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China's terra cotta army protected

The world-famous terra cotta army in China will be protected by a cover of heated glass that will also serve as a viewing platform for visitors.

The special covering will protect the terra cotta statues against damp but allow them to remain visible to the public. The glass covering will be supplied by Dutch company Glass Consult.

"We supply heated IQ glass," explains managing director Funs Fiddlers. "It has a thin metal layer that conducts electricity and radiates heat."

The company will be supplying thousands of square metres of IQ glass to the Chinese.

The enormous terra cotta army was discovered thirty years ago by a farmer who had wanted to dig a well on the site. The warriors were crafted

during the Qin dynasty. Qin, the first emperor of China, had ordered thousands of these figures to be made in order to protect him after his death.

Thanks in part to UNESCO, a museum was constructed over the site. The terra cotta army attracts at least 50,000 visitors every day.

Glass delivered by Glass Consult is already being used to protect the hieroglyphics in Tutankhamen's tomb against damp. The company has also supplied glass to protect archaeological finds in Greece.

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