

Case Record



Area 19 assist with Biodiversity



Location Highways
Maintenance Area
19, Cumbria

Client Highways Agency

Main Contractor Carillion Highways
Maintenance

Environmental Initiatives

Biodiversity Part of the
Cumbria
Biodiversity Action
Plan

Archaeology Links with Cumbria
County Council
Archaeology
Department for
training

The Highways Agency is developing a biodiversity action plan to manage land next to motorways to provide better protection for wildlife, trees and watercourses.

This biodiversity plan is part of a new environmental strategy backed by the Government. As well as managing the land it will also be necessary to introduce engineering measures to protect wildlife from traffic where motorways cross a habitat.

The Area 19 team is being proactive at getting involved with sustainability issues similar to this in their area. Following a request for help from Cumbria Biodiversity Group (CBG) in the local press, the Area 19 team arranged a meeting with the project officer of the CBG, to discuss the role Carillion could play in the Biodiversity Action Plan.

From this Carillion put a set of initiatives into place in the area. Immediate action took place with the clearance of scrub. This improved the habitat for a colony of Natterjack toads.

It was essential to realise the impact that Carillions work might have on the area. Locations of SSSI's, protected species and special habitats were ascertained. It was then possible to follow best practice guidelines for any work in or near these areas.

Carillion personnel were made aware of the importance of biodiversity in the area through a presentation given by the CBG officer. They will then spread the information to all working on the project.

In the long term Carillion will encourage reporting of species and habitats to aid mapping of the area. This will highlight where additional protection measures may be required.

Carillion and the Cumbria County Council Archaeology Department have also established links. This is for awareness training on how to identify and what to do with finds on the network.