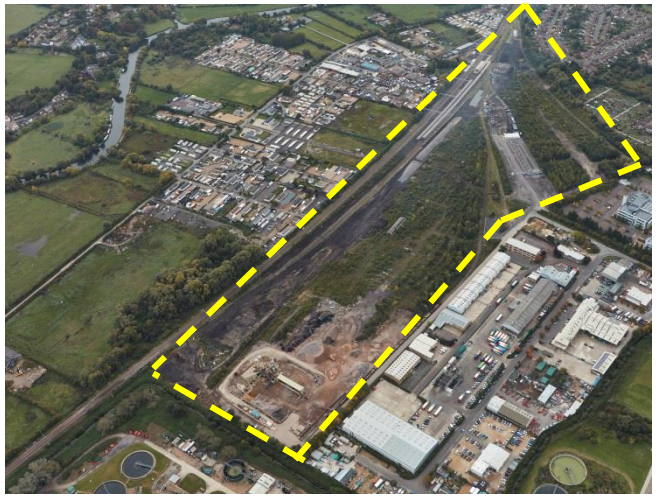
# Cambridge North Station
# Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, England
## VolkerFitzpatrick Ltd.

**BIG Biodiversity Challenge Award category:** **Medium Scale Permanent**

### Project overview
The overall project aim is to provide a brand new station 'Cambridge North', including a 2 storey 450 sq.m Station building, platforms and footbridge leading from the building to the platforms. Local freight train sidings will also be re-configured. Two main line platforms and a bay platform shall be built from pre-cast concrete beams and blocks at a length suitable to accommodate a 12 car train. The £50 million building and infrastructure project began early 2015 with look to open the station in early 2017. The site covers approximately 15 ha and the site team comprises of around 50 people. The development also comprises of a new car and cycle park and links to a wider public transport network including cycle, pedestrian and guided busway links.
The development is within a suburban setting and is to maintain the rural-urban fringe character of the area within its operational landscape design.

### What were the biodiversity conditions on site, prior to the enhancement?
The site was overgrown with vegetation comprising of dense scrub and large areas of open ground dominated by areas of broadleaf woodland and ephemeral/short perennial vegetation. The combination of biodiversity provides habitats of ecological value of district importance. It provides a habitat and supporting assemblages suited to invertebrates and plants.

### Were there any specific conditions that led to you carrying out this work?
The site has 3 planning conditions concerning ecology. The work in question has the potential to be included in the Ecological design strategy (EDS) and be classed as a ecological mitigation measure but is not currently included in the EDS or any of the other ecology planning condition documents.



*Ariel photo of the site. Yellow lines to mark the site boundary.*

## What were the biodiversity measures taken?

During site clearance, a large number of timber logs were recovered and moved to make way for the installation of a new rail line within the freight yard.

These logs have been retained on site to be used in the long term landscaping of the project. The large timber logs have been used to build a number of invertebrate hibernacula, integrated into the landscape within areas of retained habitat. These logs have helped to maintain an environment for the invertebrate species identified on the site and ensure that we do not unnecessarily create waste.

The logs are now within the retained vegetation to the western boundary of the site and have started to become suitable habitats for invertebrates. There were numerous protected invertebrate species found on site which are likely to be impacted by the project works and therefore these log piles provided additional mitigation for these potential impacts.

The log piles will be a permeant features of the site which will improve the habitat conditions for the invertebrates found on site. These works are both replicable and cost effective.


*Logs before placed in the area for retained vegetation*

## How would you best describe the project?

Mitigation

## Further information

The logs were moved from the eastern side of the site in the rail sidings in order to make way for a new rail line. The logs were then moved to the western side of the site. The logs were then divided into smaller groups and relocated in piles along the area of retained vegetation to create the appropriate sized habitat.

Long term benefits include the impact that this will have on the invertebrate population, it may also have the potential to increase the invertebrate population in the area. The positive impact on the invertebrate population maybe more prevalent as the logs are native and are naturally from the local environment.

These works will help the project team achieve their objectives in a cost-effective way by diverting waste from landfill, reuse of site materials and optimising the habitats for species found on site.

## What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

The creation of the log piles was a good way to cost-effectively maximise the potential use of the logs as they were ideal for providing invertebrate habitat areas and addressing the needs for such mitigation measures.

*Log piles once placed in the retained vegetation.*