

Material: Geoweb® GW20V8, Geoweb GW40V8, ATRA Key
Date: September 2009 — October 2011

Geoweb for load support

Salisbury Plain Training Area Tank Tracks



BAM Nuttall was awarded the contract to upgrade and widen 24 kilometres of stone tank tracks for the MoD on Salisbury Plain as part of the South West Regional Prime Contract.

After trials with other cellular confinement materials Geoweb was selected for installation. With design guidance from Greenfix GW40 large cell Geoweb was selected for use on the majority of the tracks, with GW20 small cell used on areas of soft ground.



The finished track was being constructed of imported stone and is approximately 5m wide with a depth of 450mm.

Soldiers from 26 Engineer Regiment constructed the last 3 kilometres providing soldiers with valuable training tasks. Lieutenant Colonel John Ridge, Commanding Officer of 26 Engineer Regiment, said: *“My soldiers thoroughly enjoyed working alongside civilian contractors and learned a huge amount from the experience... with a number of soldiers from reserve regiments joining us on task throughout. It has been a superb training opportunity.”*

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One of the main contributing factors to the speedy completion of the project was the use of ATRA® Key rather than the traditional staples to join Geoweb® panels. ATRA Key is permanent, substantially quicker to install, safer and four times stronger than stapling. Geoweb incorporates I-SLOT® which enables ATRA Key to create a friction-locked connection (1.1kN tensile strength per connection) for the Geoweb sections. Site staff confirmed that use of ATRA Key had enabled them to complete work ahead of schedule and without the use of cumbersome tools in remote areas of the site.



Connection time with ATRA Key is three times faster than stapling, and is a one man operation.



Delivery schedules for Geoweb were agreed with BAM Nuttall and The Royal Engineers to ensure work proceeded to the expected timetable, and regular visits were made to site by Greenfix and their distributor to review progress, answer any technical queries as they arose, and to assist with best practice in the use of ATRA Key. The success of this site has led to Geoweb being specified on subsequent works.



Major General James Cowan declares the new track system officially open
[Picture: Daniel Driver Photography]



Typical section of Army road on Salisbury Plain, at an intersection with the public highway

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