



“Ebbsfleet International display – delivering the impossible”

Prior to the completion and opening of Ebbsfleet Station, rail operators Southeastern decided they would like to have the mock up of the new Hitachi train which has been developed for them, on display within the station. This presented a couple of major logistical challenges:

EBBSFLEET INTERNATIONAL TRAIN INSTALLATION

- The train was considerably bigger than any of the doorways at the new station
- It had to be moved from Ashford to Ebbsfleet International via motorway links

After discussions with Arup Engineering, it was decided that the safest solution would be to dismantle part of the newly-completed glazed curtain walling. Accordingly – with a degree of disbelief – we submitted our proposal to Network Rail who finally agreed that the project could go ahead.

As well as removing a section of the glazed wall, the project also involved removal of suspended signage, and putting down a huge quantity of plywood to protect the terrazzo floor that had only been laid some four months earlier.

While the glass was being removed we arranged with Hallet Silberman and Ainscough Cranes for the section of train to be lifted and transported from Ashcroft to Ebbsfleet. Then, with careful manoeuvring, it was lifted and lowered on to two purpose-built bogies. With the use of two tugs, these enabled us to position the train section within the building. We then replaced the glazed frontage of the building and weatherproofed the structure.

Once this element was completed we then built two display areas either side of the train, with a wheelchair access ramp and viewing area for members of the public to look at the proposed design for the carriage interiors.

The final element of this project was to erect a 12m x 2.5m clear Perspex sign above the train. This was done using a combination of powder coated metalwork, clear and coloured Perspex shapes and letters to reflect the company logo.

project facts

- Full-size mock-up train transported by road
- Part removal of newly-completed glazed wall
- Train was carefully manoeuvred on to custom-designed bogies
- Wall rebuilt and weatherproofed



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