



# news from MAY GURNEY

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## Rail project delivers green and cost-effective solution

Work carried out by May Gurney Rail Services on behalf of Network Rail has avoided a potential £3m cost and resulted in 50,000 tonnes of slip material being recycled.

When the floods earlier this summer washed out a rail embankment at Waleswood in South Yorkshire, it left the track in mid air and the slip in a nearby stream. Initial tests showed the slip material to be highly contaminated and therefore classified as hazardous waste.

As the stream runs into the River Rother, containing the contamination was crucial. May Gurney's environment team rapidly installed booms, initiated a water-testing regime and contacted the Environment Agency, who was very impressed with the work already carried out.

The options for the contaminated material, calculated to be 50,000 tonnes, were discussed with the Environment Agency. At £100 per ton, the potential removal costs topped £3m.

May Gurney undertook further testing to establish the full spectrum of the waste, which subsequently proved money well spent. When the Environment Agency came for a final site meeting, it was agreed that the waste could, under these circumstances, be classed as non-hazardous. Since then, between 10% and 20% has been sold and the remainder taken away free of charge for landscaping on a local golf course - all with Environment Agency approval.

Robert Lowery, Network Rail, said afterwards: "May Gurney's contribution was a key factor in overcoming the environmental challenges, which can all too easily get overlooked in the race against time to reopen a closed railway. It has potentially saved us a lot of money and recycled thousands of tonnes of material."

Malcolm Duffield, Operations Director Rail Services, May Gurney said: “We may think that that doing our bit for the environment is just about splitting waste into grey and green bins and turning off the light when leaving a room. However, whilst these things are important, the majority of the work carried out on site by our environment team goes on behind the scenes, using regulations and environmental law both to make sure that as a company we are compliant, and to save our customers unnecessary cost.”

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## **Notes to Editors**

### **About May Gurney**

May Gurney is a dynamic integrated support and construction services company providing maintenance and enhancement services to the highways, rail, utilities and general infrastructure markets, primarily with public sector and regulated sector customers, across the UK. The company focuses on long-term relationships, has 3,450 employees and delivers solutions through two primary business segments - Maintenance Services and Engineering & Project Services.

The **Maintenance Services** segment is focused on the core markets of highways and utilities. Activities include highways maintenance under long-term partnerships with Local Authorities and network improvement and maintenance services provided to major UK utilities networks under long-term framework contracts.

The **Engineering & Project Services** segment serves public and regulated sector clients across a broad range of industries. Core services include the enhancement of road and rail infrastructure, waste management, flood protection, ground remediation, foundations, geotechnical engineering and building.

For further details about May Gurney please go to [www.maygurney.co.uk](http://www.maygurney.co.uk)

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