A boardwalk constructed from Duraplas® recycled plastic profiles is helping to protect a rare bogland habitat in Scotland.

Langlands Moss, located near East Kilbride on the outskirts of Glasgow, is a designated local nature reserve and each year attracts up to 12,000 visitors, ranging from local school and community groups to university researchers interested in its rare flora and fauna. The moss is too sensitive and dangerous for people to walk on and access was provided via a wooden structure. However, this was beginning to rot.

The Friends of Langlands Moss, the organisation that looks after the moss, battled to raise £100,000 in grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund and local community funds to enable a new 374m-long boardwalk to be built to replace the existing structure. Duraplas plastic profiles were the material of choice for the new 1.3m wide structure.

“The old boardwalk was deteriorating and was on the verge of being unsafe,” said Mareen Potter, a founding member of the Friends group. “We realised that a boardwalk produced from recycled plastic was the ideal choice for the wet environment of the moss as it will not rot.

“Now that it’s built, it fits well into the landscape and visitors are amazed when they discover it’s made from recycled plastic. It’s a real bonus when we tell them it’s made from plastic waste that could otherwise have gone to landfill.”

The Duraplas recycled plastic posts, bearers and decking were installed by ‘Environments for People’, a specialist environmental consultancy and construction company, over a 10-week period during some of the wettest weather ever experienced in the area.

“Because of the sensitive nature of the moss, we could not take machinery on to the site,” said EFP’s Hugh Roberts. “However, the Duraplas profiles were easy to work with and we were able to construct much of the main frame in the workshop before installing the posts on site and laying the plastic decking on the top.

“Duraplas offers a sustainable, durable and rot-free solution that will be easy to maintain and should last forever. Unlike some alternatives, the wood-like surface creates a non-slip deck that looks authentic. The Duraplas solution also provided good value for money,” he said.