The Old Wellington, 2 Cathedral Gates, Manchester M3 1SW

Method Statement To Install The Proposed Jumbrellas

1 Prepare the Work Area

- Set up barriers and signage to restrict access
- Remove loose debris, furniture, or obstacles
- Identify and mark any underground services (cables, irrigation, drainage)
- Inspect slabs for cracks or instability before lifting
- Record existing laying pattern of the slabs to ensure relaying of slabs to the original pattern.

2 Wear Required PPE

Manual handling and cutting tools require appropriate protection.

- Safety boots with steel toe caps
- Cut-resistant gloves
- Eye protection when cutting or chiselling
- Knee pads for prolonged ground work
- Dust mask if brushing or cutting

3 Loosen and Lift Existing Slabs

Careful lifting prevents slab damage and reduces manual handling risk.

- Use a bolster chisel or slab lifter to open joints
- Insert lifting bars under the slab edges
- Lift using legs, not back, and with two operatives for large slabs
- Stack removed slabs on level ground to avoid tipping

4 Remove Old Bedding Material

A clean, level base ensures the new slab sits correctly.

- Scrape away old mortar, sand, or Type 1 material

- Remove any vegetation or roots
- Check for soft spots and excavate if needed
- Carefully excavate where required and set out in the proposed drawings along with depth and width requirements as per the drawings.
- Any historic discoveries below ground to be reported to the local authority by Mitchells & Butlers.
- Compact the exposed sub-base using a hand tamper

5 Rebuild the Bedding Layer

Recommended

A stable, even bed prevents rocking and future settlement.

- Lay a full mortar bed (4:1 sharp sand to cement) or a screeded sharp sand bed for dry-lay systems
- Maintain consistent thickness (30–50 mm depending on system)
- Use a straightedge to level and check falls for drainage

6 Relay the Stone Slabs

Correct placement ensures alignment and long-term stability.

- Cut out holes to relevant slabs and along one side to allow hole around ground sleeve using a suitable cut off saw and connect to new footings. Depth to suit that of existing paving & sub base to achieve a level finish that matches the existing.
- Finish around ground sleeve and new cut with mortar to match existing in material, colour and finish.
- Lower slabs gently into position
- Tap down with a rubber mallet to achieve level
- Maintain joint width using spacers if required
- Continuously check alignment with string lines

7 Fill and Finish Joints

Jointing locks slabs in place and prevents weed growth.

- Fill & point joints required with mortar to match the existing in material, colour and finish.

- Compact joints fully and clean excess material from slab faces

8 Final Inspection and Clean-Up

Ensures the installation meets specification and is safe for use.

- Check levels, falls, and joint consistency
- Confirm no rocking or movement in slabs
- Remove waste materials and clean the area
- Reopen the area once mortar has cured (typically 24 hours)