

Case Record

M6 Toll Habitat improvement



Date January 2002
Location Midlands
Client MEL
Main Contractor CAMMBA

The construction of the Britain's first Toll Motorway is currently being undertaken by CAMBBA (Carillion, Alfred McAlpine, Balfour Beatty and Amec) to relieve the West Midlands busiest stretch of the M6. Wherever possible this has been undertaken with Sustainability in mind.

The Construction of the UK's first toll road

Business Benefits

- **Decrease in impact on the local environment during construction.**
- **Net increase in ecological habitat.**
- **"Safe" habitats provided for large variety of animal and plant species, some protected.**
- **Staff, operatives and local community more aware of the environment and the consequences of their works**
- **Aftercare and monitoring of the scheme will encourage long term biodiversity.**

As part of the scheme a massive amount of habitat translocation and creation has been undertaken both within and outside of the site boundary.

For example outside the construction boundary a new white-clawed crayfish colony in the Sandwell Borough. As well as assisting with the construction of the Wren's Nest NNR in Dudley.

A large element of the works comprised of habitat translocation before the immense earthmoving schedule got underway.

The habitats translocated include the following:

- Wet acid heathland translocation
- Ancient hedgerow translocation

- Vegetation translocation including ponds (plants and substrates). Watercourses (plants and substrates). Wetlands (plants) and Protected plants (Petty Whin).

In terms of fauna the following improvements were made as part of the scheme's development:

- 6 new badger setts (and 80km of fencing)
- Some 30 new otter holt sites (and 10km of fencing)
- 300 bat roosts (for a variety of species)
- Many new water vole habitats
- White Clawed Crayfish habitat (riverbed substrate)
- Amphibian habitat provision (Great Crested Newts, Frogs and Toads).
- Reptile habitat provision (Lizards and Snakes)
- The provision of numerous new nesting sites for birds.