

SATIN Case - Geocomposite - Lochgilphead Shared Use Path

Organisation Name

Transport Planning and Engineering
on behalf of Argyll and Bute Council

Infrastructure Location

Lochgilphead

Date of Completion

01-Jan-2012



Context

This route will provide a cycling and walking route across the east side of Lochgilphead, specifically from MacIntyre and Macdonald Terraces through to the hospitals, golf course and Blarbuie Community Woodland project. The route links into the wider path network, through to Kilmory Woodland and Home Farm project and Dunholigan travellers site through to the south of Lochgilphead, up to Acnabreac forest and cycle trails, and the NCN route 78 at the Crinan Canal to the north and west. The route was identified as a response to high school relocation and development of the former school site. The route is a proposed core path that has been registered without objection. The route crosses a wet uncultivated field.



Technical Aspects

The technical aspect of the project was the decision to use a geocomposite (combined geotextile sheet and geogrid). A previous path project in Garelochhead had identified that a geocomposite saves the contractor time and effort when required to provide stable ground on which to lay sub-base and to protect the sub-soil from damage by plant.



Outcomes

The contractor, with good weather, was able to lay geocomposite with no excavation to existing ground. The route was tracked by the excavator first and then 450mm of granular sub-base was laid on top of the geocomposite in two weeks. The project was completed in 4 weeks with the sub-base surfaced with asphalt concrete at 2.5m wide.

Financing

The project was installed for around £75,000.

Evaluation

The project delivered an extension to the shared use path network within 4 weeks of starting on site. The route was being used the day after completion and the contractor has since used the geocomposite product again to aid in other wet conditions.



Key Learning Points

The key learning point from the project, although more expensive is occurred in the overall construction cost, the geocomposite product removes risk from the construction process. If the weather was poor the project would have continued as the geocomposite provides a firm separation and stabilisation layer on which to lay and compact the sub-base, but also allows construction plant to travel across the wet ground without causing extensive damage to the underlying sub-soil.

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