

Blakeney Point Boardwalk

Blakeney, in Norfolk, is a National Nature Reserve owned and managed by the National Trust. It is situated in one of the largest expanses of unspoiled coastland in Europe, and has vast areas of wildlife habitat in its salt marsh, shingle and sand dunes, and is an important breeding ground for a variety of seabirds, as well as grey and common seals.

Early in 2008, Head Warden David Wood identified the need to replace the 500 metres of wooden boardwalk which inevitably was rotting and becoming dangerous. A boardwalk at Blakeney Point is essential to allow the public access across the dunes, but at the same time to protect dune habitat and ground nesting birds from trampling, and also to prevent erosion.

David's brief was to replace the rotten boardwalk with another which was essentially safer, would last longer, but also would not look intrusive on this scenic site. In addition the replacement would need to represent good value for money. He also wanted to minimise ongoing maintenance.



Recycled plastic was chosen as the ideal material, as it meets the criteria of longevity, no maintenance, and safety. After extensive research and talking to potential suppliers the KC-Deck 48 was chosen as the preferred material. One of the reasons, as David explains, is that with KC-Deck being 48mm thick only two supporting stringers were needed, whilst with more flimsy material extra cost would have been involved in buying and installing three stringers. He also felt that the colour and the non-slip surface more appropriate over the sand -dune terrain .

Kacey staff pride themselves on providing a high level of customer service, which includes providing sound advice before and during installation, and an excellent after-sales service. We believe that this was also a major factor in the National Trust's decision making process. It is interesting to note that local people had reservations about using plastic on this sensitive site, but having seen the results are looking at using recycled plastic for other functions.

Kacey have now supplied boardwalk material and other recycled plastic products at Cragside House, Malham Tarn, Wallington Hall, Sandscale Haws and Blakeney Point - all National Trust properties.

Recycled plastic products.

kaceyplastics.co.uk

T: 01764 671165 E: info@kaceyplastics.co.uk

Unit 1, Suite 1, Tomperran, Comrie, Perthshire. PH6 2LS.