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The Stratford Box – part of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link

Case Study 9

The Channel Tunnel rail link was one of the biggest engineering projects in the UK. Skanska was awarded three of the contracts that contributed to the provision of this high speed and sustainable transportation link between London and continental Europe.

Aspects of Sustainability

This project highlights the following:

Social Aspects

Human Resources
Corporate Community Involvement
Business Ethics
Health and Safety

Environmental Aspects

Energy and Climate
Materials
Ecosystems
Local Impacts

Economic Aspects

Project Selection
Supply Chain
Value Added



Project Introduction

One of Skanska's Channel Tunnel projects was the highly complex Stratford Box, part of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL). High environmental standards were demanded by the client, London & Continental Railways (LCR), who was selected by the UK Government to build and operate the high speed Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL). The CTRL is a Private-Public Partnership programme which established a set of minimum environmental standards, including a Code of Conduct Practice. The prestigious CTRL opened to much acclaim in November 2007.

High Environmental Standards

The client's Code of Conduct Practice established a series of objectives to protect the environment and

limit the disturbance caused by tunnel construction activities; the Code was developed in consultation with local authorities and other stakeholders. A sophisticated Environmental Management System was implemented to ensure that environmental issues were addressed and managed effectively during design and construction.

Environmental mitigation was at the heart of the project, during construction as well as operation. During the construction of the first section of the CTRL for example, 12 listed buildings were moved, 1.2 million plants and trees planted and 255 hectares of woodland created.

Ecology protected

Ecologists were responsible for an extensive programme of advanced works to relocate protected species and create new habitats.

Waste Management

Skanska implemented an innovative waste management programme which examined new ways to manage waste using supply chains and subcontractors to find new products and methods to promote waste minimization on site. The programme was highly successful, both from a financial savings and sustainability perspective; during the 10 months from the start of the programme it produced savings estimated at £6,000 per month compared to similar projects. The savings were the result of a change in work practice, using larger skips to provide easier access to materials which could be reused or recycled (i.e. wood for reuse) and adequate facilities for the segregation of materials.

It was for its novel waste management programme that the Stratford Box project won Skanska's Environmental Prize for outstanding environmental contribution 2001 in the category for construction projects.