A Royal Digital Treatment

The Royal Parks aren't the typical places you would associate with technology but hidden away in the offices within the grounds of parks like Hyde Park, a transformation was happening.

Not your typical technology transformation

Picture this, walking along the neatly aligned path flourishing with flowers and nature on a warm Summer's evening, hearing the children playing in the Diana Memorial Playground and watching the breeze through the trees, it's the last place for technology, right?

In 2017, The Royal Parks was headed for a big transformation. Following the merger of a former DCMS agency and The Royal Parks Foundation charity, the organisation was on a path to completely transform how it operated, with technology forming a large part of this.

Across eight core sites with several additional offices and buildings, The Royal Parks needed a single source of truth and one main route of connectivity. You probably wouldn't notice walking through the vast open parks but behind the scenes, there are people working on-site in the carefully camouflaged buildings, and educational facilities and site infrastructure all needed be to connected to data centre networks and beyond. Through careful planning and understanding how the charity worked, we were able to transform their network, providing a solid foundation for future expansion and initiatives.

Hybrid working

Just as the technology transformation was starting to take shape and build momentum, Covid hit. And with it came hybrid working. Fortunately, through working together and developing a solid network foundation, switching The Royal Parks employees over to hybrid working didn't cause their working days to come to a standstill. Although it was on the plan to provide the flexibility to work from home without interruption, the impact of Covid-19 rushed the process along at pace, but we had hybrid working lift-off without a hitch, delivering good days and positive outcomes to parks employees and their own front-line heroes, the IT team.

Setting security measures

Like the warning signs around the parks during deer birthing season, security threats are ideally the ones best to avoid. By providing a safe and secure network from the beginning, The Royal Parks network security was top priority for all involved; ensuring this from the beginning enabled the release of the new network and hybrid working to run as smoothly as possible, giving the employees in the parks more good days with their IT.

So next time you walk through Hyde Park or stroll through the gardens in Richmond Park, see if you can spot the hidden gems of The Royal Parks technology transformation.