

# UKSSH STEPS UP FOR FESTIVAL GOERS



The three-day Wireless Festival at Crystal Palace is one of London's biggest festivals of the year.

UKSSH, the country's leading Haki specialists, worked with Tamworth Scaffolding to supply and install four public access staircases, each 5m wide x 4m tall, to enable 50,000 festival goers each day to access the event.

Crystal Palace Park has been at the heart of London's entertainment scene for over a hundred and fifty years: Built by the Crystal Palace Company between 1852 and 1854, it was created to be the magnificent setting for the relocated Crystal Palace, which Sir Joseph Paxton had designed for the 1851 Great Exhibition in Hyde Park.

Even though the Crystal Palace burnt down in 1936, the park's surviving Italian terraces connected by flights of steps, each of which was flanked by a pair of sphinxes, have a Grade II\* listed status. This meant that the organisers of the 2021 Wireless Festival had to create new, temporary, ways for the festival's 50,000 visitors each day to access the terraces.

The answer was to erect a series of temporary public access staircases over the steeply sloping banks – and Haki systems experts UKSSH were tasked with delivering the perfect solution.

Knowing that the versatility of Haki Public Access Staircases was critical to the success of the project, UKSSH collaborated closely with Creator Scaffold Design and with Tamworth Scaffolding to deliver a turnkey solution.

#### A DOUBLE CHALLENGE.

Providing multiple staircases capable of coping with a very high footfall posed one challenge, but it was equally important to guarantee that the terraces and steps would not be damaged by the temporary structures.

Conservation was just as important as providing safe access: Tamworth Scaffolding, who specialise in conservation projects, knew the solution was to build the temporary staircases with a full metre clearance above the listed terraces.

UKSSH and Tamworth Scaffolding erected four staircases, each 5 metres wide and 4 metres tall, in just four days - less than half the time allocated for the work.

As UKSSH MD Gary Griffiths explains: "The installation of the staircases wasn't straightforward, with each one positioned over a steep grass bank, but the combined knowledge of UKSSH, Creator Scaffold Design and Tamworth Scaffolding meant that a fully compliant solution was delivered on budget and well ahead of schedule."

# GASSE STUDY

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