



THE CORONATION OF HIS MAJESTY KING CHARLES III AND QUEEN CAMILLA

Location: 20+ sites across London and Windsor
Sector: Events and Government

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INTRODUCTION

People across the country celebrated the coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla over a weekend of special events on 6th - 8th May 2023. Coronations are centred around a solemn religious ceremony that has remained largely unchanged for over 1,000 years. The coronation took place almost eight months after Charles formally assumed the title of King of the United Kingdom following the death of his mother, Queen Elizabeth II.

The coronation ceremony took place at Westminster Abbey on Saturday 6th May and viewing figures for the two-hour service reached 20.4 million in the UK. A star-studded coronation concert was the highlight of the second day of coronation celebrations on Sunday 7th May. The concert was staged on the East Lawn of Windsor Castle and was attended by 20,000 members of the public. Acts included Lionel Richie, Katy Perry, Take That, Paloma Faith and Pete Tong and the event was broadcast in over 100 countries.



CHALLENGES

The Coronation involved a massive policing operation and the delivery of a huge amount of rental equipment and services. Thousands of people lined the streets watching The King and Queen travelling in the processional route, and a total of 85 central London roads were closed on the day of the coronation ceremony.

For a three-month period leading up to the coronation, Sunbelt Rentals worked very closely with the Metropolitan Police, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DMCS), Identity Group and other partners involved. It is estimated that more than 7,000 hours were spent by Sunbelt Rentals staff on the delivery, event and derig stages. Colleagues worked 12-hour shifts 24 hours a day for a 15-day period from 24th April - 12th May 2023.

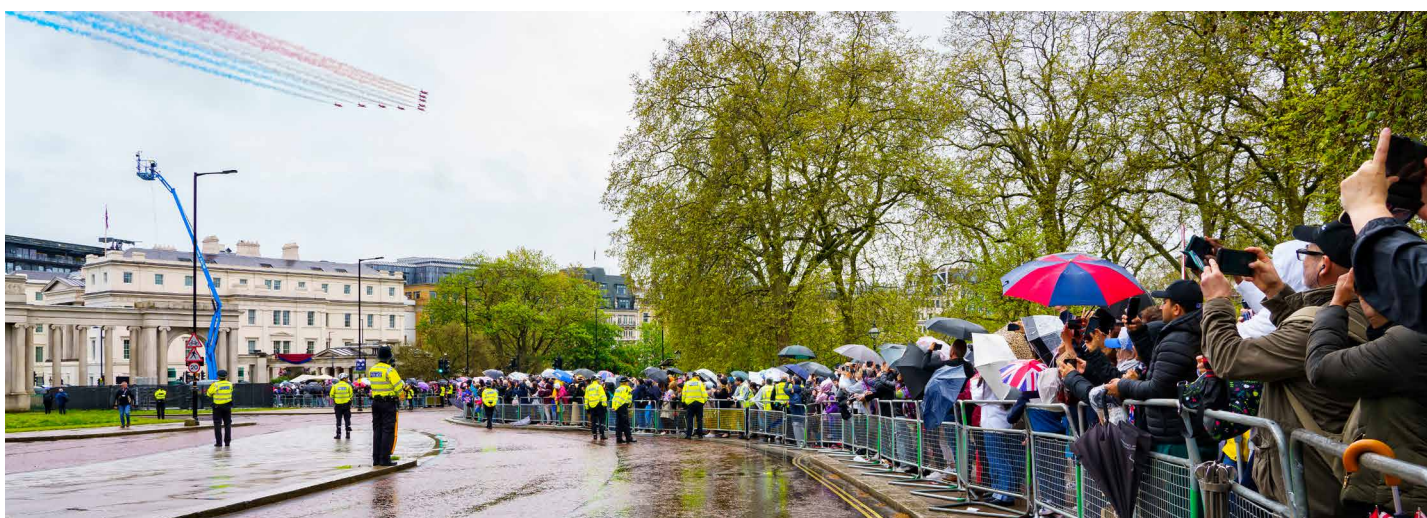


▲ I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Operational Support Group - Property Services to say a big thank you to all the staff at Sunbelt Rentals for an outstanding job well executed during the national event for the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III.

It was testament to the experience, knowledge, skills and good humour that your crews made a vital contribution in the delivery of this national ceremonial event. A large number of crowd control barriers in excess of 17,000, with many deployed and re-deployed over a very short period and without your company's assistance and in particular, the on-site supervision of the crew, the operation would not have been a great a success as it was.

We appreciate the effort all the Sunbelt Rentals staff put into the days, particularly the early starts in the rain, late finishes, and the long hours in-between. The key to success is teamwork and I am very proud to have been able to be part of what you have all achieved. ▲

**Senior Operations Manager,
Metropolitan Police**



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SUNBELT RENTALS' INVOLVEMENT IN THE KING'S CORONATION

Sunbelt Rentals provided equipment and services for more than 20 sites across London and Windsor during the coronation celebrations. These included Hyde Park, Green Park, St James' Park, The Mall, QE2 Centre, Westminster Abbey, and Windsor Castle.

Equipment was located across the coronation processional route which covered 3.8km from east to west and 1.4km from north to south, with Buckingham Palace roughly in the middle of this area. Due to the breadth of equipment required, the Sunbelt Rentals 360 Solutions team and the company's product specialists performed a key role in the delivery of this event. The delivery included:

- 45 operatives and 15 vans deployed on event day, making up the entire footprint of the event
- Such was the scale of equipment required, the Sunbelt Rentals 360 Solutions team built a site compound close to Buckingham Palace to hold some of the equipment supplied and to quickly respond on the ground to any changes
- Barriers - 20,500 heavy duty/police barriers were installed to help keep people safe. Those supplied were police barriers which are particularly suited for controlling the flow of people and heavy crowd surges. All barriers had to be installed for the event itself, as well as an overnight full-dress rehearsal a few days before. Barriers were also placed in locations where members of the Royal Family were due to make announced and unannounced visits to see members of the public
- Traffic Management and Control - 38 x variable messaging signs were provided to help direct people, as well as barriers and traffic cones, plus several supervisors and operators. A total of 16 Traffic Management Operatives (TMO's) worked on the event on 6th May, and 8 TMO's on 7th May. The Sunbelt Rentals traffic teams had a crucial role to play in the Control Centre changing the display messaging on the VMS, and moving equipment from the processional route to new locations for the following day's celebrations
- Plant - 58 x tower lights, forklifts, all terrain pallet, and standard trucks
- Trakway - 1000m trakway, 4000 square metres of SupaTrak, 200 square metres of TigerTrak, Euromats, 500 x panels, over 2,000 mesh panels and cable ramps. It is estimated that the Sunbelt Rentals Trakway crew spent a total of 76 crew days on the coronation events, based on a two-person crew completing all panel installations and recoveries
- Equipment supplied for the DCMS included 2,600 crowd control barriers, 1,250 Euromats, 3,000 Heras fencing panels, 1,000 portaloos and 14,800 square metres of trakway
- Provision of other equipment such as welfare units and wheeled bins

RESULT

This was a very high-profile celebration of events, and it was an incredibly proud moment to see the huge volume of Sunbelt Rentals equipment at Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle, on The Mall and across the capital. With the eyes of the world watching, Sunbelt Rentals helped deliver on this historic occasion to ensure the celebrations ran as smoothly as possible.



▲ It has been a massive team effort. Not only did we have to work on logistics for the coronation day, but all barriers had to be installed for an overnight full-dress rehearsal a few days before the main event. After that, we tweaked and moved barriers as requested by the Metropolitan Police.

Leading up to the event day, we also installed barriers at various locations for the Royal Family to make announced and unannounced visits to see members of the public. These included a walk around the Mall for the King and Queen Consort, and the Prince and Princess of Wales who also visited a pub in Soho. ▲

Mark Fisher,
Head of Barriers and Fencing,
Sunbelt Rentals

▲ As well as working closely with our business units, who provided so much of the equipment for the coronation, the 360 teams also acted as managing agents for DCMS to install and de-rig their owned equipment such as barriers, trakway and portaloos. This also meant coordinating all collections and deliveries from their national collection centre in Swindon, ensuring that trucks were in the right place and at the right time and managing what was a challenging and continually evolving schedule.

We built a site compound by Buckingham Palace to hold and manage some of our equipment; this meant we were strategically placed on the ground, enabling us to respond immediately to changes and adaptations. ▲

Jim Edge, 360 Solutions,
Senior Project Manager,
Sunbelt Rentals