

**Slotted drainage for Blyth's refurbished Market Square**

Lying on the southern bank of the River Blyth, the coastal town of Blyth, Northumberland is best known as an industrial port or possibly its football team, the Blyth Spartans.

In January 2008, the town's old market place was closed to the public as work began on a £3 million regeneration scheme jointly funded by Blyth Valley Borough Council, the Northumberland Strategic Partnership, Northumberland County Council, One North East and Senntri.

The old market's worn and cracked paved surface was dug up, recycled and replaced by sandstone slabs. During the re-surfacing 370 metres of 100mm Hauraton RECYFIX® SLOTTED CHANNELS with galvanised steel heel-safe slots were installed by contractors BCE – Barton Civil Engineering. The development includes a water feature of "dancing fountains" that jet through holes in the paved area. To control the run-off, the fountains were flanked with 80 metres of RECYFIX® channel fitted with stainless steel slots. The scheme also includes 60 semi-mature ash trees, the installation of an interactive children's play area, a bespoke piece of public art, improved seating and lighting as well as enhanced access between the market and the town's surrounding shopping area.

Happily, the building work was completed ahead of schedule allowing the market to open for business just before Christmas 2008. A programme of winter events was organised so residents and visitors to Blyth were able to enjoy a pre-Christmas music festival, extended market days and a Christmas parade. To mark the official opening of the new Blyth Market a special event took place in January 2009.

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