

Case Record

Vegetation Management on Bristol & Gloucester Contract



Date	November 2002
Location	Bristol and Gloucester Contract
Main Contractor	Carillion Rail
Client	Railtrack / Network Rail

Badgers, horseshoe bats, nightingales, glow-worms and the rare large blue butterfly are among the neighbours that Carillion Rail's Bristol & Gloucester Projects and Renewals team have been getting to know during railside clearance.

Carillion Rail undertake an efficient, environmentally friendly and cost effective clearance of the rail system line side, with help from Cleartrack

Benefits

- **Successful interaction with local community through community liaison**
- **Positive interest from the local residents in environmental issues**
- **Protection of the environment through identification of potentially vulnerable wildlife and species**

An ambitious vegetation clearance programme is a continuing process. A mammoth task of tackling an inherited backlog of work had to be managed by Carillion Rail. This work formed part of the ongoing railway infrastructure improvement works that the Company is currently delivering to Railtrack.

Part of the rail system line side vegetation has not seen heavy clearance works since steam traction finished in the 1960's! It was obvious that an efficient, environmentally friendly and cost effective plan was required - sooner rather than later - which was able to deliver an immediate impact on the vegetation issue.

Carillion Rail invited Cleartrack to provide a solution based upon their experience on the West Coast Main Line vegetation works. Using their specialist resources, along with their environmental support team, Cleartrack released one of their Vaiacar road-railer

Vegetation-mulching machines, one of only four such machines in the world!

Whilst working with Cleartrack across the Bristol contract area, the project team has had to manage many SSSI's sites. These have come about mainly through contacts with various local voluntary organisations for badgers, bats and wildlife groups and from local government statutory departments for the environment.

Following Carillion Rail's distribution of the vegetation programme of works it was a welcome surprise to find such a positive interest in the work sites from local residents living near the line side. This provided a valuable additional source of updated information on the type of wildlife living in the area. Local people have very much welcomed the tidying of the line with the minimal disturbance caused to them and to their wildlife neighbours during the vegetation clearance operation.