

25 July 2013

GB Railfreight celebrates its 750th trainload of excavated material for Crossrail contractor

On Tuesday 23 July, GB Railfreight (GBRf) celebrated as it moved its 750th trainload of excavated material from Crossrail's tunnels in west London to Northfleet in Kent. This marks the movement of over 850,000 tonnes of muck from the Crossrail site.

A GBRf Train Managerdrove the 66738 loco from Northfleet to Westbourne Park on Tuesday 23 at 19.27pm ^[1]. This represented a significant milestone in the excavation of material created by Crossrail Tunnel Boring Machines, Phyllis and Ada.

GBRf's contract with Crossrail contractor, BFK (a joint venture comprising of BAM, Ferrovial, Kier), began in early Summer 2012 ^[2] and will see more than 860 class 66 hauled trains of JNA box wagons between west London and Kent. Each train comprises of 22 wagons and within each wagon is approximately 65 - 70 tonnes of material. The material is been generated from the construction of two 6.8 kilometre long section of train tunnels being constructed between Royal Oak and Farringdon.

Once the material arrives at Northfleet, it is stored before being loaded on ships bound for an RSPB Nature Reserve at Wallasea Island, Essex, to be used in the development of a landmark conservation project. ^[3]

Commenting on the occasion, **John Smith, Managing Director of GBRf said:**

"I am delighted that we have reached this important milestone in our work.

"Crossrail's new tunnels will be of major economic and social benefit to the London transport system, and the UK more widely, and we are thrilled to be playing a vital part.

"Our Crossrail operations are also great news for the environment – using rail freight instead of lorry transportation has already removed approximately 50 lorry loads for every one train."^[4]

BFK said:

"BAM Nuttall, Ferrovial and Kier have delivered over 800km of high profile tunnelling projects between us. The logistics of moving the spoil from the tunnelling plays a key role in the success of any tunnel programme."

Notes to editors:

1. The Northfleet team celebrated by meeting Stuart at 12.30pm in Northfleet. Leigh Goodwin, Logistics Manager, presented Stuart and Mark Bennett, the Person in Charge, with Marks and Spencer vouchers as a token of thanks for the 750 journeys so far.
2. In February 2012, Crossrail tunnelling contractor BFK awarded GB Railfreight (GBRf) a major contract to move over one million of tonnes of excavated material from a tunnel port at Westbourne Park in West London to Northfleet in Kent.
3. The Crossrail project will generate more than 6 million tonnes of excavated earth during the construction of its new stations and 21 kilometre twin train tunnels. More than 4.5 million tonnes will be delivered to Wallasea Island with the remainder going to other beneficial reuse initiatives. Crossrail's strategy to move the majority of its earth via rail and ship has taken an estimated 270,000 lorry journeys off London's roads.
4. Wallasea Island Wild Coast project is a landmark RSPB conservation and engineering scheme which will recreate the ancient wetland landscape. The reserve is planned to be in development until around 2019 and will serve as a home for important wildlife.
5. Transport for London estimates that one train can carry the equivalent of 50 lorry loads.