

Case Record

Nuneaton re-modelling and resignalling project



Sand Lizards are caught: a square metre of felt is placed on the ground, as they prefer warmth



A Sand Lizard on the way to relocation to the 'safe zone'.

Date	November 2002
Location	Nuneaton, Midlands
Main Contractor	Carillion Rail
Client	Railtrack / Network Rail

With the addition of three new pieces of rail infrastructure, at Nuneaton, Carillion Rail undertook a large-scale environmental project involving identification, protection and relocation of varying flora and fauna species.

Large scale environmental project involving identification, protection and relocation of varying flora and fauna species

Benefits

- **Increased awareness of environmental sensitivity of projects for staff involved**
- **Protection of flora and fauna species**
- **Compliance with legislation**

To overcome the constraints that the present layout at Nuneaton places on the WCML it was identified that the traffic on the main lines should be segregated from traffic passing between the branch lines. This could be achieved by replacing the existing flat junction with grade-separated junctions. Under the arrangement, three new pieces of railway infrastructure will be added.

With such a vast amount of work being undertaken within a relatively small area, who would have thought it would turn out to be such a large environmental project?

A number of differing species of flora and fauna were identified within project confines, leading to careful planning and consideration from the outset. Midland Yard is the location for new permanent offices and a compound for Carillion Rail maintenance and for the project offices.

Also as the new alignment for the Birmingham line utilises the existing disused rocker bridge the new alignment will cut through Midland Yard. Reports revealed there were sand lizards in the area needing to be removed and relocated. Part of the yard has been left in its natural state to provide a wildlife habitat for such species and ecologists duly moved the majority of the lizards to this safe area.

The site was then cleared. Existing vegetation is being used as wildlife refuges encouraging other species to stay in the area. A lot of pre-work effort has been undertaken in order to protect and preserve the identified flora and fauna on the site, such as the marbled butterfly and marsh orchids.

Throughout this project the Carillion Rail earthworks philosophy is being applied and all staff are made aware of the environmental sensitivity of the project through an environmental induction.