

AIRDRIE TO BATHGATE

- £200m project
- SRS carry and erect stanchions
- SRS run catenary and contact wires
- Special wire guidance pulley



Balfour Beatty's share of this £200 million project to complete a twin track electrified link between Edinburgh and Glasgow included the construction of new double track between Bathgate and Drumgelloch stations and doubling the single line from Drumgelloch and Airdrie.

Most of the steelwork for the overhead line equipment was moved to site and lifted into position using two SRS road rail lorries. Typically, these were loaded with 18 stanchions at the Ratho yard and driven to the road rail access point in advance of the possession.

As soon as this had been taken, they were driven to the worksite by rail. The stanchions protruded over the rear of the vehicles so HMF 2120 cranes were mounted at the front of the vehicles to assist with off loading and lifting into position on site.

Using SRS road rail equipment and operators an overhead line team ran the contact wires. A pair of hydraulically powered cable drums dispensed contact wire from the deck of a 25 tonne road rail lorry towing an SRS trailer carrying additional drums of cable. An HMF 2010 crane changed the drums when they were empty.

A second road rail truck on the adjacent track carried two linesmen on an elevated 350 kg work platform which was fitted with a special wire guidance pulley. The platform can rise up to 12 metres and withstand a maximum radial load of 2kN. The same team ran

the catenary wire in a similar manner.

For the return conductor a set of temporary pulleys was fixed to the rear of the stanchions. A pulling wire was run through these from a hydraulically powered cable drum on the back of an SRS lorry at one end of the site. The far end of the cable was fastened to the end of the return conductor wire which was mounted on a second braked drum carrier on another road rail truck. The return conductor wire was then winched into position so that the linesmen could clip it up and remove the temporary pulleys.

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