What Atkins can offer

Atkins has one of Europe’s largest tunnelling groups working extensively in the rail industry on new light rail, metro, heavy rail projects and in the inspection and rehabilitation of existing infrastructure.

Atkins, through its size, is able to offer a fully multidisciplinary service to its clients who range from public bodies through Contractors to specialist clients in the legal and financial sectors.

We deliver:
• Contract management
• Geotechnical and engineering geology
• GIS and survey
• Structural assessment
• Civil design
• Settlement and associated impact evaluation
• Lighting, ventilation and E&M services
• Life safety engineering
• Operational evaluation and life cycle costing
• Risk management

Tunnelling skills & services include:
• Cut and cover tunnels
• Caverns and underground stations
• Railway, road and water tunnels
• Mechanised traditional soft ground and rock tunnels
• Shafts
• Directional drilling and thrust bore tunnelling
• Tunnel remedial works
• Expert services

Key contacts

If you are interested in discussing potential projects in any of the topic areas described in this leaflet please get in touch.

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Project experience

Channel Tunnel rail link, UK

Having successfully completed previous tunnelling projects with Nishimatsu, Atkins was appointed to provide tunnelling design services to the Joint Venture for this major section of the Channel Tunnel rail link project.

We provided detailed design services for both temporary and permanent works, including:

- design of a steel shove frame for the tunnel boring machine
- design of a steel propping frame for tunnel lining at cross passage openings
- structural assessment of Highbury and Islington stations and running tunnels.

Metro do Porto, Portugal

Following significant subsidence events in underground sections of the Metro do Porto, Atkins was asked to assist the insurers with claims and project risks by reviewing the suitability of the mitigation and remedial measures implemented by the Contractor. We carried out a detailed assessment of the TBM maintenance regime and undertook inspections during the construction of the underground stations to review and report on the implementation of the construction risk management procedures adopted by the Contractor. In addition, Atkins provided detailed reviews of the Contractor’s current working programme with particular reference to delays, programme achievability and construction risks.

Docklands Light Railway, Lewisham extension, UK

The Lewisham Extension to the Docklands Light Railway runs beneath the River Thames and Greenwich, and consists of twin 5.2m diameter bored running tunnels. Following our successful preparation of the outline design during the tender stage Atkins was commissioned to produce the detailed design for construction.

The latter formed the basis of a Building Risk Assessment which indicated those buildings at risk of damage, the nature of damage expected and the level of protection necessary to limit the damage to acceptable levels.

Docklands Light Railway, Woolwich Arsenal extension, UK

Working with scheme promoter DLR, part of Transport for London, Atkins developed early feasibility studies for the 2.5km railway extension comprising twin bored tunnels under the Thames and a new terminus station in Woolwich Town centre.

Services included the preparation of preliminary design, submission of supporting documentation for a Transport and Works Act, Works Order, support in public inquiry, supervision of marine ground investigation and preparation of concession documentation for the design-build-maintain PFI scheme.

West Rail Tsuen Wan West Station approach tunnels, Hong Kong

As part of the West Rail DD300 design contract, Atkins’ China office completed detailed design and construction supervision of approach tunnels to Tsuen Wan West Station. These comprised approximately 600m of cut and cover, tunnels which cross a congested area of reclaimed land.

Due to the high water table, different sections of the tunnels were designed as either founding on rock via diaphragm walls or “floating” where rockhead was deep. Both “top down” and “bottom up” construction methods were employed.