natural landscape. Three earth-toned concrete shades, including bespoke mixes, were used in retaining walls and feature structures to deliver strength, durability, and aesthetic harmony, creating a vibrant, accessible focal point for residents and visitors.



## Project description

Payers Park, designed by urban design specialists muf architecture/art, provides a place to play, exercise and relax for Folkestone's residents, visitors and shoppers. The brief was to create a new focal point for the community that would act as a safe access link through the town centre.

Set in a steep sloping valley side, Payers Park required the use of heavy building materials with the

structural capabilities to cope with the complexities of the site. Colour and aesthetic were important considerations in developing its exposed structures, which needed to closely match local clays and sandstones in the town, such as Greensand and Gault clay.

ColourCrete was selected due to its strength, durability and low maintenance.

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With five standard colours in the range and up to 800 shade variations, it provided the widest choice of colour possibilities.

Heidelberg Materials worked with muf architecture/ art, design and build contractors Ground Control and engineers Haskins Robinson Waters to select three earth toned concrete shades to complement a wider colour palette and blend in with the natural landscape. Two of the shades were produced as bespoke mixes to help meet the design concept.

All three colours were incorporated in the park's retaining walls – which give the appearance of ruins or excavations hidden under deposits of soil. The walls, which sit within the site's slopes, were used to support levelled areas where accessible public routes have been created.

A specialist retaining feature wall using all three concrete shades was also cast in one lift without the adverse merging of colour. This was achieved through controlled placement and compaction techniques applied on-site to set the three ColourCrete shades in layers – the darkest colour on the bottom and the lightest on top – to mimic a geological timeline within the soil. The green shade was additionally used within sprayed concretes to form four stepped concrete dishes against the slope.

The design process was developed in partnership with the Folkestone Triennial and the Creative Foundation, which commissioned the project, The Roger De Haan Charitable Trust, Heritage Lottery Fund, Arts Council England, Folkestone Townscape Heritage Initiative, Kent County Council, the Creative Foundation and Shepway District Council, which manages the park.

