

HARBURY CUTTING

August 2016

Railway cutting spoil removal

Client: Murphy Group

Location: Harbury, Warwickshire

Start Date: February 2015

Completion : March 2016

Volume: 560,000t

Disposal site: Biffa Ufton



Murphys fleet shifting the material from the cutting to the stockpile

On January 31st 2015 a 160m stretch of slope in the Harbury railway cutting became unstable and 300,000t of earth slipped towards the Chiltern main line which runs from London to Birmingham. This busy stretch of line carries more than one hundred trains through the cutting every day so it was essential to get the railway safely open as quickly as possible. It took Murphys emergency team thirty-eight days and nights to clear the line.

Work then started on the final stability solution for the cutting. Bands of limestone in the embankment had created a faultline. As this was the latest of several slips, Engineers decided that the solution was to dig out the cutting to create shallower slopes. This meant that a total of 560,000t of waste, mostly blue lias clay, was removed. The material was recycled and used as capping at a closed landfill site less than a mile down the road.

Red were contracted to carry out the large scale bulk muck shift. Murphys earthworks fleet moved the soils to a stockpile away from the slip area and Red managed the off site disposal with an average of 240 load movements a day.

Reds fleet of 8 wheeler tippers removed the total volume over a thirteen month period.



Map showing the proximity of Harbury cutting to Biffa Ufton

Images from www.google.co.uk/maps