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Heathrow Post T5 Transfer Baggage Tunnel

The Heathrow Post T5 Transfer Baggage Tunnel is part of a **network of underground baggage tunnels** and a major part of the **Heathrow Connectivity Programme.** The project included an automated baggage transfer system and buildings, with capacity to manage 3,000 bags per hour **between Terminals 5C, 3 and 1.** The tunnels operate a Destination Coded Vehicles track system, comprising 960 carts capable of transporting luggage at speeds of up to 32km/h.



We constructed a 2.1km tunnel connecting the baggage transfer facility at the new Terminal 5C with the existing Terminals 1 and 3. We were the Complex Building Integrator for the construction and multi-disciplinary fit-out. The scope of works, split across four different contracts, comprised enabling works, design and construction of all the civil works including the new tunnel, three shafts, the Western Interface Building (WIB) and one new stand, M&E fit-out, installation and commissioning of the Building Controls System and integration of the track system for the Destination Coded Vehicles.

The WIB, linking the new transfer baggage system to Terminal 3 and the T3 Integrated Baggage System, has a footprint of 6,800m²² across three stories. Construction scope included piled foundations, structural steel frame, cladding, roofing, M&E and fit-out.

Health and safety was our primary concern, particularly as the tunnels and shafts were constructed around highly sensitive areas of the airport, including the Heathrow fuel farm. This has been one of the great achievements of the project, achieving two million RIDDORfree hours worked.

We consistently achieved the milestone dates ahead of programme while minimising disruption at the airport and maintaining costs within the client's budget.

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ADDED VALUE

- Despite being deemed 2009's number one risk to Heathrow's operations, the tunnel was completed with zero impact on the airport operations and £12m under the original budget
- We worked closely with HAL (formerly BAA) and our supply chain to develop a Scheme Design, producing an innovative fit-out solution that enhanced safety and produced significant cost and time savings
- We used Design for Manufacturing and Assembly (DfMA) techniques to help us develop a modular system that enabled elements of the installation to be prefabricated outside the tunnel. 200 modules were assembled offsite and installed in the tunnel, achieving a 25% reduction in programme and associated costs
- Two million RIDDOR-free hours recognised as the safest-ever tunnelling project by the HSE and received public recognition from HAL for excellent Health & Safety Performance
- The tunnel safely crossed assets including 185 separate services, nine buildings, five taxiways, 11 stands, the Piccadilly and Heathrow Express rail lines, and the main road leading to the airport

5.1m diameter

6,800m² three storey WIB at T3

2.1km baggage tunnel

connecting T5C with T3 and T1

350m³

Pavement Quality concrete in construction of new stand

3 underground shafts at T1, T3 and T5C

3,000 bags capacity per hour