

Instrumentation and Monitoring Feedback on Ground Movement Response during tunnelling activity through Mercia Mudstone Group Strata, on HS2 Project (Area North)

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Presentation includes:

- HS2 project overview
 - Long Itchington Wood Tunnel
 - Tunnel overview
 - Ground conditions
 - Instrumentation and Monitoring
 - Ground inspections during TBM excavation (Cutterhead Interventions)
 - Ground inspection during Cross Passage SCL excavation
 - Monitoring summary and volume Loss
 - Bromford Tunnel
 - Tunnel overview
 - Ground conditions
 - Key asset owners within tunnel influence zone
 - Design approach
 - Instrumentation and Monitoring system applied
 - Greenfield monitoring records and Volume Loss (VL)
 - Borehole extensometer records
 - Borehole inclinometer records
- Conclusions

HS2 Project Overview

HS2 is Britain's new high speed railway line being built ٠ from London to the West Midlands

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- The route construction comprises: ٠
 - 140-miles (224 km) of track, 0
 - 4 brand new stations, 0
 - 2 major depots, 0
 - 32 miles of tunnels & \bigcirc
 - 500 bridging structures. 0



HS2 Project Overview

 Balfour Beatty VINCI JV (BBV) Design and build contract to construct the northernmost 90km of the HS2 route, from Long Itchington in Warwickshire to the centre of Birmingham and on to Handsacre in Staffordshire, where it will join the West Coast Main Line.

The contract includes :

- 90km of track
- 11km of viaducts
- 62 overbridges
- 28 underbridges
- 62 embankments
- 34 cuttings
- 11 underpasses
- 2 tunnels (twin bore)
 - Long Itchington Wood (LIW)
 - Bromford Tunnel



Sublot 4

mainline.

Sublot 4 passes through

both industrial and densely

Bromford Tunnel and HS2

residential areas. It connects

the City of Birmingham to the

Sublot 8

Sublot 8 is the northern most sublot, connecting to Sublot 7 at Black Brook Viaduct. The sublot is strategically important to the delivery of HS2, connecting to the West Coast Main Line at Handsacre.

Sublot 7

Sublot 5 South

Sublot 7 is almost entirely within a rural landscape. It runs north from where HS2 splits in two at Curdworth, through Warwickshire between Sutton Coldfield and Tamworth towards Lichfield.

Sublot 2B

Sublot 5 South has the three major highways crossings, with three embankments, two underbridges and one composite viaduct. The sublot also interfaces with the new HS2 Birmingham Interchange Station (BIS).

Subiot 2

Sublot 2B extends north from Dalehouse Embankment, through rural areas between Coventry, Kenilworth and Balsall Common to the River Blythe. It connects with Sublot 5 South, northeast of Hampton in Arden.

Sublot 2A

Sublot 2A is the southern section of the Mainline. Starting at Sublot 1A, Longhole Viaduct, then extending north to Dalehouse Embankment, connecting with Sublot 2B.

Sublot 2A, Long Itchington Wood

Long Itchington Wood is 30 miles southeast of Birmingham, on the boundary of the BBV contract, where it connects with the central sections of HS2.

Delta interfaces with four other sublots. Delivery of the junction will require earthworks, viaducts, tunnels and structures,

Sublot Delta

along the mainline, North Chord

and Birmingham Spur area.

The Bromford Tunnel is

Delta. The tunnel passes

the M6 motorway.

located between Sublot 4 and

beneath the heavily built-up

area of East Birmingham and

Long Itchington Wood (LIW) Bored Tunnels

Tunnel Overview

- 2no.single bore 1.6km (total 3.2km)
- 3no cross passages, connecting UP/DN Bore
- 1no.TBM (Variable Density®)-Dorothy
- Excavation diameter (TBM) 9.99m
- Internal diameter 8.80m
- Segmental lining 400mm thick of 2000mm nominal ring length
- Tunnel ring includes 7 + 1 (key) Steel fibre reinforced segments
- The construction of both Upline and Downline bored tunnels as well as the 3 SCL Cross passages is completed







Extract of the BGS 1:50,000 scale geological map



- Tunnelling boring activity for both TBM drives, performed from North to South Portal
- Ground conditions composed on the longest part of tunnel by Mercia Mudstone Group (MMG) and more particular by Sidmouth, Branscombe and Blue Anchor strata.
- Formation described as brownish red mudstones with frequent bands of green grey siltstones. The rock mass generally described as **weak to very weak** and **variably weathered**.
- From CP3 passes into Penarth Group including **Cotham Mudstone Member & Westbury Formation**
- On overlaying **Penarth group**, mudstones were found extremely weak to weak, more distinctly weathered with a laminated and closely bedded rock mass.
- **Two different aquifers were encountered**, the deeper one during most of the drive and the shallow one on Penarth Group close to South Portal.

Design Geotechnical Parameters on MMG Strata

- Geotechnical parameters derived from lab tests, insitu tests and adapted
- Soil and rock mass permeabilities evaluated using insitu permeability tests and correlations with published data
- Wide ranges of permeability coefficients introduce uncertainties in ground behaviour during the tunnel excavation and TBM cutter head interventions.





Parameter		Made ground	Langport Limestone member	Cotham Mudstone Member and Westbury formation (soil)	Sidmouth Formation (soil)	Unit
Unit weight	γ	19	20	20.5	20	kN/m ³
Effective cohesion	c'	0	0	5	3 - 15	kPa
Effective friction angle	φ'	25	30	25	29	•
Undrained shear strength	Cu	-	-	100	75	kPa
Undrained Young modulus	Eu	-	-	400 c _u	500 – 700 c _u	MPa
Drained Young modulus	E'	10	15	0.87 E _u	0.87 E _u	MPa
Poisson's ratio	v	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	-
Coefficient of earth pressure at rest	Ko	0.5	0.5	1.0 – 1.5	1.5	-
Parameter	-	Cotham Mudstone Member and Westbury formation (rock)	Blue Anchor Formation	Branscombe Mudstone Formation	Sidmouth Formation (rock)	Unit
Parameter Uniaxial Compressive Strength	UCS	Cotham Mudstone Member and Westbury formation (rock) 0.5	Blue Anchor Formation 3.2	Branscombe Mudstone Formation 4.5	Sidmouth Formation (rock) 2.0	Unit MPa
Parameter Uniaxial Compressive Strength Geological Strength Index	UCS GSI	Cotham Mudstone Member and Westbury formation (rock) 0.5 30	Blue Anchor Formation 3.2 60	Branscombe Mudstone Formation 4.5 58	Sidmouth Formation (rock) 2.0 55	Unit MPa -
Parameter Uniaxial Compressive Strength Geological Strength Index Intact Rock Constant	UCS GSI m	Cotham Mudstone Member and Westbury formation (rock) 0.5 30 4	Blue Anchor Formation 3.2 60 7	Branscombe Mudstone Formation 4.5 58 7	Sidmouth Formation (rock) 2.0 55 4	Unit MPa -
Parameter Uniaxial Compressive Strength Geological Strength Index Intact Rock Constant Rock mass Modulus	UCS GSI m Em	Cotham Mudstone Member and Westbury formation (rock) 0.5 30 4 150	Blue Anchor Formation 3.2 60 7 800	Branscombe Mudstone Formation 4.5 58 7 800	Sidmouth Formation (rock) 2.0 55 4 4 400	Unit MPa - - MPa
Parameter Uniaxial Compressive Strength Geological Strength Index Intact Rock Constant Rock mass Modulus Poisson's ratio	UCS GSI m E _m v	Cotham Mudstone Member and Westbury formation (rock) 0.5 30 4 150 0.2	Blue Anchor Formation 3.2 60 7 800 0.2	Branscombe Mudstone Formation 4.5 58 7 800 0.2	Sidmouth Formation (rock) 2.0 55 4 400 0.2	Unit MPa - - MPa -

Ground Movement Assessment



- 8.2.3 A value of trough width parameter, K = 0.5 shall be adopted in London Clay, a value of K = 0.4 shall be adopted in other geologies shown in Table 1. K values for "sands" should consider differences above and below the water table. Values of up to 0.5 can occur for wet sands.
- 8.2.4 Table 1 provides values of volume loss for various ground conditions and tunnel construction methods.

Volume	Loss				
		London Clay	Lambeth	Chalk	Mercia
			Group		Mudstone
uction methods	Closed face tunnelling (earth pressure balance machine (EPBM) or slurry Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM)	1%	1%	1%	1%
onstru	Open face tunnelling	2%	2%	2%	2%
Tunnel co	Sprayed concrete lining (SCL)	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%

- The ground surface settlement induced by tunnel construction is commonly described by a Gaussian inverted curve in the transverse direction (by O'Reilly & New, 1982) and a cumulative Gaussian curve in the longitudinal direction (by Attewell & Woodman, 1982) has been calculated in line to HS2 technical Standards.
- A volume loss of 1% has been assumed for the TBM bored tunnels and 1.5% for the SCL cross passages.
- A trough width parameter of 0.4 is adopted for all tunnel elements.

TBM Confinement Pressure

- Equilibrium of the ground wedge and water pressure at the tunnel face has been calculated through out the TBM drive
- Objectives of the design : Define the lower and upper bounds of TBM face pressure to apply during the excavation
- Analyses conducted both in **drained and undrained conditions**, regarding the uncertainty of ground permeabilities.
- **Upper bound** of support pressure conservatively set to the **vertical total stress above the tunnel**, reduced by a tolerance on the applied pressure.
- **Lower bound** of support pressure defined for the tunnel face stability.





Levelling Studs for Hard and Soft Ground







Levelling stud installed soft Ground





Survey anchor for Soft Ground to mitigate seasonal variations Depth can vary between 0.4m and 1m





Borehole Instrumentation

Borehole inclinometer (IM) : instrument designed to measure the horizontal deformations at depth.

Borehole extensometer (XM) : instrument designed to measure the vertical displacements at depth.

Standpipe piezometer (PS) : open tube / well installed in the ground and allowing to measure directly the ground water level.

Fully-grouted borehole piezometer (PV) : grouted borehole equipped with one to 4 piezometer sensor(s) installed at several depths.



Most of borehole Instruments were set **as Automated** transferring monitoring data through Gateways to the project online Monitoring Database.



Building Monitoring for asset protection











- Levelling studs at buildings lower walls
- Prisms at building façades
- Crack meters (where cracks identified)
- Triaxial automated Tilt Meters



I&M Arrays along LIW Tunnel







Layout of CP1 location



Typical Monitoring array with: (a) Levelling points (b) Extensometers (c) Inclinometer (d) Piezometers

CP1 location Chainage : 128+254





I&M Arrays along LIW Tunnel



CP1 location Chainage : 128+254



Seasonal Variation of surface soft ground

- On Ancient Woodland more than a year of levelling at CP1 indicates that the impact of the shrink-swell behaviour is significant, and of a much larger magnitude than the tunnelling induced movement.
- To mitigate that deep survey anchors were added for TBM2 and also implemented on Bromford Tunnel

I&M Arrays along LIW Tunnel



Layout of CP2 location







CP2 location Chainage : 127+878

CP2 location Simplified Geological Section CP2 location Cover: 27m Geology: MMG (Brancombe)





Typical Monitoring array with: (a) Levelling points (b) Extensometers (c) Inclinometer (d) Piezometers

Trial Monitoring Zone Chainage : 127+600

Trial Zone Simplified Geological Section Trial I&M Zone location Cover: 19m Geology: MMG (mix conditions Brancombe/Blue Anchor)



I&M Arrays along LIW Tunnel

Trial Monitoring Zone Chainage : 127+600

Automated Total Station (ATS) with hourly data monitoring frequency transferring data online to Monitoring Database



I&M Arrays along LIW Tunnel



CP3 Layout



Typical Monitoring array with: Levelling points





CP3 Chainage : 127+501







Chainage : 128+600 Ring: 12 Cover: 8m

Geology: MMG mix conditions Sidmouth formation and on top Arden sandstone





Sidmouth Formation







Chainage : 127+780 Ring: 434 Cover: 24m

Geology: MMG mix conditions Blue Anchor on top Branscobe Mudstone below







Ground Inspections Cross Passage during SCL Excavation

CP1 location Chainage : 128+254

Cover: 33m

Geology: MMG mix conditions Arden Sandstone on top Sidmouth Mudstone below





Ground Inspections Cross Passage during SCL Excavation

Balfour Beatty VINCI - Working on HS2

CP2 location Chainage : 127+878

Cover: 27m

Geology: MMG Branscombe Mudstone





1MC08-88V-DS-PRO-N001-000002

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PAGE:

Ground Inspections Cross Passage during SCL Excavation

Balfour Beatty VINCI 🍫 Working on HS2 1MC08-BBV-DS-PRO-N001-000002 PAGE: 1 OF 3 **GEOTECHNICAL LOGGING SHEET - SCL EXCAVATION** PROJECT TITLE: HS2 - Area North Date: 127,525 Structure: Long Itchington Wood Tunnel - Cross Passage 3 16/05/2024 Time 04:00 Advance lengt Chainage Advance ID: Advance 9 FACE PHOTOGRAPHS / SKETCHES CROWN ound Conditions Description (Intact rock and discontinuities): **CP3 location Chainage : 127+878** Weak apparently medium bedded locally thinly bedded grey slightly silty MUDSTONE (BLUE ANCHOR FORMATION) Cover: 16m Geology: LEFT SIDE FACE RIGHT SIDEWALL MMG Blue Anchor / Branscombe bservations and recommendations: Face appears to be stable undwater inflow or seepage Overbreak: Not observed BAN Probe holes / investigation holes Not observed BCMU obstructions or man-made features None

Monitored Summary and Volume Loss

Array	TBM Passing Date	Settlement Data Date Range	Volume Loss (%)	Maximum Settlement (mm)
Cross Passage 1	08.01.2023	15 – 19.01.2023	0.2 – 0.3	3.4
Cross Passage 2	02.02.2023	02 - 09.02.2023	0.15	1.7
Trail Zone	11.02.2023	11 – 12.02.2023	0.20	4.0
Cross Passage 3	25.02.2023	24 - 26.02.2023	0.10	2.5

Conclusion

- LIW tunnel, the first twin bored tunnel to be completed on the HS2 project in March 2023.
- The case history from LIW tunnel has successfully demonstrated that Design approach and Tunnelling excavation process were suitable for controlling ground movements the effectiveness of this strategy.
- BBV gained significant experience and confirmed the construction strategy for the second tunnel, Bromford, which traverses urbanized areas, beneath critical assets such as the M6 viaduct, the River Tame, a Network Rail embankment and running close and parallel to the National Grid power lines alignment.



Bromford Bored Tunnels

Tunnel Overview

- 2no. 5.8km (total 11.6km)
- Downline 78% completed
- Upline 49% completed
- 2 no. TBM (Variable Density®)
- 13 no. cross passages
- Excavation diameter (TBM) 8.60m
- Internal diameter 7.55m
- Intermediate Shaft (20m diameter)







Bromford Tunnel– Ground Conditions



Ground composed of Mercia mudstone Group (MMG – Sidmouth Formation)

- **Grade I/II** : Extremely weak to weak, laminated to thinly bedded, reddish brown MUDSTONE
- **Grade III** : Stiff, fissured, reddish brown, sandy gravelly CLAY
- **Grade IV**: Firm, fissured, reddish brown, mottled greenish grey, slightly, gravelly CLAY
- **Groundwater conditions**: Water table is close to ground level and tunnel along the full drive is considered fully submersible. Material permeability is low.



Bromford tunnel – Key Asset Owners with Tunnel Influence Zone (ZOI)



Bromford Tunnel- Design Approach followed similar to LIW

Geotechnical Investigation

	NR 10757 0 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 1
Los I and I among the	
SYSTEMS IN DESIGN TO P	
MMG III soil → 17 m	
C PY ROAD	
TRAN BUTT	MMG1/II
C B Q A	THE POPULATION
MMG III rock > 23 m	All the second s
ALLEY AN AND ALLEY AND	

Ground Movement Assessment for all critical structures and Utilities within Tunnel Influence Zone



Characteristic Design Parameters

Strata Parameters		Made ground (granular)		Alluvium (cohesive)		River Terrace Deposits		Sidmouth Formation (MMG) Grade IV		Sidmouth Formation (MMG) Grade	
		Inferior	Superior	Inferior	Superior	Inferior	Superior	Inferior	Superior	Inferior	Superior
Unit weight	γ (kN/m³)	19	NR	20.5	NR	21	NR	21	NR	23.5	NR
Undrained shear strength	c _u (kPa)	-	-	50	75	-	-	75+35(z-2) Capped at 200	90+35(z-2) Capped at 215	-	-
Peak angle of shearing resistance	φ' _{pk} (°)	33	37	24	27	32	37	29	31	-	-
Constant volume angle of shearing resistance	φ' _{cv} (°)	33	35	22	25	30	35	27	29	-	-
Cohesion	c' (kPa)	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	7	-	-
In-situ horizontal stress	σ _h (kPa)	-	-	-	-	-	-	42.5z to 15m bgl, b 637.5+27(z-15)	elow 15m bgl =	42.5z to 15m bgl, b 637.5+27(z-15)	elow 15m bgl =
Coefficient of earth pressure at rest – see note 5 and 11	K ₀ (-)	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	Ko=2.5 to 15m bgl, Ko= 1.3+18/z	below 15m bgl	Ko=2.5 to 15m bgl, Ko= 1.3+18/z	below 15m bgl
Drained Young's Modulus (0.01-0.1% Strain)	E' (MPa)	6	10	11	17	25	40	39+18(z-2) Capped at 100 Check against Section 4.3	47+18(z-2) Capped at 110 Check against Section 4.3	500 Check against Section 4.3	500 Check against Section 4.3
Undrained Young's Modulus				13.5	10			45+21(z-2)	54+21(z-2)		
(0.01-0.1% Strain)	E _u (MPd)	-	-	12.5	19	-	-	Capped at 120	Capped at 130	-	-
Poisson's ratio	v' (-)	0.35		0.35		0.25		0.3		0.2	
Unconfined Compressive Strength	UCS (MPa)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	10
Geological Strength Index	G SI (-)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	45	55
Intact Rock Constant	Mi (-)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	7
Disturbance Factor – see note 13	D (-)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0
Permeability	m/s					See Permeabil	ity Section 6-11				
Swelling Index and Consolidation parameters		See Swelling and Heave Properties Section 6.10									

Confinement Pressure Design with Upper and Lower bound Support Pressure



Tailored Design of I&M Systems

For each structure, a comprehensive, innovative I&M system has been specifically designed and agreed upon with Asset Owners to:

- Monitor the sensitive elements of different structures.
- Serve the needs and specifications of each asset owner.
- Safeguard the various types of structures by alerting in case of a breach.
- Maintain serviceability throughout the tunnelling and post-construction period.
- Ensuring that any impact of tunnelling operation is within design parameters.

The designed I&M systems include an **automated recording** mechanism, for **timely alerting** of involved parties in case of a breach, followed by a traditional manual mechanism for validation purposes.











Monitoring data presented daily to 3rd Party Asset Owners during crossings

Balfour Beatty 🗸 🖂 🗖 🗸

CONTRACT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (CTC)				
Reference No				
Job	Bromford Tu	Bromford Tunnel Down		
Site	Sublot 1	Sublot 1		
Instrument(s) Triggered AAA Level	Period	20/01/2025 00:00 to 27/01/2025 00:00	Review Status	None
Report Created 27/01/2025 10:01				

	SIGNATORIES
NAME	ORGANISATION

INTERPRETATIVE MONITORING REPORT-SUMMARY				
1. Attendees (by)				
2. Work Progress since last meeting (by)	Jitendra Kumar 16/10/2023 11:48 Refer to CTC Minutes			
 Brief description of monitoring readings (by) 	Jitendra Kumar 16/10/2023 11:57 Rod extensometer XR00000: Stable, maximum heave value recorded 3mm. PV00000: Stable pore water pressure in all transducers. Levelling points on electrical slab, LP-ES0061-62-63-64-65: Stable readings, maximum value of heave recorded, ~5mm. First levelling point array: Stable, maximum heave recorded ~5mm. Second levelling point array: Stable, maximum settlement recorded ~3mm.			

- Monitoring data are uploaded daily or in real time to the monitoring database (MissionOS).
- **TBM** is tracked **live** through monitoring database.
- Automated email notifications are sent to concern parties in case of any trigger breaching.



- Daily, SRG (Shift Review Group) is reviewing all monitoring data associated with TBM
- Weekly, CTC (Contract Technical Committee) is reviewing all data and agree on any actions if required.
- In case of Amber/Red/Black trigger breaching, Specific SRG or MAT (Management Action Team) meeting is called in accordance with response action plan to discuss and agree on actions.

Bromford Tunnel Route - Critical Third-Party Assets

Bromford Tunnel among other utility and environmental assets, is crossing **3 critical structures** owned by major UK's asset owners:

A: Network Rail: A historic Midlands Rail track embankment and a masonry underbridge built in 19th century.

B: National Highways: M6 Bromford Viaduct, the longest UK operational motorway Viaduct, built in 70s.

C: National Grid: Ten (10) lattice steel towers supporting high-voltage cables built in 70's.



Network Rail Instrumentation & Monitoring



Network Rail Instrumentation & Monitoring



M6 Viaduct: Structural Monitoring Instrumentation



National Highways M6 Viaduct Instrumentation & Monitoring



National Grid Pylons Instrumentation

- Precise Manual levelling with Retro Reflective Targets or Levelling studs installed on each leg.
- Automatic Monitoring with Triaxial Tilt Meters on each leg.









National Grid Pylons Instrumentation



Greenfield levelling readings at TBM launching area - VL~0.10%







Greenfield levelling readings at TBM Verification Zone - VL~0.10%



Greenfield levelling readings at TBM after M6 Viaduct area - VL~0.10%



Extensometers Recorded Impact during Tunnelling

BS165-XR002: Vertical Ground Displacement from TBM







Extensometers Recorded Impact during Tunnelling

BS165-XR0002: Vertical Ground Displacement during TBM crossing



Extensometers Recorded Impact during Tunnelling

BS167-XR00012: Vertical Ground Displacement during TBM



04/07/2024 05:10

07/07/2024 01:18

BS167-XR0004: Vertical Ground Displacement from TBM



Inclinometers Recorded Impact during Tunnelling

Lateral Ground Displacement during TBM crossing







Conclusions

- The case history from LIW tunnel has successfully demonstrated that Design approach and Tunnelling excavation process were suitable for controlling ground movements.
- Experience from LIW tunnel **shared** by Tunnel teams to improve even more the performance along the longer and **more critical Bromford tunnel**.
- A robust Monitoring Instrumentation arrangement has been installed along Bromford tunnel to confirm ground movement performance.
- So far monitoring readings verifying **no structural impact and Volume Loss (VL%),** less than assumed on GMA design reports and HS2 standards for 3rd party assets.
- Bromford TBM, crosses already successfully and with minimum impact the major critical assets of M6 viaduct, National Grid Towers, River Tame Crossings and Network Rail embankment.
- TBM Cutterhead Interventions and SCL Cross Passage **Excavation inspection records** provide a very valuable geological, hydrogeological and geotechnical information of the Mercia Mudstone Group of strata.
- A back analysis of the ground movement monitoring data, collected during tunnelling activity, can be used to optimized tunnelling assumptions and mining operation parameters.
- As there is a limited tunnelling experience in the Midlands area, the available ground monitoring data through the HS2 project, would be a useful information for a future reference, on upcoming construction projects, planned to be built in the Mercia Mudstone formation.

Thank you...

Any Questions ?