The Nu-Phalt Case Study

Silverstone

Silverstone is a world-class racing track and home of the British Grand Prix. Nu-Phalt was asked to investigate minor track level defects that were causing the race cars to bottom out at approx 180mph and supply a solution using the patented Infrared Road Repair System.

Nu-Phalt observed that some very minor level changes at the entrance to an over-repaired section of the track were causing the problem, compounded by a minor depression at the exit of the repaired section. Under normal traffic conditions this would have never been classified as a defect, but racetrack conditions demand critical levels due to very limited suspension travel combined with the very high speeds of Formula 1 cars.

Following Nu-Phalt’s review of the surface, and given the urgency of the situation 10 days prior to the British Grand Prix, it was vital that Nu-Phalt corrected the problem that day and also provide track levels that would be stable for the future.

Using one fully-equipped vehicle with a two-man team, Nu-Phalt heated the track wearing course with an infrared emission at the entry level to the previously-repaired section.

Without any secondary damage, the section was compacted level with the original track, removing the defect entirely.

On the exit side of the repair Nu-Phalt used the same infrared settings and working process on both the repaired section and the original track, and added a very small amount of hot replacement asphalt to the depression. The repair was re-compacted to combine the added materials and the original track joint, bringing them back to a complete match and creating a seamless thermal bond.

This particular type of repair method is highly specialised and for very high-speed racing circuits is highly critical in preventing any secondary issues.

The repair was completed in just a few hours, and tested within an hour using the on-site Silverstone circuit vehicles. The test showed significant improvements, and subsequent pre-race inspections by authorised bodies and comments from the Grand Prix drivers both during practice and following the race itself confirmed the improvements made by Nu-Phalt.

Call Nu-Phalt today on 08442 571570 (UK South) or 01383 411210 (UK North) for a free, no-obligation quote, or email marketing@nuphalt.com for more information.

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