

# Channel Tunnel Rail Link – Contract 420

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**Client:**

Union Railways (North) Ltd

**Project Manager & Designer:**

Rail Link Engineering (RLE)

**Form of Contract:**

ECC Option C  
(Target Cost )

**Construction Period:**

1999-2002

**Value:**

£139 million

Contract 420 involves the construction of approximately 20km of high speed rail alignment, including significant bulk earthworks exceeding 4 million cubic metres, 15 retaining walls, 28 bridge structures and 4 cut & cover tunnels with a combined length exceeding 1km.

Other significant works include construction of a major landfill facility, off- line, to allow removal of existing tips sited on the route alignment.

A key feature of the project is the extensive highways interface. Much of the new rail line is parallel and immediately adjacent to busy sections of the M20 motorway and A20 trunk road. In addition, the alignment crosses many local roads, via newly constructed bridges.

The site posed some challenging environmental issues, such as the protection of 36 watercourses running through the site, translocation of ancient woodland soils and protected species of flora and fauna.

The project was carried out under a formal partnering agreement, with an integrated team working to achieve project goals.