



SUZANNE HOWE
COMMUNICATIONS

Plaswood

October 2016



Thursday, 13th October 2016

Plaswood outperforming timber on historical Cotswolds canal

A recent inspection has revealed that Plaswood 'plastic wood' lumber is outperforming timber planks at an historical canal lock gate in the Cotswolds.

The top gates of Blunder Lock near Stroud were restored in 2013. Plaswood recycled plastic lumber sections were fitted to the gates at the lock, which had disintegrated over the years and rendered the lock unusable.

After a recent inspection, the top gate fitted with Plaswood lumber sections at Blunder Lock has been found to be performing very well, with excellent implications for future work on the Stroudwater Navigation.

Water leakage is virtually non-existent, and significantly less than that through the timber planks on the other gate of the pair, which were installed at the same time.



Plaswood has a significantly longer life expectancy than timber and it provides long-lasting solutions for boardwalks, jetties, marinas, wetlands, flood barriers, fencing, furniture and structures located in wet, harsh or damp environments.

Blunder Lock is different to all the other locks on the flight in that it is built of stone. Its current name derives from an incident during the canal's construction when the company engineer caused the original lock to be built at the wrong level having previously been given notice to quit by the company.

Formerly known as Lower Nassfield Lock, this was an original lock of the Stroud water canal designed to cater for Severn trows and was around sixteen-foot-wide and sixty-eight feet long. The lock had a rise of seven feet five inches and was the second to top lock of the five in the Eastington flight, built in 1777.

Unlike the other Stroud water locks, this chamber is mainly lined in ash layered stone, with stone capping and stone quoins to the gate recesses. The mouth and the tail sections are also lined mainly in stone and there are paired vertical sluices on either side of the approach, or mouth, of the lock above the top gates.

The Chief Executive of the Cotswold Canals Trust, Ken Burgin, said:

"Plaswood has some very clear advantages when it comes to longevity and lack of maintenance. We will seriously consider using Plaswood again where appropriate, within the restoration as a whole. The Trust is very pleased with the way that Plaswood has performed. It is doing exactly the job that we hoped it would."

Mike Baxter, External Affairs Director, Plaswood Group said:

"We are delighted to hear that the Plaswood lumber used in the lock gate restoration at Blunder Lock is performing so well versus timber planks. Plaswood has a longer life expectancy than timber and unlike timber it doesn't degrade with age, which means it offers customers great value for money over a long period of time."

He continued:

"We have manufactured Plaswood for over 30 years and it is fantastic that organisations like the Cotswold Canals Trust are seeing the benefits of our durable, weatherproof products over time."

Plaswood high performance lumber is made from 100 per cent recycled plastic and offers a no maintenance solution: unlike conventional wooden decking or lumber (aka timber), Plaswood doesn't require annual maintenance, staining or painting.

It is a sustainable and cost-effective alternative to using traditional materials such as hardwood, concrete and steel.

The Plaswood range is available in brown, jet black and six other colour options. It includes signage, street name plates, signage posts, way marker signage and street and garden furniture such as planters, litter bins, picnic tables, benches, bollards and gates.

The key benefits of using Plaswood are:

- It doesn't rot or degrade with age.
- It doesn't require any painting or chemical treatment prior to use or annual maintenance after installation (unlike wood).
- It is tough, durable and strong – Plaswood will not splinter, crack or dry and is resistant to attacks by insects.
- It is more resistant to vandalism like graffiti than alternatives due to its surface.
- It is versatile – Plaswood can easily be designed for use in conjunction with other materials.

Plaswood is becoming increasingly popular with architects, builders' merchants, civil engineering and construction contractors, local authority specifiers and buyers plus waterways management professionals.

For more information about all Plaswood products including detailed datasheets about each product range visit www.plaswoodgroup.com or call 0333 202 6800.

PRODUCT

Recycled plastic lumber now available in an additional colour

Earth Brown is Plaswood Group's new brown blend of its eco-friendly Plaswood lumber. Made from 100% recycled plastic, Plaswood offers a sustainable, cost-effective alternative to traditional materials such as hardwood, concrete and steel, particularly for structures in wet environments. The group has also extended the range of sizes and shapes of all Plaswood lumber available to specifiers.

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Recycled Plastic Specialist of the Month

Fit and forget

The Plaswood Group has been listed as our highly deserved Recycled Plastic Specialist of the Month, we are pleased to announce here at Building and Facilities News.



Plaswood's roots date back to 1983, when the material was first manufactured by Gloucestershire-based PCL, a business in the recycling waste plastic industry that needed to attain additional outlets and products for the mass of plastic pellets it produced. It was only a year later when the company was acquired by British Polythene Industries (BPI) and the ongoing success that ensued made re-locating to its dedicated Recycled Products factory in Dumfries a necessity.

Plaswood's parent company, BPI Recycled Products, is now the UK's largest recycler of waste plastic films, boasting an annual recycling capacity in excess of 100,000 tonnes and an ability to recover components from a variety of manufacturing and business verticals (namely the agricultural, courtesy of the waste farm plastics collected). As reputable recyclers of waste plastic and manufacturers and suppliers of Plaswood lumber, street furniture and construction materials, the company is well placed to provide solutions for schools & playgrounds, parks & gardens, wetlands

& waterways, streets & car parks, town & city centre and structural & architectural applications.

"We serve a broad range of businesses across the construction spectrum with our perfect wood substitute," Mike Baxter, BPI Recycled Products Director responsible for the Plaswood Group, informed us. "Because it doesn't wear, rust or degrade with age, it adds real value over the life of the product, especially in wet or outdoor environments where wood need to be painted annually. It has a clear edge over wooden structures particularly in relation to marine applications simply because it will not rot."

Although robust, Plaswood is flexible in the sense



it can be formed into many shapes, being easily adapted using standard tools in conjunction with other materials. Due to its construction from technically superior waste agricultural plastics the high performance product is non-absorbing and weatherproof, which makes it a whole lot more sustainable and cost-effective than its more traditional counterparts (concrete, steel and wood). In addition, the eco-friendly material doesn't require painting or preservation once fitted, and after usage it can be fully recycled for further environmental consideration.

"As a leading manufacturer and supplier of recycled plastic products we recognise our responsibility to operate with due concern for the environment in which we live and work and to minimise the impact of our activities on that environment," Mike concluded. "Through close contact with national governments and industry regulators we are at the forefront of legislative developments. We continue to develop our processes and working practices to meet, as a minimum standard, both our legal and social obligations."

"We continually seek to improve our performance by setting objectives and targets combined with clear management programmes and initiatives to minimise our impact on the environment. The



market for more sustainable construction and building materials continues to grow; we will invest and enlarge our production facilities to meet this increased demand for our products."

Excitingly, Plaswood's parent company British Polythene Industries experienced further expansion as it was recently acquired by the RPC Group. This has in turn made the businesses (once combined) one of the world's largest plastics suppliers and recyclers. If you would like to find out more about the company and its range of recycled plastic lumber then please contact Plaswood today.

T 0333 202 6800
www.plaswoodgroup.com



MMC Product News

Kingspan TEK offers outstanding returns

A new study from Sweett Group has demonstrated that by specifying the Kingspan TEK Cladding Panel over traditional steel frame wall systems, it is possible to reduce wall thicknesses and increase usable space within commercial properties. The report shows that this can lead to a Return on Investment (ROI) of over 1000% on the cost of the panels.



The 'Real Value of Space' research was commissioned by Kingspan Insulation. The summary and full report are available to download for free at www.kingspantek.co.uk/realvalueofspace

Sweett Group's research considers two external wall scenarios and compares a Kingspan TEK Cladding Panel (a high performance SIP) construction with two metal stud wall constructions insulated with mineral fibre and rock mineral fibre. The resulting figures revealed that, when specifying the Kingspan TEK Cladding Panel, 88% of the buildings had a positive ROI; 31% of the database buildings had between 300% and 1000% positive ROI, with 9% in excess of 1000% ROI.

www.kingspantek.co.uk

Challenging building project hits the screens



Portakabin, the UK's leading supplier of modular buildings, has produced a short film about how a highly complex 4,200m² ward and theatre building was constructed at Royal Stoke University Hospital in less than four months to help

meet the increasing demand for orthopaedic services.

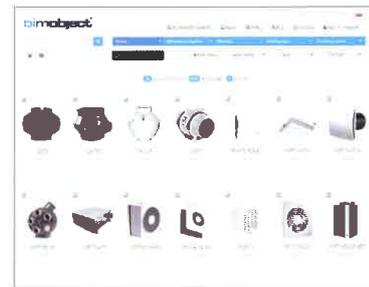
The video is a fly-through the £13.5m building showing the clean air theatres for all orthopaedic procedures, recovery room, ward bays and single en-suite rooms. It features interviews with a director of University of North Midlands NHS Trust and one of the ward managers, providing a clinical perspective of the new building.

Modular construction is a fast and flexible way for healthcare providers to expand or relocate services, particularly on constrained sites. The hiring of buildings also allows projects to be funded cost effectively from revenue rather than capital budget streams, giving NHS trusts much greater flexibility to meet changing local needs.

www.portanews.co.uk

Vortice embraces BIM

Building Information Modelling (BIM) is becoming more widely used as architects and specifiers see the benefit in time saving and accuracy that it can offer for their plans and modelling.



Vortice products are now listed on the BIM Object database, and drawings and specifications are free to download.

"Embracing technology is vital as part of the service we offer our customers," explained General Manager Kevin Hippey. "Our technical team has used CAD for planning purposes for a long time and we want to make it as easy as possible for potential customers to specify our products for their projects; BIM therefore is the obvious evolution for this."

The big benefit of BIM is that all those interacting with a building can optimise their actions, with entire teams working to the same standards to produce the best possible project outcomes. BIM brings together all the components for a building, so different aspects of the design can be integrated more effectively.

www.vortice.ltd.uk

Plaswood Group launches earth brown to lumber range

BPI Recycled Products - Plaswood Group has launched a new brown blend of its eco-friendly Plaswood lumber and extended the range of sizes and shapes of all Plaswood.



Plaswood high performance lumber is made from 100% recycled plastic and offers a no maintenance solution: unlike conventional wooden decking or lumber (aka timber), Plaswood doesn't require annual maintenance, staining or painting.

Mike Baxter, BPI Recycled Products Director responsible for the Plaswood Group said: "We have manufactured Plaswood for over 30 years and our customers have seen the benefits of our durable, weatherproof products."

"Plaswood offers customers great value for money over a long period of time. It is just a case of fit and forget. Once it is installed, you don't have to worry about degradation, painting or preserving the material. It is made from tough, strong, and technically superior waste agricultural plastics and offers exceptional performance properties."

www.plaswoodgroup.com



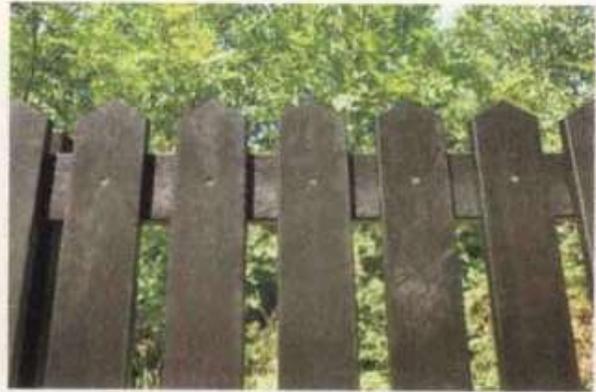
BPI RECYCLED PRODUCTS

PLASWOOD LUMBER

Plaswood high performance lumber is made from 100% recycled plastic and offers a “no maintenance” alternative to traditional materials like timber, concrete and steel in applications such as fencing and decking in both domestic and commercial settings.

The company has launched a brown blend of its durable, eco-friendly recycled product and further extended the range of sizes and shapes. Named Earth Brown, the new blend complements the already-popular Jet Black and six other colour options.

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Recycled plastic 'lumber' outperforms timber on Cotswolds Canal

Written by: [Editorial staff](#) | Published: 30 September 2016



A recent inspection has revealed that Plaswood 'plastic wood' lumber is outperforming timber planks at an historical canal lock gate in the Cotswolds, according to the specialist in recycled plastic.

The top gates of Blunder Lock near Stroud were restored in 2013. Plaswood recycled plastic lumber sections were fitted to the gates at the lock, which had disintegrated over the years and rendered the lock unusable.

After a recent inspection, the top gate fitted with Plaswood lumber sections at Blunder Lock is reported to be performing very well, with excellent implications for future work on the Stroudwater Navigation.

"Water leakage is virtually non-existent, and significantly less than that through the timber planks on the other gate of the pair, which were installed at the same time," said Mike Baxter, external affairs director, Plaswood Group, before adding: "Plaswood has a significantly longer life expectancy than timber and it provides long-lasting solutions for boardwalks, jetties, marinas, wetlands, flood barriers, fencing, furniture and structures located in wet, harsh or damp environments."

Blunder Lock near Stroud is said to be different to all the other locks on the flight in that it is built of stone. Its current name derives from an incident during the canal's construction when the company engineer caused the original lock to be built at the wrong level having previously been given notice to quit by the company.

Formerly known as Lower Nassfield Lock, this was an original lock of the Stroud water canal designed to cater for Severn trows and was around 16-foot-wide and 68 feet long. The lock had a rise of 7 feet 5 inches and was the second to top lock of the five in the Eastington flight, built in 1777.

Unlike the other Stroud water locks, this chamber is mainly lined in ash layered stone, with stone capping and stone quoins to the gate recesses. The mouth and the tail sections are also lined mainly in stone and there are paired vertical sluices on either side of the approach, or mouth, of the lock above the top gates.

The chief executive of the Cotswold Canals Trust, Ken Burgin, said: "Plaswood has some very clear advantages when it comes to longevity and lack of maintenance. We will seriously consider using Plaswood again where appropriate, within the restoration as a whole. The Trust is very pleased with the way that Plaswood has performed. It is doing exactly the job that we hoped it would."

Baxter again: "Plaswood high performance lumber is made from 100% recycled plastic and offers a no maintenance solution: unlike conventional wooden decking or lumber (aka timber), Plaswood doesn't require annual maintenance, staining or painting."

www.plaswoodgroup.com

Plaswood Group extends lumber range

BPI Recycled Products has announced the launch a new brown blend of its 'Plaswood' recycled plastic lumber product, which is manufactured by the company's Plaswood Group.



Plaswood's lumber is made from recovered plastic

The company is also extending the range of sizes and shapes of all Plaswood lumber.

The product is a timber-replacement material made from recovered plastic. The new brown blend of lumber, named 'Earth Brown', is available alongside existing 'Jet Black' and six other colour options for furniture and other external construction applications.

Plaswood is manufactured at a site in Dumfries.

Mike Baxter, products director for the Plaswood Group, said: "Our new brown blend of lumber and the expanded choice of sizes and shapes in both brown and jet black are already proving popular with architects and other contractors.

"They are increasingly specifying Plaswood as an environmentally supportive direct substitute for wood, concrete or steel sections, that performs brilliantly in wet, harsh or damp environments in particular."

Anti-corrosive concrete repair for the 1930s Poplar Baths

Poplar Baths, built in 1933, have been transformed into a state-of-the-art leisure centre, with Sika providing the anti-corrosive concrete repair system. During initial repairs all surfaces, including the roof's striking whalebone structure, were rendered using Sika MonoTop-610, a high-performance, one-component, cementitious polymer-modified primer. This prepared the substrate for repair using Sika MonoTop-615. [133]

SIKA
t 01707 394444
www.sika.co.uk



Curtain walling at the Aberdeen Criminal Justice Centre

Curtain walling by Kawneer completely wraps the new Aberdeen Criminal Justice Centre by Ryder Architecture. AA100 zone-drained curtain walling, with 50mm sightlines, horizontal face caps and gaskets to vertical glass and glass joints at mullion locations, has been used on all four elevations. It is complemented by thermally-enhanced top-hung casement windows, AA110 dry slope rooflights and series 190 heavy-duty commercial entrance doors. [134]

KAWNEER



Bespoke aluminium soffit system is used to isolate asbestos

Marley Alutec has supplied both its expert knowledge and its aluminium Evoke fascia and soffit system to manage an asbestos risk at South Holderness Technology College. It partnered with the installer on site to devise a bespoke soffit support design that fixed into the external cladding as opposed to the asbestos itself. This meant that the continuous asbestos cement sheets could be isolated with the installation of a new Evoke soffit. [135]

MARLEY ALUTEC
www.marleyalutec.co.uk



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Top fire rating awarded to cast iron drainage systems

Saint-Gobain PAM's cast iron Ensign and Eezi-Fit drainage systems have been awarded the top rating of A1 for their Classification of Reaction to Fire. Both ranges of products were tested at the Warrington Fire Research Centre to EN 13501-1:2007+A1:2006. Saint-Gobain PAM marketing manager Mike Rawlings says 'Drainage systems should be selected so that they resist the passage of fire and do not feed it'. [137]

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BIM objects for Emergency Voice Communication systems

Baldwin Boxall has announced the availability of BIM objects for its two Emergency Voice Communication (EVC) systems, Omnicare and Care2. The drawings are freely available upon request. The company's EVC systems encompass disabled refuge, fire telephones and disabled toilet alarms and the company has built its reputation upon offering a complete service. More information on the EVC systems can be found on its website. [138]

BALDWIN BOXALL
www.baldwinboxall.co.uk/emergency-voice-communication

