

Marple Rock Cutting Marple, Greater Manchester

J Murphy & Sons

BIG Biodiversity Challenge Award category: Small Scale Permanent

Project overview

The contract is located approximately 1 km south of Marple Station, Greater Manchester. The site comprises a steep rock cutting and above the River Goyt, approximately half of which is a vertical rock face. The ground slopes downwards west to east, towards the River Goyt. The slope are heavily vegetated with shrubs in places. The work entailed de-vegetation and netting of the cutting to stabilise the slope. This work was essential to secure the future stability of the embankment and safe operation of the railway.

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

The presence of the River Goyt and vegetation provide suitable conditions for foraging and commuting bats.

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

All the work was undertaken under permitted and therefore it was undertaken on a voluntary basis



Photo of one of the bat boxes

What were the biodiversity measures taken?

All mature trees at the crest of the cutting will remain intact. It was proposed to install 4 no. of bat boxes along the crest of the cutting adjacent to the worksite. With a surplus of plywood from the yard it was proposed that some of it would be used on site to increase biodiversity and help reduce waste on site. Suitable locations had been identified through review of the type of construction work along with ecological assessments. Our site operatives were involved in the installation of the bat boxes, which help promote the awareness of biodiversity.

How would you best describe the project?

Mitigation

Further information

Our Yard joiners are using off cuts of wood, which would have been disposed of as waste, to create bat boxes to be used on the Marple Cutting Contract. The location of the Bat Boxes was through consultation with ecologists and agreement with the landowners.

What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

Mindful of the amount of trees which had been removed and the decline bats species. Murphy had the resources to create an ideal habitat for bats and to create legacy that is positive to the local environs.



Photo of the trees that were kept at the crest of the cutting and location of the bat boxes