



Road Verge Management Guidance – Case Study



Design, Build, Finance and Operate scheme – A130



Essex Wildlife Trust's consultancy company, Essex Ecology Services Ltd. (EECOS), acts as the Landscape and Ecology Manager for a Design, Build, Finance and Operate (DBFO) scheme.

Built in 2001, the A130 is a busy trunk road in south Essex. EECOS produced a management strategy for the road which covers tree planting, verge cutting and the management of specific wildflower patches. EECOS carries out monitoring through monthly visits, with the aim for this strategy to provide a varied and interesting landscape for road users.

EECOS is also currently engaged in a project which aims to provide Landscape Management services for the A130 Bypass, running from Chelmsford to Rayleigh in south Essex. Essex Wildlife Trust is working with CountyRoute, and other stakeholders, to meet the demands of the project.

Adrian Knowles, Senior Ecologist, undertakes monthly site inspections to monitor and advise on the various landscaping components along the road scheme. These include planted woodland belts, hedgerows, wildflower meadows, balancing ponds and the extensive grass verges. Several badger tunnels and associated fencing were incorporated into the road design, based on EECOS survey work prior to the road scheme being commissioned, and these are well-used by local badgers, helping to minimise road casualties.

The road corridor is becoming an important site for wildlife, with recent records of barn owl, slow worm, adders, marbled white butterfly, bee orchids and the nationally rare plant hairy vetchling.

If you want to know more about the project, contact Adrian Knowles:
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