

Structural Drainage

Retaining Wall Drainage, Deckdrain, Various Bridges, Crewe, UK



CASE STUDY



Project Description

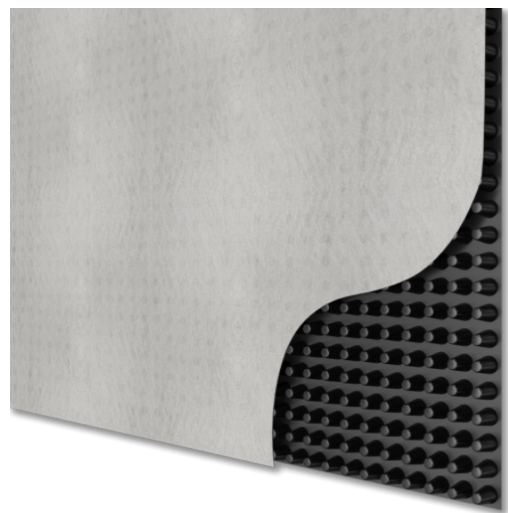
The Staffordshire Alliance consortia (Atkins Rail, Laing O'Rourke, Network Rail and Volker Rail) carried out extensive improvements to the line between Crewe and Stafford to remove a major bottleneck on the West Coast Mainline. By allowing trains travelling to Manchester from the South and West Midlands to travel over, rather than across, the existing tracks the line now accommodates two extra trains per hour. The scheme was a £250m investment and forms part of Network Rail's £40bn Railway Upgrade Plan. It won multiple awards for Innovation, Collaborative Working, Best Major Project and others from various industry bodies.

The Challenge

This highly complex project included the construction of 11 new railway bridge structures and 650,000 tonnes of bulk earthworks. The construction programme and the possession times allowed on the project were critical to its success. The scheme employed a dedicated Innovation Manager to aid Engineers and Contractors in finding ways to improve construction by identifying faster methods, cost savings, reducing vehicle movements and removing the need for material import. The traditional granular drainage for the new buried structures was one of the areas where innovation would contribute to a significant improvement.

Project Information

Client	Network Rail
Contractor	Staffordshire Alliance
Product	ABG Deckdrain
Quantity	2,500m ²
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quick to install• Easy to install in tight access• Cost effective vs traditional granular drainage• Improved programme time



ABG Deckdrain for vertical wall drainage

ABG LTD

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The Solution

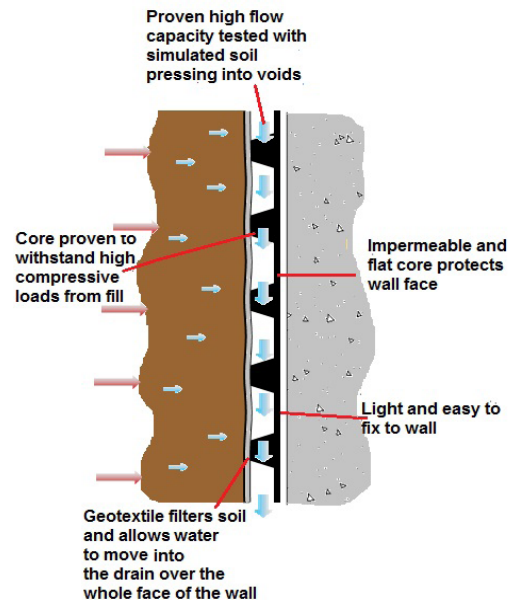
Laing O'Rourke proposed the use of **ABG's Deckdrain** geocomposite to provide an effective, time saving drainage solution for the rail bridge structures in place of the granular fill originally specified. **ABG Deckdrain** is a BBA HAPAS approved wall drainage geocomposite, and manufactured in the UK. **Deckdrain** comprises a high performance cusped drainage core which optimises waterflow. It provides water flows many times the capacity of typical drainage stone, and on this scheme saved approximately 1,000t of granular material import. The flat backed impermeable core protects the concrete waterproofing from installation damage, while the filter geotextile is compatible with site won soils. The rolls of **Deckdrain** are easy to handle and attach to the wall. It is simply cut, shaped and sealed around any protrusions and is easy to handle in tight working conditions such as behind abutment walls.

The ABG Service

ABG provided detailed design calculations and advice, drawings and installation advice.



Using Deckdrain drastically reduced the number of vehicle movements on this busy site



Water moves easily from the fill soils through into the Deckdrain drainage core, relieving hydrostatic pressure



Easy handling and installation means Deckdrain is suited to even the most complex schemes

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