

Dubai Fujairah Freeway, United Arab Emirates 2006 - 2010

3 tiered Tensar reinforced soil wall – total height 60 metres.



BENEFITS TO CLIENT

Use of site won fill materials and rapid construction of the wall structures allowed the project to be completed ahead of schedule in a remote aggressive landscape and with low environmental impact.

THE PROBLEM

The Fujairah Freeway connects Dubai in the west, to Al Fujairah on the east coast. The project involved a cut and fill exercise through the mountainous areas of Fujairah in order to form the new 4-lane freeway (10 lanes in total, including 2 hard shoulders).

THE SOLUTION

Earth retaining structures were proposed to bridge deep mountainous ravines whilst allowing the water to be transported along the naturally formed wadis via concrete culverts incorporated at the base of the walls. The Tensartech TW1 modular block earth retaining system was selected for this project. Tensar uniaxial geogrids are connected to the TW1 modular concrete block wall facing units with a unique, high-efficiency polymer connector. The blocks are dry laid without mortar. Since the system does not rely on curing concrete, the structure is immediately load-bearing.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

To make the route viable, the severe gradients of the mountains had to be controlled. Intense rainfall which occurs around once a year formed deep gullies within the terrain. To construct bridges to pass these valleys would be an incredibly costly process, therefore the contractor explored using massive earth retaining structures instead. Construction in the arid conditions of the UAE means that concrete-based retaining walls can be problematic, with extensive curing time an issue. All fill for the walls was taken from the sections in cut local to the site. The indigenous rock is Gabbro, which is harder than granite and necessitates an extensive blasting operation, to remove over 9 million m² of material. As well as minimizing costs of materials, the reuse of site-won Gabbro also substantially cut carbon emissions by reducing transport to and from site. Also of vital importance to the contractor and keeping to the tight contract program is the speed of construction; the reported daily rate of construction was 100m² to 150m² of completed wall face per day.

In total 26 walls were constructed with a combined face area in excess of 80,000m², as well as:

- Single tiered walls with 86° face angle up to 22 metre high;
- 2-tiered walls comprising 2 with cumulative height up to 40 metres;
- 3-tiered walls, forming an integral structure with cumulative height up to 60 metres.



Tensartech TW1 Reinforced Soil Wall has been awarded British Board of Agrément (BBA) Roads and Bridges certificates allowing their design and specification into highway structures with a 120 year design life.

CONTRACT DETAILS

Consultant: National Wheel J&P Co (WJ&P)

Contractor: Wilbur Smith Associates

Sub-contractor: Dorsch Consult

Client: Ministry of Public Works, UAE

Tensar

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