

Contract in brief

Location:

Cuxton Pit, Nr Rochester, Kent

Client:

Persimmon Homes (SHE) LT

Consultant:

PBA Consulting

Blackwell Role:

Main Contractor

Form of Contract:

Persimmon Homes Ltd Rev Feb 2003

Contract Value:

£1.970M

Contract Start:

January 2006

Contract Period:

39 wks

Blackwell site management

Contracts Manager:

Niall Fraser / Charles Ratcliffe

Project Manager:

Rob King

Site Manager:

Ken Boatman

Services Included:

- Civil Engineering ✓
- Earthworks ✓
- Geotechnical ✓
- Remediation ✓

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Contract Summary:

Blackwell are undertaking the advanced earthworks, site re-profiling and civil engineering section 278 and S38 infrastructure roads and drainage works. The site of a former chalk quarry that provided an essential ingredient to the North Kent cement industry which will be developed into a new housing site.

Key Processes:

The main elements of the works include the following:

- Excavation of the chalk within the eastern and north-eastern sites of the quarry, in order to raise the floor of the quarry from about 1.5m AOD to about 12m AOD.
- 700,000 cu. m of cut to fill earthworks
- Improvements to the A228 and new internal roads
- Blackwell have worked closely with Persimmon Homes and their Ecologists in undertaking the Ecological attendance work during site clearance operations as the quarry was home to Great Crested Newt. The western part of the site will provide a permanent ecological habitat for some 7,000 great crested newts and an interesting backdrop to the planned development.
- Construction of a reinforced buttress wall which abuts a sheer chalk cliff adjacent to the A228 Cuxton Road. The wall will form a focal point to the development. The design incorporated an Enkagrid Pro, (the geogrid reinforcement delivered in 100m long x 5m wide rolls), with Maccaferri green terramesh facing units with 60 degree overall face angle. (The terramesh units were shipped from Santos in Brazil to Tilbury docks and then direct to site) They consist of 2m x 2m x 0.6m high wire mesh gabion baskets, with a biodegradable coconut fibre blanket to retain the topsoil whilst grass is becoming established and are fastened together with stainless steel rings.
- The completed reinforced section of the buttress wall will be topped out with an unreinforced, one in three sloping, and chalk capping to give an overall height of up to 24 metres.

