HILL & SMITH INFRASTRUCTURE

Case study

Sentrigate

Automated access control solution to save costs on highway roadworks

Products installed:

- Sentrigate, the portable, solar-powered gate.

The M27 Southampton scheme, that started in October 2024, involved works on the centre reservation and verges carried out by CR Civil Engineering.

Due to the distance from the compound to the work site, and the moving nature of the access points, CR Civil Engineering needed a site access solution that met the following criteria:

- Ease of set up and mobility
- Automated and can be used to set up exclusions
- Cost-effective

They contacted Hill & Smith Infrastructure a few months before the start of site work to find a suitable solution. After assessing the requirements on site, the Hill & Smith team recommended Sentrigate, the portable, solar-powered gate solution.

Ease of set up and mobility

Offering incredible ease of set up, the nine Sentrigate units were set up by a single operative within a couple of days. The gates operate on solar-power, with 4 spare batteries to be used as and when needed, making them self-sustaining, which was ideal for the electricity-deprived areas. The unique lightweight design for portability allowed to move the units as the construction site progressed and moved.

High level of automation

The scheme attracted a high level of site traffic, with various contractors involved. Therefore, being able to manage and limit access to site was a key requirement. Gate access was managed through programming remote fobs, each of which could be used to access multiple gates. The fobs can be operated from up to 160 metres, facilitating the operation of the gates without disruption.

Cost efficiency

The Sentrigate system has been proposed as an alternative to the access points being managed by operatives. The cost comparison showed that using the gate system costs a fraction of the cost of using manual labour, at less than 12%. In addition to saving a significant amount of cost on managing access control, this allowed CR Civil Engineering to use workforce for more skilled jobs.

Support and accommodating bespoke requirements

The Hill & Smith Infrastructure team supported CR Civil Engineering throughout the hiring period of the gate system to accommodate any requirements that arose. To adapt to the shorter days / less daylight and address the client's concerns about visibility in the mornings and evenings, the Sentrigate system was promptly retrofitted with lights upon request.

With its lightweight design for portability, solar-powered operation for electricity-deprived areas, and high-visibility markings for safety compliance, the gates drew the attention of other contractors working on the scheme, and their use was recognised as a standout innovation.

> *"We were very impressed how easy Sentrigate made managing the work area. We take protecting the workforce very seriously, and Hill & Smith Infrastructure went above & beyond to support us with that."*
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> *On the consistent performance of the gates, he added: "We hired 9 sets of gates, plus a couple of spare ones, but we ended up not needing to use these two, as the gates operated very reliably."*
>
> **Ben Joseph, Project Manager, CR Civil Engineering**

Find out more

For more information on Vehicle Restraint Systems (VRS) and Hostile Vehicle Mitigation (HVM) Solutions, contact **info@hillandsmithinfrastructure.com**

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