

## Lowther Forestry Group

Providing a full range of forestry and landscaping solutions for over 30 years.  
Working with nature, technology and people

Case Study

Highways

### Telford, A53 Hodnet bypass

**Open 2003, fully landscaped 2004 with five year-maintenance program.**

A five-mile stretch of rural bypass to alleviate traffic congestion to the village of Hodnet, Shropshire. Road and landscape designed by Moore Environment and Shropshire County Council, constructed by Alfred McAlpine.

Works started in the summer of 2001 with completion of the road in the winter of 2003. Lowther Forestry Group appointed landscape contractors in the summer of 2003 and works were completed in March 2004.

Maintenance scheme completed in September 2009. Shropshire County Council was so impressed with the outcome of the project that Hodnet bypass has become the benchmark for future landscaping schemes.



#### **Trees, shrubs and aquatic planting:**

- 100,000 local provenance sourced trees and shrubs were planted in three months.
- 10 km hedges created with a weed suppressant membrane for additional habitat and cover to the surrounding fields.



### Ponds:

- Eight wildlife and alleviation ponds constructed to increase the habitat of resident otters, badgers, wildfowl and insects.
- Within these ponds groups of trees, shrubs and aquatic plants were positioned to create the maximum diversity.
- All seed for these plants were sourced from within two miles of the bypass to strengthen the use of local provenance.



### Grass and heathland creation:

- One hectare of locally sourced heathland restored and maintained.
- 9.2 hectares of locally sourced wildflower areas created and maintained.
- 10.5 hectares of locally sourced amenity grassland created and maintained.
- 36,000 wildflower plugs locally sourced and group planted in the wildflower seed bed areas.



### Maintenance:

During the maintenance period, the growth rates of the locally sourced trees and shrubs was so impressive that early respacing operations were required to encourage the continued development of the landscape areas.

