

Filton Bank Four Track, Bristol

The Filton Bank Four Track project is one of Network Rail's flagship projects. It is essential to unlocking the potential of the wider network to deliver the new Intercity Express Programme.

The project is located in a highly constrained urban environment, running for 6km through Bristol city centre with circa 9000 residents within 250m of the site and interfacing with major public highways. A key success was therefore minimising disruption to the public and stakeholders. The team made use of social media and news channels in conjunction with Great Western Railway and Bristol City Council to advise of site progress and planned disruption. Twitter videos by team members proved to be a welcome addition for the public, presenting a more human face to the work. Extensive communications were also undertaken with local residents including letter drops, door knocking and community drop-in sessions to listen to concerns.



The multidisciplinary team successfully cultivated relationships to effectively manage interfaces and provide innovative and sustainable design and construction solutions.

The project has delivered a lasting impact to the Bristol area and national rail network, demonstrated by the improvement in average public performance measure from 80% to 92% since commissioning.

The project delivered the proposed capacity enhancements, greater flexibility, more resilience and less disruption. It removed a significant bottleneck in the national rail network in Bristol by increasing the number of tracks from two to four between Dr Days Junction and Filton Abbey Wood Station. The project provides enhanced capacity for future intercity and suburban rail services, including two new trains per hour between London and Bristol and up to nine additional freight services per day. The additional tracks allow faster intercity trains to be split from suburban passenger services, contributing to journey time improvement on national CrossCountry trains of up to five minutes. Furthermore, the two new tracks can also be used as a diversionary route during times of maintenance and perturbation, removing hours of disruption for passengers and the associated CrossCountry "red route" tag.

