

Biodiversity net gain. Good practice principles for development

Case studies

Tom Butterworth *WSP*

Julia Baker *Balfour Beatty*

Rachel Hoskin *Footprint Ecology*



Griffin Court, 15 Long Lane, London, EC1A 9PN

Tel: 020 7549 3300

Fax: 020 7549 3349

Email: enquiries@ciria.org

Website: www.ciria.org

6 Greater West Programme: Fulscot access road, Didcot

Details

Organisations Murphy and Network Rail
Contact Emmanuel.Deschamps@networkrail.co.uk

6.1 PROJECT SUMMARY

The Fulscot access road project is part of the Greater West Programme and involved the construction of a temporary access road to an existing site compound.

Following completion of the works extensive planting will occur along the new access road, including 261 m of hedgerow comprised completely of woody species, 975 m² of native woodland plants, 335 m² of native shrub and 2632 m² of wildflower seeding. The original landscape design involved grass seeding however, with approval from Network Rail, wildflower seeding will be used instead due to the increased plant species diversity and low maintenance costs.

The biodiversity loss associated with the works was measured using the Network Rail (2017) biodiversity calculator. The works required the removal of 20 metres of hedgerow, and existing grassed groundcover, which resulted in a loss of 1.6 biodiversity units. It is expected the replanting works will provide 3.2 units, giving a BNG of 1.6 units.

It is expected the replanting works will significantly improve the biodiversity on site, as well as provide essential habitat and refuge for several species known to occur in the area including the arable and grassland assemblage farmland birds, corn bunting, grey partridge, lapwing stone curlew and yellow wagtail.

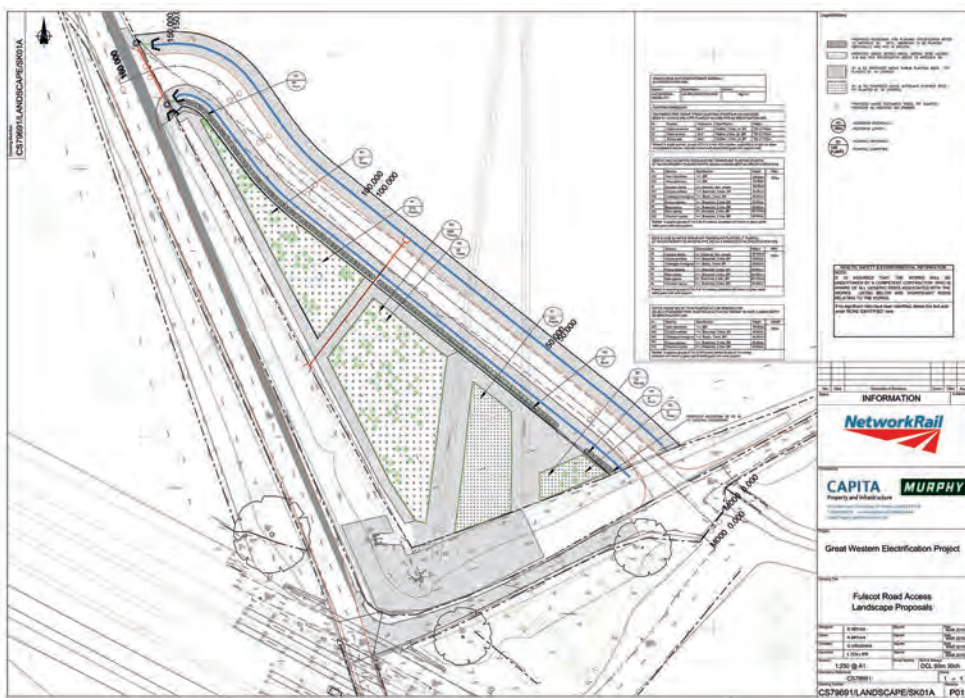


Figure 6.1 Landscape plan for Fulscot access road, Didcot



Figure 6.2 Fulscot Road site, two years after planting of 261 m of hedgerow comprised completely of woody species, 975 m² of native woodland plants, 335 m² of native shrub and 2632 m² of wildflower seeding