

Hassocks Station - Access for All (AfA) Underground Solution



An aesthetically sympathetic design turns an existing subway into a 'step free access' solution without the need for a costly, intrusive overbridge.

Close proximity to residential housing, schools and businesses requires great planning and a 'just in time' delivery approach.

PROJECT	Access for All
CUSTOMER	Network Rail
STATION	Hassocks, Sussex
CONTRACT	NR Schedule of Amendments 2nd edition - ICE D&C
COMPLETION	June 2014
VALUE	£1.4m

Issue

Access and space were both in short supply for the installation of 'step free' access to platforms at Hassocks Station. The station is located immediately adjacent to residential and commercial property.

With the station positioned on an embankment combined with the close proximity of housing, a traditional bridge and lift solution was not ideal. The decision was taken to install lifts either side of the platform to connect with the existing underpass.

Solution

The contract was awarded as Design and Construct which reduced the interface risk for Network Rail.

Very tight access and the close proximity of housing, particularly on the south side, was a key consideration during design development.

To reduce noise and vibration to the adjacent subway, a silent piling solution was used. Normally the first pile is driven traditionally before the rig can be attached to start silent

the piling. However early discussions with our specialist piling contractor approved an innovative approach where the first pile was silently driven using stacked piles as kentledge. As a result noise and vibration was eliminated, there were no complaints and reputations were enhanced.

Access to the station and subway had to be maintained at all times for both business commuters and local school children using rail transport. Safety was paramount and clear routing and demarcation, segregated the public from the working areas.

'Just in time' material and plant deliveries were planned off-peak to reduce disruption to local roads, businesses and the school. This ensured that onsite storage was minimised to maintain parking and to assist with the passenger flow.

The critical breakthrough to connect the new lift shafts to the existing subway was completed during a weekend closure. Gaining a watertight seal between the new modern lift construction with the existing subway structure was a challenge which was overcome by careful detailing to keep the subway free from water ingress.

Proprietary brick cladding reflected the new station building completed under a separate by Stagecoach South West Trains and was

quick to install. Onsite adjustments to levels enabled the AfA solution to fit with the new building construction.

Outcome

The decision to install lifts to adapt the existing subway into a step free access has provided an aesthetically sympathetic AfA solution for the local community.

Careful logistical planning reduced disruption and enhanced reputations.

I would like to compliment the workers they have been very professional and fantastic.

Resident testimonial received by Robert Sue, Network Rail, Commercial Schemes Sponsor.

