

KEY FACTS

- » Contract - Lee Tunnel - Phase 1 2010/14
- » Customer - MVB on behalf of Thames Water
- » Largest single pour - 11,282m³ in 720 hours
- » Technical challenges - Continuous slip-form

LEE TUNNEL

WHEN A LARGE SCALE ENGINEERING PROJECT IN EAST LONDON REQUIRED THE DEDICATED SERVICE AND EXPERTISE OF A LEADING CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS PARTNER - CEMEX ROSE TO THE CHALLENGE...



In 2010, Thames Water embarked on one of the largest projects they have ever undertaken. The Lee Tunnel project will see a major improvement to the current Victorian-era sewerage system in London, which currently discharges excess volumes into the local river networks on a weekly basis. The 4-mile long, £635m tunnel will handle around 39 million tonnes of sewerage a year and forms part of a large investment in the waste water handling throughout London.

→ THE CHALLENGE

The Main Contractor for the project was MVB, a joint venture between Morgan Sindall, VINCI and Bachy

Soletanche. MVB were looking for a readymixed concrete supplier to establish a presence on site and provide a dedicated service to the project. Such a large and complex project could not be supplied from existing facilities, so by utilising our vast experience in site batch operations, CEMEX put forward a detailed proposal that demonstrated the ability to provide a consistent and quality supply output to meet the heavy demands of the project. The supply of raw materials into the project was also a key concern, as any delays or stock ruptures could adversely affect not only the program, but also the quality and finish of the concrete being placed. A large amount of 'slip forming' and some very long pours would put this to the ultimate test.

→ THE SOLUTION

The main strength of the CEMEX offer was the use of the vertically integrated business units that make up CEMEX UK. Lead by the local Readymix business unit, the project has been supported by teams from our Logistics, Cement, Admixtures, Aggregates, Technical, Operations and Commercial departments, along with support from our Owner Drivers and other supply chain partners. Having all of this knowledge under one roof has allowed the establishment of a large and diverse team of experts, giving the Plant Manager access to the right people and information to resolve any issues or pre-empt any potential problems. Two site plants, including a Liebherr Betomix, were supplied and erected on site as well as material storage, loading and welfare facilities. This was complemented by a fleet of CEMEX trucks dedicated to the project, along with support from the local fleet to respond to fluctuations in demand.

→ THE OUTCOME

The project has seen some of the longest and most complicated pours ever undertaken by CEMEX. This included a 29 day continuous slip-form pour which saw a total of 1,537 loads delivered over the 720 hours. Behind this was over 1,000 loads of aggregate, 160 tankers of cement and a staggering 500 tonnes of steel fibres.



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