



## **DuraDeck® provides ground protection during a bridge dismantle project**

### **THE PROJECT**

A dilapidated pedestrian bridge in North East England needed to be dismantled. The bridge was surrounded on all sides by soft turf, making access for the necessary heavy lifting equipment problematic. There were also concerns by the borough to protect the ground from undue damage during the dismantling.

A 56-tonne crane and a 30-tonne low loader needed to be positioned alongside the bridge in order to remove it. Before this could happen, though, a temporary platform/roadway strong enough to take the weight was required.

Ideally, the contractor wanted to avoid removing the grass and laying a temporary tarmac surface, as this would have been costly and time consuming. Instead, the contractor wanted to create a heavy-duty platform/roadway that could be placed over the grass to support the weight of the crane, without causing any lasting damage to the grass.

### **THE SOLUTION: DURADECK®**

The contractor found Signature Systems' DuraDeck® ground protection mats. DuraDeck® is capable of supporting vehicles weighing up to 72 tonnes and was used here to create a temporary surface across 50 metres of grass next to the bridge.

A separate 20-metre stretch was created to divert traffic over the grass, allowing work and vehicles to keep flowing during the job. The DuraDeck® mats proved their environmental benefit - preventing any damage occurring to the soft ground and leaving the turf completely undamaged.

While DuraDeck® mats can be joined together to form a more long-term surface, they are also effective simply laid side-by-side, allowing large areas to be quickly protected.

Another advantage is that, weighing just 39 kilos each, the resilient high-density polyethylene (HDPE) panels can be moved by hand with no need for any further lifting equipment.

Paul Fleming, foreman at Carillion said: *“Using the DuraDeck® ground protection mats saved us a tremendous amount of time and effort. Without them, we could never have finished the whole job in just one weekend, as preparing the site before starting work and reinstating the field at the end would have been a long-winded process.*

*“After the protection had been down for five days the only sign it had been there was slight discoloration of the grass – and just two weeks later, this had completely disappeared.*

*“Not only did the DuraDeck® mats allow us to reduce costs by working more efficiently, they also minimised inconvenience to residents of the area.”*

One of Signature’s British distributors, Speedy Time, who sold the job to the contractor elaborates, *“The key benefit of DuraDeck® to contractors is the reduction it offers in job times as well as setup and cleanup costs.*

*“An added environmental benefit is that the long-lasting HDPE panels are manufactured using more than 90 percent recycled materials.”*

For more information on DuraDeck®, please visit:

**[signature-systems.com/duradeck](https://signature-systems.com/duradeck)**