



What's happening?

Best practice at Farringdon - cable management

Overview

One of the biggest challenges in transforming Farringdon station has been to keep the station open and services operating whilst moving and replacing the cabling and equipment that keep the station operating.

The station had three switchrooms of electrical equipment, used to isolate and convert the station's electrical supplies. The station upgrade required the demolition of all three switchrooms, and the equipment the rooms had housed relocated. As well as finding new, temporary, locations for the switchrooms, more than 10km of cabling had to be housed within the station. This had to be achieved without affecting the already overcrowded platforms or disrupting the operation of the station.

The innovative solution to the problem has been to use the space underneath platform 1 to house the cabling. Although the space was limited and working conditions confined, the cables have been stored neatly and efficiently. This has been through a free standing, modular cable management system (CMS) of shelving which has allowed the cables to run the length of the station without taking up space on the platforms.

Benefits

- Cabling has not had to be secured to a listed building, which would have required consent from the local authority and English Heritage - which could have delayed the programme
- Installation of the CMS in advance of the relocation of the switchrooms reduced delay to the programme
- Removal of the CMS at the end of the project leaving no permanent legacy
- Avoiding work in a public area of the station that would have been both unsightly and disruptive

Targets and objectives

The cable management system helped meet our targets and objectives in the following areas:

- SDC strategy - governance and project management; client and railway stakeholders; the historic environment
- CEEQUAL - archaeology and cultural heritage; relations with local community and stakeholders