

Project: Retaining Walls and Landscape Feature
Tesco Superstore, Exeter

Client: Tesco Ltd

Consultant: G. Maunsell & Partners

Contractor: Costains Building & Civil Engineering Ltd

Sub-contractor: Bradley Construction Ltd

Products: Split Face Porcupine Blocks
MMG Cellular Erosion Control Web
MMG Geocomposite Drainage Product

Date: 1994



Introduction

The development of this new Tesco store situated on the outskirts of Exeter, took place on a greenfield site with a number of existing field boundaries which consisted of old hedgerows containing many mature trees. The site as a whole, extended across a gradient and required considerable excavation work.

Problem

Planning permission for this project was granted with the proviso that the original hedgerows and trees were to be preserved, and that the steep embankments formed on the north west corner should be retained and vegetated in such a way as to prevent the effects of erosion

and facilitate the planting and establishment of various shrubs.

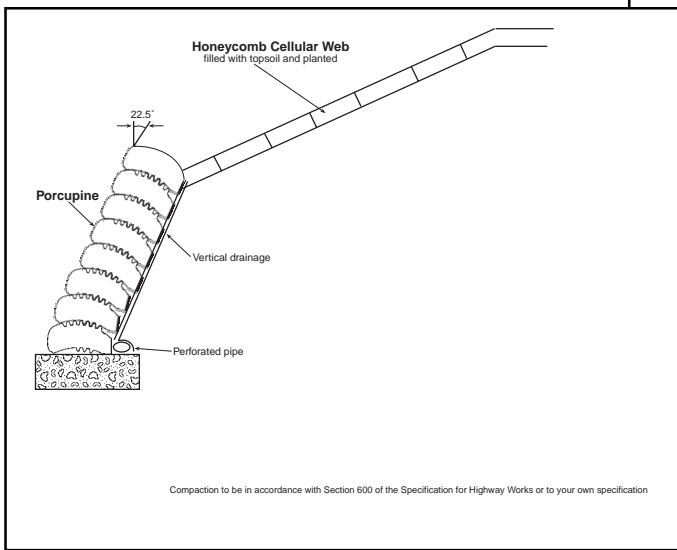
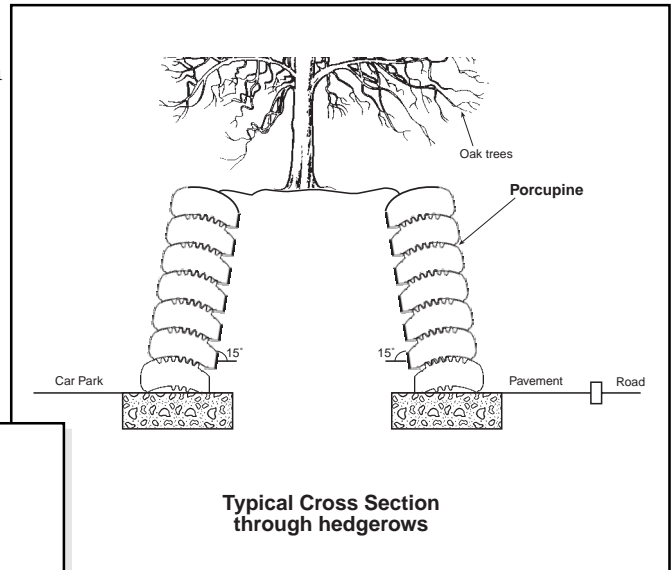
Solution

The client opted to use a yellow coloured split face Porcupine block to blend in with the surrounding development and achieve a system of economical retaining walls.



To maximise available space for roads, paths and parking, and to protect the trees from vehicular damage and vandalism, the hedgerows were retained behind Porcupine walls up to 2.0 m high at an angle of 15° from the vertical.

The 4.0 m high banks on the north west of the site were retained by a 1.5 m high Porcupine wall at 22.5° from the vertical with drainage geocomposite placed immediately behind to provide vertical drainage.



The remaining surface of the rocky slope was covered with MMG's erosion control web to provide stability to the top soil which was required for shrub planting.



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