



Land Reclamation and Habitat Creation

Project

Restoration of Bordeaux Quarry

Client

States of Guernsey Board of Administration

Background

Bordeaux Quarry was Guernsey's largest landfill site, used for more than 70 years for the disposal of domestic refuse. It is situated in the north east corner of the Island in an area of great scenic quality.

As the tipping operation came to an end, the quarry was progressively capped with a mixture of quarry overburden and subsoil from other parts of the Island. The client wanted to establish semi-natural vegetation on the capping material and restore the quarry site to public open space.

Description

Landmark was commissioned to determine the best method of establishing semi-natural vegetation and to oversee its implementation. The study focused on three elements of the site: the physical and chemical properties of the capping material, to establish its ability to support plant growth; a botanical survey of local semi-natural plant communities, to identify the characteristic plants of the area which might be suitable for seeding; and an assessment of methods appropriate for establishing vegetation.



The study found that, because of the exposed location of the site and the very infertile and free draining nature of the capping material, hydraulic seeding would be the best method. A non-competitive nurse crop was used in the seed mixture to help stabilise the capping and protect other seedlings during growth. Germination of the preferred species was exceptionally successful.

Client benefits

An imaginative approach, which was both economical and effective.