

Structural Drainage

ABG Deckdrain 700S/ST170, Dawlish Rail Sea Wall Ph 2, Devon, UK



Case Study

Project Description

In 2014, heavy storms along England's southern coast destroyed a section of the iconic Dawlish sea wall (originally constructed by Brunel in 1840) leaving only a swing bridge of rails behind. This resulted in an eight week closure of the South Devon Railway line, with the whole South West peninsula totally cut off from the rest of the network. Once the emergency works were completed to temporarily restore the line, Network Rail put a plan in place to improve the railway's future resilience and further protect it from rising sea levels and extreme weather events. In early 2019, the Department for Transport committed funding for Phase 2 of the wall, a 400m section between the Grade II listed station building and the Coastguard breakwater.

The Challenge

BAM Nuttall was awarded the £27.8M contract which includes the installation of 286 circular hollow section (CHS) piles into sandstone breccia rock along the coastline. The 762mm diameter CHS piles range from 12m to 16m long and are installed to support 150 x 14 tonne precast facing panels and to retain a series of in-situ concrete pours between the piles and the existing sea wall for the new promenade structure. An easy to install solution was needed to channel away rainwater and to relieve ground water pressure build-up from the back of the new structure.

The Solution

To save installation time and space ahead of pouring the in-situ concrete structure to the back of the CHS pile wall, ABG's 7mm thick **Deckdrain 700S/ST170** drainage geocomposite was specified. This provided a thin, light-weight and quick to install alternative whilst working around the local tide tables, avoiding the transportation and time involved with using heavy crushed stone or

Project Information

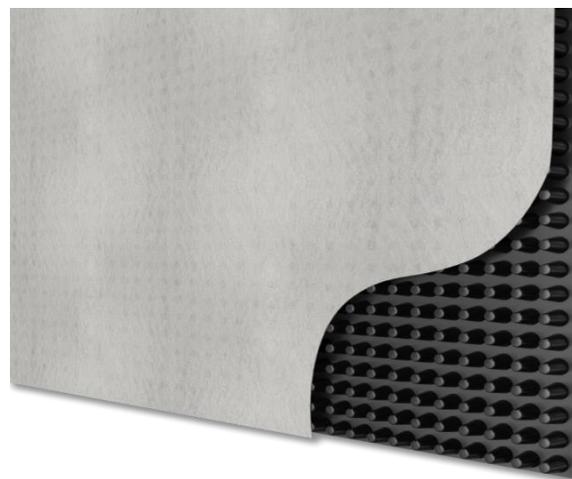
Client Network Rail

Contractor BAM Nuttall

Products ABG Deckdrain 700S/ST170

Quantity 3,000m²

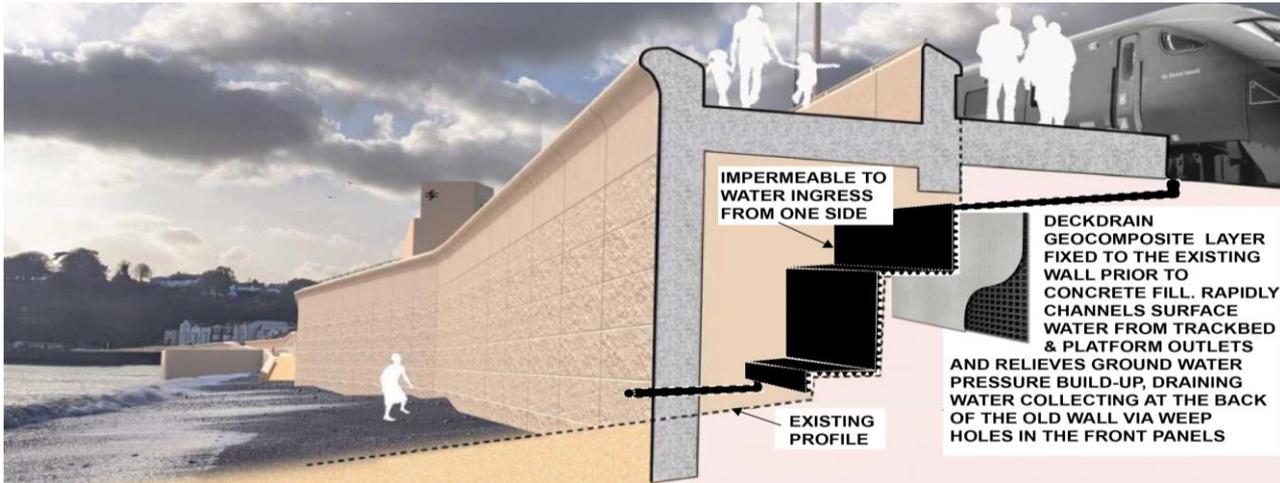
- Benefits**
- Light-weight and thin profile, quick to install
 - Creates a high-flow capacity over a large surface area
 - Geotextile prevents blockages
 - Avoids requirement for heavy and carbon intensive drainage stone / blocks



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hollow concrete block drainage methods. The cusped drainage core provides high-flow drainage capacity over a large surface area to rapidly channel surface water away from the track-bed and platform outlets. The geocomposite also prevents the fluctuating ground water pressure from building up behind the wall, with water released via weep hole outlets at the front of the new concrete panels (positioned to prevent surcharge).

The **Deckdrain** is fixed to the existing sea wall profile using Abfix Stickpins, with integral washers to maintain the impermeable membrane on one side. The geotextile and open cusped side is fixed to the front profile of the existing wall and prevents any grit or stone particles from fissures in the damaged structure entering the drainage core. The back of the light-weight and flexible geocomposite provides a key for the concrete pour to neatly seal the void within the new structure. The flexible geocomposite layer also easily conforms to the contours and depressions of the old stone wall. Adjoining Deckdrain panels are fixed using Abseal butyl tape to prevent concrete entry during the sequence of staged pours.

The ABG Service

Design assistance and carbon footprint comparisons for transporting and installing block or stone drainage layers.



A section of the new, taller sea wall and promenade in front of Dawlish rail station



Deckdrain fixed to existing sea wall using Abfix pins & washers to maintain impermeability and jointing tape to prevent concrete ingress



Concrete pour behind CHS pile wall. Deckdrain fixed to existing wall to channel surface & ground water from behind the new wall & promenade structure

Contact ABG today to discuss your project specific requirements and discover how ABG past experience and innovative products can help on your project.