



2009 was a busy year for KCM with lots of exciting ecological projects including newt and reptile fencing, badger sett closures, translocation of acid grasslands, heath land restoration works, dormouse habitat enhancement and destructive searching to name a few. We are currently mid way through the winter planting season and already have our sights firmly set on the ecological work planned for the rest of 2010.



One stop shop for all types of Wildlife Fencing....

If you have a requirement for wildlife mitigation we are experts in the installation of the following types of fencing:

- Timber and Plastic
- Timber and Mypex
- Herpetosure

We supply and install fencing for the mitigation of **newts and slow worms, large reptiles, snakes and water voles**, as well as installing pitfall traps and various types of refugia to assist with captures and translocations. KCM is geared up to provide these services on a very quick turnaround, providing a cost effective solution to all protected species issues with minimum impact on your project deadlines.

KCM also provides the specialist habitat management required by Natural England's newt mitigation guidelines, we are regularly undertaking habitat improvements, planting, hibernacula creation and pond creation works to ensure these guidelines are adhered to. For more information please contact us.



Rhododendron Clearance

KCM have been busy clearing Rhododendron this winter....

In November and December we cleared 30 acres of Rhododendron on The Warmwell Estate in Dorset. This work was funded by Natural England to start the process of returning the area to a mosaic of semi-natural habitats including heath land and wood pasture which can then be managed appropriately. The Rhododendron was cut using chainsaws, and a 22 ton excavator then loaded the cut material on to fires. Care was taken not to damage existing trees and boundary banks.

Last month we cleared the Rhododendron from 200 acres of woodland for the Forestry Commission near Liskeard in Cornwall. The purpose of the work was to remove and dispose of material that was infected with Phytophthora. Phytophthora are destructive pathogens causing brown rot in trees, shrubs and other plants. There are currently two types known in Britain: *Phytophthora ramorum* and *Phytophthora kernoviae*. Evidence suggests that rhododendron acts as a reservoir for the disease to move into trees. Since the first confirmations of the disease in 2002 infection has remained mainly in Southern and Western areas of the country. There is now a 5 year programme in place for research and development, an awareness programme and disease control through funding clearance of host plants in high risk areas. All of the clearance work was carried out by hand and through some very inclement weather conditions. The infected material was collected and burnt under licence from the Environment Agency. Spraying work is ongoing to ensure that any re-growth of the Rhododendron is prevented.



Lambert's Castle - National Trust



Lambert's Castle is an Iron Age hill fort in West Dorset which is a SSSI. It was also part of the signalling system which allowed a signal to be sent from London to Plymouth in 20 minutes in the 1800's.

We were contracted to carry out clearance works which we undertook through the snow of January. This is a site with high levels of public access and at all times we had to be aware of and engage with the public to explain to them why the works were being undertaken.



Japanese Knotweed Eradication in conjunction with Herpetosure Invasive Solutions

HIS carried out a large scale Knotweed soil screening project for Highwood Construction at Fareham in October 2009. The site was excavated to a depth of 2 metres and the soil was then processed through a screener bucket and on to a conveyor belt where any Knotweed rhizomes were removed by trained operatives. Over 1000 tonnes of contaminated material were processed down to under 3 tonnes, reducing landfill costs by 99.7% and allowing the remaining soil to be used for on site landscaping later in the project.

For more information on Japanese Knotweed and other Herpetosure Invasive Solutions projects please visit the website.

www.jknotweed.com



New Woodland Planting in Dorset

The planting season 2009-2010 started with a new woodland of 3 hectares where we planted 3000 trees. This wood forms part of a management plan that we have been working on with the client and has been largely funded by the Forestry Commission. Please contact us for more information on the grants available for 2010-2011.



Tubex
Advancing growth

We are agents for Tubex tree protection products

Badger Sett Closures

We have recently undertaken a number of badger sett closures, in particular a recent



project for Kent County Council where a large badger sett was undermining several gardens, the grounds of a school and a vehicle hire yard. This was a complex project involving the exclusion of the badgers using chain link fencing and one way gates on a steep bank. The site was then excavated and backfilled with soil with chain link laid under the surface to prevent further damage from badgers. We also reinstated concrete paths, sheds, greenhouses, close board and palisade fencing, hedging and lawns.

We have also completed many conventional sett exclusions and closures.

Large Scale Tree Surgery Operations

Our tree surgeons have been busy with some large scale operations. We removed a huge row of Conifers at Sherborne Golf Course which required a power shut down.

We also had the responsible job of pollarding a 20 metre Lime tree which was overhanging a number of Luxury Park Homes at Organford, Dorset. We carried out the cutting work from a MEWP and lowered the branches and timber using a 55 tonne telescopic crane.



Reptile Enclosures for Oxford University

KCM installed a series of reptile enclosures for the Department of Zoology at Oxford University. They are undertaking behavioural studies on wall lizards over a five year period. The material of choice was Herpetosure fencing which was perfectly suited to the job. Herpetosure is extremely durable and has a high level of impact resistance therefore providing excellent levels of boundary security. Herpetosure is designed to be fully reusable and recyclable and hence there will be zero waste at the end of the project.



Direct Drilled Trees Grow from Strength to Strength

KCM has been involved in a very exciting project in the Surrey hills. Three hectares of mixed broadleaf woodland was direct drilled as seed fifteen years ago based on "The Taungya System". We have been undertaking the first thinnings of this new wood, opening up the ride system and formation pruning. The plantation was rabbit and deer fenced to protect the trees during initial establishment.

What has been striking has been the fantastic quality of the trees, even planted at a density in some places exceeding 20,000 trees per hectare. We will be involved in this woodland on an ongoing basis and it will in time create a wood of excellent quality trees.



Staff Profile—Paul Young

Paul joined KCM in January 2006 and is now one of our Senior Foreman. Paul has a vast amount of experience and knowledge in all aspects of our operations.

Paul is a keen football fan and an avid follower of Oxford United. He has three young sons which keep him busy and active in his spare time, they are often out walking, cycling and swimming. Paul is also a DIY enthusiast.



Welsh Dormouse Project

KCM was thrilled to be awarded the project to undertake the dormouse habitat enhancement and fencing works along the length of a strategically important pipeline crossing Wales.

This contract requires in depth knowledge of dormouse ecology and the logistical ability to undertake a very large project over a wide geographical area to a critical timescale.

The actual works include a total of 7km of hedge laying and 14 km of fencing.



Pond Restoration Works

KCM carried out restoration works to a pond at Corfe Castle in Dorset. The project started with excavation of the pond and construction of an island which was dry stone walled. We then lined the pond with 160 tonnes of clay. Our team worked through the wettest conditions to create a very neat and tidy pond which was soon full of water.