

Pinkwood Embankment Replanting

Bruton, Somerset

J Murphy and Son Ltd.

BIG Challenge 2015 submission category: Large scale permanent

Project overview

Murphy was principal contractor for client network rail to undertake embankment stabilisation works to part of the route on the Great Western railway.

Temporary speed restrictions were in place due to the risks of further slippage. The works involved diverting a culvert to prevent further erosion of the slope and stabilisation of the new embankment and footing.

The project was in a very rural setting near the village of Bruton in Somerset. The culvert diversion and site access required the removal of some trees and scrub.

What were the biodiversity conditions on site, prior to the enhancement?

Ancient semi-natural woodland. The embankment was lined with hazel, ash and willow scrub towards the top with stands of hazel scattered throughout the embankment.

An ecology survey on mature trees was undertaken to assess potential bat presence but none were present.



Photo: Pinkwood embankment

Were there any specific conditions that led to you carrying out this work?

A Biodiversity offsetting pilot was being undertaken by network rail on the Great Western route and the farmer wanted a certain level of re-instatement post project completion.

Structural integrity of the embankment had to be considered as part of the project delivery.

What were the biodiversity measures taken?

As part of project closeout, trees and vegetation were replanted to re-instate any biodiversity loss which might have occurred.

The following trees and plants were planted: 3 mature trees (2 English Oak, 1 grey Willow); 44 secondary trees/plants (20 Hazel, 6 Oak, 4 Sycamore, 10 Blackthorne, 4 periwinkle and 160 m2 of river embankment cuttings).

How would you best describe the project? Mitigation.

Further information

If done again we would probably have measured the biodiversity units before and after the initiative and ensured that there was a net gain in biodiversity units.

What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

Client and group level requirements to avoid biodiversity loss as well as landowner request to re-instate trees and vegetation.

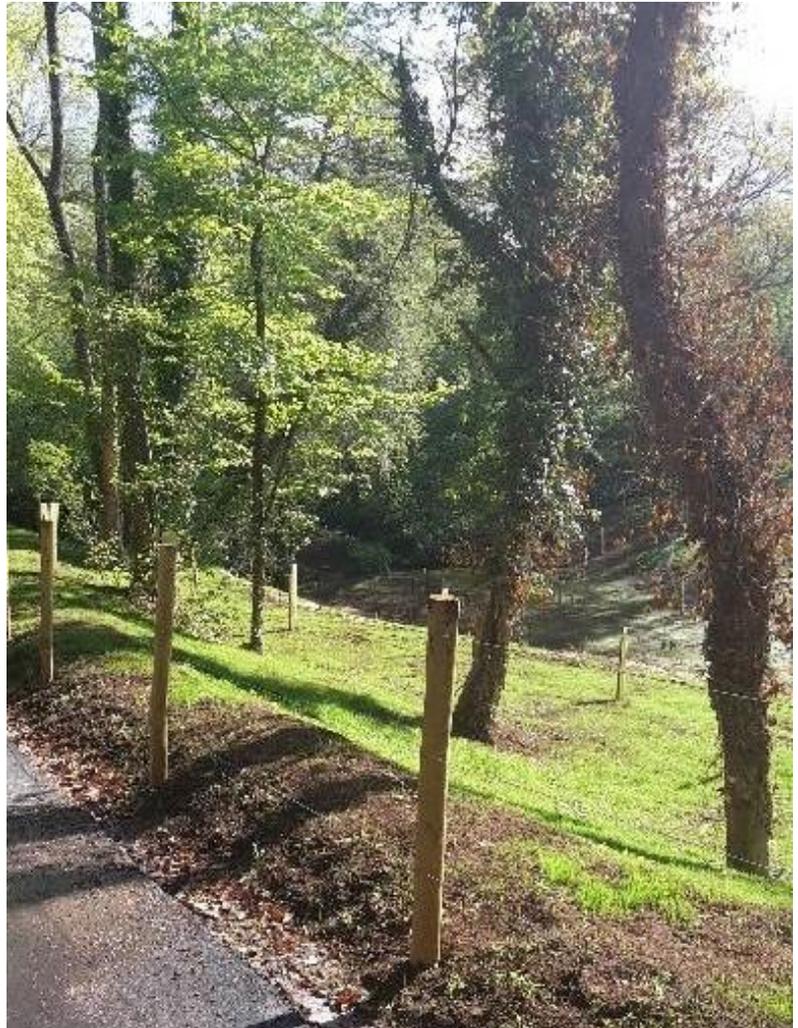


Photo: Pinkwood embankment