

Byker viaduct enhancements

Byker viaduct was constructed in 1979 and consists of a conventional two track system directly fastened to a concrete support (PACT)

The existing track system was installed during construction of the viaduct and comprised BS 113A flat bottom rail on cast iron baseplates with Pandrol clips fastened to the track slab deck by anchors.

Over the years, about 30% of the existing anchors had worked loose and, despite remedial work, were proving ineffective. As a result, Novus Rail were commissioned by Nexus Tyne & Wear Metro to provide the following services:

- examine existing track system faults and reasons
- optioneer possible solutions
- determine the most effective track fastening system
- undertake surveys necessary for design purposes
- prepare a detailed design, including new track components
- provide project management and consultancy support
- prepare a detailed installation strategy
- provide site engineering support during installation
- handback assessments of the completed works

The works were successfully completed in late 2006 and the operator, track system, viaduct and rolling stock have all benefited from the new system.

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