

Parks and Bereavement Services at Southend Borough Council identified that they had a need to improve the underfoot conditions for mourners attending funerals.

The council's Sutton Road Cemetery has a reputation for being beautifully kept. However, in wet weather, the ground conditions at the graveside can become a muddy mess, with mourners having to walk and slip their way through the puddles. A most unpleasant experience at a sensitive occasion!

Assistant Operations Manager Kevin Watkins contacted Ground-Guards, the country's leading supplier of graveside safety walkways, looking for a solution to their problem. He was advised that the FastCover matting system would be an appropriate solution for their needs.

Fastcover mats measure 1200 x 800mm and are made from 100% recycled PVC. They have a slip resistant tread, and interconnect together by means of overlapping flanges. This results in a smart trip-free surface, which keeps the mud at bay.

Since investing in the mats, Kevin comments that: *"The FastCover mats are excellent! We haven't caused the wet muddy areas that we used to get. What I particularly like about them is that they are light weight, and at a fair price"*.

As well as providing safe graveside standing areas, Sutton Road Cemetery use their FastCover mats for other walkways in the cemetery.

Like many other cemeteries throughout the country, they are proving the benefits of this recycled plastic matting system; a sustainable solution for safe and pleasant pedestrian access anywhere it is needed in the cemetery grounds.

