

## National Grid's continued works

We reported progress on the expansion plans for National Grid's 440Kv sub-station at Bramley in our last newsletter.

Work on the site has continued apace—and KCM has had a busy year undertaking a variety of operations. One of the major enterprises was the removal of over two hundred **hazel coppice stumps**. These were the stumps that we coppiced back in January/February 2007.



Having suitably coppiced them, they were of a manageable size to be moved later on in the year. A delicate and tricky operation, the stumps have now successfully moved across the site and are settling in to their new location.

Continuing the theme of the ecologically and environmentally caring development of the site, KCM has been **milling** the last batch of oak that was felled in the initial clearing of the site. The timbers are now to be used at two local sites: Chineham Park Primary School and Bramley Village Hall, as well as at Bramley itself.

## SSSI re-instatement:

Oakers Wood has been an ongoing project for the last 4 years. It all started with clearing the rhododendron—cutting and chipping the dense thickets to allow natural regeneration. Any re-growth in subsequent years has been sprayed, and this remains an ongoing operation.

More recently we have been reducing the holly cover and removing the non native turkey oaks—returning this **ancient semi-natural woodland** back to its former glory. As work moves towards the final phases, there will be a considerable amount of work to do rebuilding the old rides and culverts—more updates to follow...



## Staff Profile - Mark Gibbens

Mark is the original founder of Knighton—back in the late 1980's.

Mark's love of the countryside led him into forestry and he and his teams have planted, maintained and felled woods from Kent to Cornwall. Whilst his knowledge has been passed on to a generation of students at Sparsholt College.



His knowledge and experience and commitment to a better environment and ecological practices have driven Knighton's operations forward.

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## Newsletter No 4 Spring 2008

It has been yet another busy autumn & winter season for KCM, with a long procession of work taking us across the length & breadth of our area and Spring 2008 has already kicked off with a wide range of work that looks set to keep us busy for the summer.

It does mean that time seems to just fly by, and KCM is forever on the move, from site to site.. However as you will see below, the big news is that the whole company is on the move...

## KCM is on the move to a new base at Enterprise Park, Piddlehinton.

With our constant growth and the expansion of our fleet of vehicles and equipment the capacity of Waddock Yard, our home for nearly 10 years, has finally been reached and so we are on the move.

Please note our new details:

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Telephone: 01305 848 881

Fax: 01305 848 856

We have already moved, so:  
**Please amend your records !**



## Protecting a SSSI's nesting Birds:

One of the projects in the Weymouth Relief Road's site preparation is the installation of a screen fence — this will **reduce the disturbance** to the **Lodmoor Reserve** when work begins on the site, and also provide a protective barrier for the SSSI's wildlife - including the rare **Cetti's Warbler**.



## Site, Vegetation Clearance & Destructive Searching:



An area that has seen a swift rise in our involvement in the last year has been destructive searches - these have been undertaken on several sites, from **Llandrindod Wells** in Powys to **Sussex**. It is a specialist, but highly successful method of ensuring that all the protected and other species are clear of the site before any works commence.

In each case we have been using excavators (up to 22 ton), under ecological supervision, to clear the sites. It takes a huge amount of time and care with a skilful excavator operator, but the results are well worthwhile.



A recent addition to our resources has been a **forestry flail**—capable of flailing brush, gorse and small trees up to 4" in diameter.

Mounted on our crawler tractor, it has the ability to work on virtually any site as well as “relatively” steep slopes.



Work has also begun on the **Weymouth Relief Road** and KCM was contracted to undertake the clearance work for several parts of the scheme.

There were strict deadlines involved—particularly as the site is close to the **Lodmoor Reserve** and nesting birds would quickly become a significant issue as spring began.

## Ecological Licencing Changes—effective from August 2007

Last year The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 had a major revision (Amendment 2007) that is of note to everyone involved in the rural development sector. It has all come about because of a European Court of Justice ruling, Case C-6/04 which ruled that the existing regulations were not compatible with the strict species protection regime detailed in the Habitats Directive.



**What it means:** The upshot of this that there is a new offence of non-compliance with licence. In the very broadest terms, there are 2 major points to note;

**Firstly:** that the **developer** or **land owner** will be the licence holder and so responsible for any breach.

**And Secondly:** in the offence of “damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place...” there is the removal of the “incidental result defence”. **Literally:** Should a tree be felled that is later found to support a bat roost, then there will be **no defence** to rely upon in any prosecution.

*Please contact us for more information.*

## Winter Planting Works

The winter 2007 / 2008 season was as busy as ever. We planted over 16 kilometres of **mixed hedging** during the season as well as a vast number and variety of trees.

Using varieties from indigenous trees to the exotic we have planted everything from shelter belts to screening and in one instance we created a **new orchard**.



## Herpetosure® Installation:

As the season for reptile and amphibian fencing kicks off again in earnest, it seemed a timely opportunity to demonstrate the various **different methods of installation**, namely by: tractor & plough, mini digger, trencher, K9 and finally—the really hard way - by hand!

