

# PRESS RELEASE



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## **GB Railfreight awarded contract extension to shift excavated material from Crossrail tunnels**

GB Railfreight celebrated last month as it moved its first train load of muck under its extended contract for Crossrail. It covers services from Willesden Euro terminal to Crossrail's waste facility in Northfleet. The trains will carry approximately 1,000 tonnes per day.

The loco to be used was driven from Northfleet on 28 October 2013 at 13:30, and arrived into Willesden at 15:00. The train made the return journey to Northfleet at 18:08, arriving at 20:03.

GB Railfreight has been awarded this extension to their contract, having worked on the Crossrail project since 2012. GBRf's original contract with Crossrail contractor BFK [1] began in early summer 2012 and has to date seen more than 860 class 66 hauled trains of JNA box wagons between west London and Kent. This extended contract is with BFK working with Costain/SkanskaJV and will run until November 2014.

In September 2013, GBRf reached a milestone in its Crossrail work as it shifted the one millionth tonne of excavated material from Crossrail's tunnel in west London to Northfleet in Kent.

The material being generated from the construction of the tunnels is stored in Northfleet 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. [2]

### **John Smith, Managing Director of GBRf, said:**

*"We are delighted that our contract with Crossrail contractor BFK has been extended and we are proud to expand our portfolio of services which support the major enhancements of London's transport infrastructure."*

*"GBRf welcomes its role in such a vital project and is pleased that its high level of customer satisfaction and high performance measures continue to ensure extended relations with important customers such as BFK."*

**Notes to editors:**

1. BFK is a joint venture comprising of BAM, Ferrovial, Kier.
2. 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.
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. Transport for London estimates that one train can carry the equivalent of 50 lorry loads
5. GB Railfreight is one of the UK's leading rail freight companies. It operates around 650 trains per week in the UK and is the main transporter of coal on the rail network and the only rail freight company with regular contracts to move biomass.