



Case

# STUDY

GOLPLA  
Dover Castle  
Reinforced Grass Walkway



MARKET SECTOR:  
TOURISM



LOCATION:  
Castle Hill, Dover,  
CT16 1HU



CONSULTANT:  
AVANTI ARCHITECTS



CONTRACTOR:  
PAYE STONEWORK AND  
RESTORATION

## The BACKGROUND

Perched upon the famous white cliffs with views out across the Channel, Dover Castle is an icon of England. It is steeped in history, from its early beginnings almost 1000 years ago to the present day.



## Our Client's REQUIREMENTS

Restoration work has been undertaken to create a new visitor experience in the castle's northern defences. Included in this is a new walkway, designed by Avanti Architects, to provide greater visitor access. The path travels along the edge of the Redan at the northern end of the castle.

The design utilised reinforced grass to retain the appearance, and make it suitable for pedestrians and wheelchair users. The site is very sensitive so trial excavations were made to assess the sub-grades and permeability. Having established what the conditions were like with CBR tests, Geosynthetics were able to provide Paye Stonework & Restoration Ltd with a Quicklay detail to install Golpla with minimal excavation.



## Our Value Engineered

# SOLUTION

The nettles and coarse vegetation were stripped away and Golpla installed on a new bedding layer over the chalk/flint sub-grade. The Golpla was infilled with clean friable topsoil and seed, grass has started to appear but it will be some months yet before the walkway is fully covered. English Heritage will be opening the new walkway in the summer of 2024.

Our Golpla Quicklay solution was suggested to reduce sub-base depths whilst evenly distributing the loadings. Quicklay must be for occasional use with firm, well-draining ground and a high CBR strength (6-8%). Quicklay® construction requires minimal excavation, often just the existing surface vegetation and some topsoil. This is what made the solution a perfect proposal for these works.

