

Cannington Flood Alleviation Scheme
Cannington, Somerset
Kier Utilities/ Team Van Oord

BIG Biodiversity Challenge Award category: Medium Scale Permanent Award

Project overview

The works comprise the construction of a new flood relief channel and associated structures around the south of the village of Cannington.

To the east of the A39, an existing ditch will be widened to accommodate additional flows, which will connect with the brook. The new flood channel will measure a maximum width of 25m.

Associated with the work ; flow control and an off-take structure; and a new access bridge which will manage flows through the brook and new flood channel during flood events.

There will also be new culverts installed under the A39 to accommodate the flow volumes during flood events, a new footbridge to accommodate the existing footpath and two low level access crossings .

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

The site prior to the works was farmland which was prone to flooding.

Were there any specific reasons that led to this project?

The village has been prone to flooding in recent years due to the limited capacity of the existing drainage/ditch system. The Environment Agency made the decision that flood alleviation was required to help prevent further flooding.



Groundworks start for new flood channel

What were the biodiversity measures taken?

The scheme has been designed with landscaping and as such over 1000m of native species hedgerow has been planted. Species included, hawthorn, blackthorn, holly and hazel. The hedge will help visually screen the new flood channel and will also help stabilise the soil and absorb water in the area.

In addition to this 25 native trees were planted; the trees were sourced at a more developed stage to give the area a more established look. There were also 2800 woodland plants planted on the site and a substantial bee friendly wildflower meadow was sown.

Six bat and six bird boxes have also been built to help encourage wildlife to the new habitat and are being installed as the machines are moving off site.



New hedgerow at Cannington

How would you best describe the project?

Enhancement

Further information

Pre-construction surveys of the local trees and hedgerows provided the information needed to advise the correct species to be planted on the site. Planting at the correct time of year and ensuring saplings were watered during dry conditions was also key for the new habitat to survive. As works areas were finished and machinery was moved from the site the planted followed. Great care was taken by the site team to ensure the correct species were planted and protected, with the new hedge being stock-proof fenced on both sides and the trees having substantial guards and support stakes.

The site team are proud of what they have achieved and will continue to look after and maintain the new habitat until the site is handover to the client.

What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

Our personal motivation was to enhance the local environment for wildlife, and to demonstrate that enhancements, even on small scale can make a difference to wildlife and don't have to be expensive.



Hydrobreaks being added to new flood channel