



CASE STUDY

PROJECT
TRANSPORT
WINDBREAK FENCING

CUSTOMER
TRANSMANCHE LINK

PRODUCTS USED
PARAFENCE™ 1000KG TYPE 5

PROJECT DATE
1992

HIGH STRENGTH SYNTHETIC MESH PRODUCTS PARAFENCE™ TRANSPORT WINDBREAK FENCING

CHANNEL TUNNEL 20 YEARS ON | FOLKESTONE, UK

The channel tunnel is a 50.5 kilometre (31.4mile) rail tunnel linking Folkestone in Kent, UK with Coquelles, Pas-de-Calais, France. The Tunnel was opened to Passenger and freight trains in 1994. During the planning of the tunnel it was realised that in high winds the freight trains could be in danger of blowing over, especially when empty. ParaFence™ was therefore chosen to prevent this from happening. ParaFence™ has now been installed maintenance free of over 20 years.

A single ParaFence™ panel was recently replaced due to impact by a tourist coach. Samples of this original ParaFence™ were then reclaimed for long term durability testing. The tensile test results showed that there was no appreciable loss in strength over the 20 years installed. This shows that even after over 20 years of in service use the ParaFence™ has shown no sign of decay/loss in mechanical properties.

In total 23 kilometres of fence was installed at the Folkestone terminal at heights of up to 10 metres.

ParaFence™ is available in a range of types colours, roll heights and length to suit client specific requirements.

The robust, open-architecture construction of Parafence makes it invulnerable to clogging by airborne particles (and the associated porosity reduction) and prohibits the growth or retention of biological on its surface. The geometry of fence bars provide the optimal level of porosity - nominal 50% - which ensures the best balance between reduction in incident wind velocity and forces induced on the support structure.



Photograph showing condition of exposed and protected sections of fence (where strips are rolled back - right) after 20 years in service.

Linear
COMPOSITES

Linear Composites Limited
Vale Mills, Oakworth, Keighley,
West Yorkshire, BD22 0EB, UK
Tel: +44 (0)1535 643363
Fax: +44 (0)1535 643605
www.linearcomposites.com
e-mail: sales@linearcomposites.com

Member of the Maccaferri Group

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