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Western Rail Link to Heathrow Network Rail

Location: London, UK

Date: 2019 - ongoing

Structure: New railway line - TBM / SCL / Cut & Cover tunnels, shafts, cross passages, adits and retained cut.

Length: 6.5 km

- Cross-Section: Tunnels TBM (6.5m ID), SCL (6.8m ID), C&C (10-28m wide by 7.2-8.7m high)
 - Geology: Superficial deposits of 5-10m thick, underlain by Tertiary sediments (London Clay and Lambeth Group) of 40-50m thick. TBM / SCL tunnels are wholly constructed in heavily overconsolidated London Clay.

Cost: Est. £ 900m

Client: Network Rail

Owner: Network Rail

Consultancy Services for Tunnels and Underground Structures to Network Rail:

The Western Rail Link to Heathrow is a new two-track rail line from Langley Station on the Great Western Main Line to an endon connection with the existing Heathrow Express line at the west end of Heathrow Terminal 5 Station. The structures along the route include retained cut (400m), C&C tunnel (500m), twin bored TBM tunnel (4km) and two temporary shafts that will be used to recover the TBMs. The final 160m-long section of the tunnel will be an open face excavation with SCL which connects into existing stub tunnels at Heathrow Terminal 5 Station. Within the alignment of the bored tunnels two intervention/ventilation shafts, eight cross passages and four ventilation adits will also be constructed. The TBM tunnels pass beneath the M4 and M25 Motorways. The proposed linespeed is 75 mph.

The scope of consultancy services of Gall Zeidler Consultants (GZ) to Network Rail comprises of review of the Approval-in-Principle design, producing contract requirements for tunnels and underground structures, pre-qualification/tender assessment and development of Geotechnical Baseline Report to assist their project procurement process.



Figure 1. Proposed Route Alignment.