

PROJECT

Crewkerne Tunnel

CE Vegetation Removal

IRATA rope access teams clearing 12,826m² of vegetation beside a live railway.



Project Overview



Location
Crewkerne Tunnel, UK



Client
Southern Renewals Enterprise



Project Type
Rope access vegetation removal (cutting slopes and tunnel portal)



Programme
5 weeks midweek days
1 week midweek nights

The Project

Universal Rope Access delivered the CE vegetation removal with 1 IRATA Level 3 and 10 IRATA Level 1 operatives, supported by a wood chipping operator, tow-along woodchipper and Arb vehicle.

The Target

12,826m² of vegetation removal across the Downside, above the portal and the Upside, plus hedgerow clearance, new access points, off-site removal and stump treatment.



Key Activities & Results



Rope Access Deveg

IRATA-trained operatives, working under the supervision of an IRATA Level 3, cleared the rock face across the Downside, above the portal and the Upside.

Rock face cleared:
12,082m²



Hedgerow and Access Routes

Three 3m pedestrian routes and three 10m vehicle routes were cut through the hedgerow to give safe access to the works.

A further 25m of hedgerow was removed to create the working platform, allowing soil nailing to be carried out from the crest.



Off-site Removal

Track remained operational

With the railway open throughout, all vegetation was taken off site via the crest.

It was processed through the woodchipper, removed by Arb vehicle and given to local farmers to be repurposed.

All stumps were cut to no more than 75mm, following the gradient of the slope, and large stumps were treated with herbicide to prevent regrowth.



The Benefits



Completed ahead of programme



One contractor – collaborative working, no interface conflicts



Supporting our Piling & Geotechnical division's contracted works after deveg completion



Operatives now remaining on site supporting the Geotechnical Works