



CASE STUDY

Canton Bogie Drop

Customer
Transport for Wales

Completion Date
March 2026

Location
Cardiff

PROJECT OVERVIEW

As part of the Transport for Wales (TfW) Core Valley Lines (CVL) transformation programme, Cairn Cross was appointed to design and construct a new, state-of-the-art bogie drop maintenance facility at Canton Depot, Cardiff.

The facility was developed to service and maintain TfW's new fleet of FLIRT vehicles, including 11 bi-mode and 24 tri-mode units, supporting the long-term modernisation of rail infrastructure across Wales.



THE CHALLENGE

Delivering this flagship facility within **a live operational depot environment and operational coordination**, presented several complex challenges.

The project required close coordination with Network Rail, Transport for Wales Rail, Pullmans, and National Grid Electricity Distribution (NGED). Cairn Cross maintained control of the delivery programme through proactive stakeholder management, detailed planning, and regular programme reviews.

A structured sequencing strategy ensured the efficient delivery of civils, structural works, utility diversions, and plant installation activities, with dependencies managed effectively throughout. Monthly programme reviews and flexible resequencing minimised disruption to depot operations while maintaining progress against key milestones.

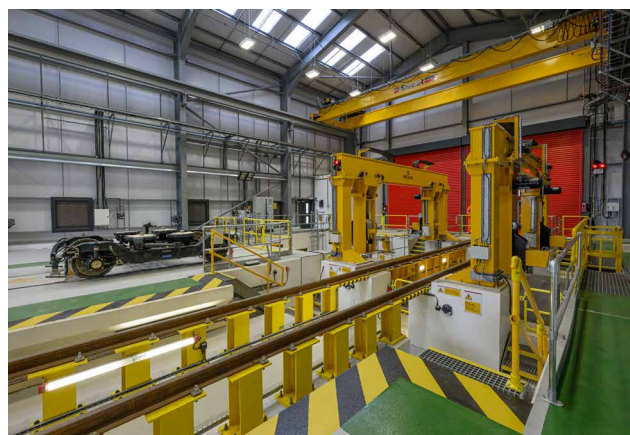
This collaborative and controlled approach was recognised and praised by Transport For Wales.



THE SOLUTION

Cairn Cross adopted an open, honest and pragmatic approach to project management, built on collaboration and transparency.

By combining technical expertise with adaptive planning, we ensured that operational railway activities could continue safely alongside major construction works.



THE RESULT

- **Exemplary Safety Performance:** Project completed over 300 days with 65,000 accident-free hours achieved with zero injuries recorded throughout the project.
- **Live Operational Depot Maintained:** All works delivered while Canton Depot remained fully operational, with no impact to maintenance activities.
- **Effective Stakeholder Management:** Successful coordination between TWF, Pullmans, Network Rail, and NGED.
- **Adaptive Programme Delivery:** Monthly programme reviews and resequencing ensured critical activities remained on track despite external delays.
- **Integrated Multi-Discipline Delivery:** Civils, track, structural steel, M&E, power infrastructure, and depot systems were successfully coordinated within a single delivery programme.
- **Client-Recognised Best Practice:** Cairn Cross' programme management approach was praised by the client and adopted as an example of best practice across other project packages.
- **Future-Proofed Infrastructure:** Delivery of a new bogie drop facility, upgraded power systems, and depot infrastructure to support the new FLIRT fleet and future operational requirements.
- **Collaborative Project Success:** Open communication, transparent planning, and strong contractor control fostered positive client and stakeholder relationships throughout the project.

The completed facility now plays a vital role in maintaining TfW's modern FLIRT fleet, supporting the long-term resilience and performance of rail services

For the full story - please visit www.cairncross.uk.com/projects/

CAIRN CROSS

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