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In October 2022, Concrete Canvas® (CC) GCCM* was used for a channel lining application in Gorebridge, which is located 14 miles south of Edinburgh in Scotland.

The National Grid key gas main had been identified to have a shallow soil cover, which is required to prevent damage in case unplanned excavation was to occur, and therefore didn't meet the required specifications. The gas main required an additional hard armour, visible protective cover and Concrete Canvas® was chosen over conventional concrete methods such as precast concrete slabs, as the remote location and soft ground conditions meant that additional logistical costs would be required to transport the heavier materials to site.

Inclement weather during the installation presented several challenges for the contractor. The channel was located in a bogland area and the soft ground was saturated due to heavy rainfall. The ground had sufficient bearing capacity to accommodate a 13 tonne excavator cutting the channel profile, but the additional weight of lifting and transporting heavy loads would cause the plant to sink.

The installation of precast concrete slabs would be difficult to handle and install due to their weight and require mobilisation of much larger plant than CC™. Therefore, five smaller custom sized rolls of CCT3™ material was chosen in order to provide the maximum protective cover, while reducing the overall weight of each roll.

*Geosynthetic Cementitious Composite Mat





Site prior to works



Water overpumped during the installation



Channel excavated & rock placed in invert



CCT3™ Bulk Rolls deployed using spreader beam



CCT3™ material laid transversely across channel



Prior to hydration



CC™ post hydration



CCT3™ easily accomodated existing pipes within the channel



Anchor trenches backfilled

Prior to installing the CCT3™ material, the contractor used an excavator and bucket to dig the 40m long channel. All sharp rocks and protrusions were removed from the channel and crushed aggregate was placed in the invert to ensure a stable substrate prior to laying the CCT3™ material.

The Bulk Rolls were delivered to site and deployed using a spreader beam mounted on tracked plant machinery. The material was unrolled into the channel transversely and cut to specific profile length to eliminate wastage. The CC layers were overlapped by 100mm in the direction of water flow and were then sealed and screwed together at 200mm intervals using 30mm stainless screws.

The material was terminated onto 300mm bench anchor trenches on either side of the channel and fixed to the substrate using 250mm ground pegs prior to being backfilled with the excavated soil to prevent water undermining. The leading and trailing edges of the material were terminated into 300mm anchor trenches on each side of the channel and backfilled with non-erodible fill. The CC was then fully hydrated at the end of every shift with a hose from a water bowser.

Installed over the course of two days in inclement weather conditions, CCT3™ provided a rapid and easy to install concrete lining solution, providing a long term visible shallow cover protection to the pipeline while still managing to reduce the logistical footprint of the project.

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