



Innovative Solutions for Enhanced Accessibility and Conservation

Hurst Farm: Heritage Trail



 **Contractor:** G F Tomlinson

 **Sector:** Environmental – Heritage and Conservation

 Hurst Farm Woodland, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 3ED

Project Overview

In June 2022, Derbyshire Dales District Council was granted £1.2 million from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to bring the Hurst Farm Heritage Trail to fruition.

This five-year initiative aims to boost accessibility and connectivity across Hurst Farm Woodland via a circular footpath linking four key heritage sites: Baileys Tump WWII site, John Bowne Memorial, Victorian Wishing Stone, and Lumsdale Industrial Heritage Site.

The project underscores a broader regeneration strategy for Hurst Farm, enhancing public amenities, safeguarding natural and built heritage, and fostering community engagement through conservation, volunteering, and educational activities.

The Challenge

- **Accessibility in sensitive zones:** The trail needed to traverse heritage and ecological areas without disrupting existing conditions.

- **Tree root protection:** Construction had to avoid damaging tree roots while allowing pedestrian and light vehicular access.

- **Compliance with standards:** Ensuring adherence to BS 5837:2012 guidelines for development near trees.

- **Sustainability and community use:** The solution had to support long-term conservation and usage by the community.

Innovative Solutions:

Geosynthetics Ltd proposed a robust solution using the 100mm Cellweb® TRP system with Treetex geotextile at the base, infilled with 4/20mm clean angular stone. This innovative approach:

- ◆ **Load Distribution:** Safeguards tree roots by distributing weight across the surface, preventing compaction.
- ◆ **Environmental Health:** Facilitates water and oxygen flow to the root zone, maintaining tree health.
- ◆ **Stable Surface Creation:** Provides a stable, low-maintenance trail for walking, cycling, and maintenance access.
- ◆ **Technical Guidance:** Our team ensured optimal installation with specific site recommendations and support.



Key Benefits Delivered:

1

Enhanced Accessibility:

Seamless connectivity across heritage woodland.

2

Tree and Habitat Preservation:

Protects mature trees and sensitive ecological zones.

3

Community Engagement:

Promotes wellbeing through environmental stewardship and educational activities.

4

Conservation Support:

Aids long-term sustainability and conservation goals.

Customer Testimonial:

"Geosynthetics delivered a reliable, efficient solution that exceeded our expectations. Their team was extremely helpful at Design stage, knowledgeable, and committed to quality throughout. In particular they were responsive to technical queries at the installation stage which included site visits to review site specific detailing."



GF Tomlinson have used Geosynthetics on several schemes that require no dig solutions and bank retention. We would highly recommend Geosynthetics with regards to their Cellweb® TRP product."

R Sullivan –Senior Contracts Manager