

Kilbride Group Swindon Keypoint Rail Terminal

Location

Keypoint, Swindon

Client

Honda

Specialist infrastructure developer, Kilbride Group has taken over the Keypoint Swindon Rail Terminal and invested in an improved road access to allow cars from the neighbouring Honda car factory at Swindon direct access to the terminal.

At the end of 2007 Honda began exporting cars by rail to allow faster transportation of vehicles and reduce the associated environmental impact. Vehicle logistics company STVA operates the movement service for Honda.

Up to two trains a week run from the rail head, with each service transporting up to 243 Swindon-built cars to Honda's European Vehicle Logistics Operations in Gent, Belgium via the Channel Tunnel. It's estimated around 23,000 cars will be exported this way over the course of a year. These trains carry mostly 5-door and 3-door hatchback Civic models on double-decks.

Each train leaves Swindon at approximately 4pm and arrives at Gent, Belgium at 7am the next morning. The rail operation reduces the risk of damage to the cars and speeds up the distribution process by moving cars in bulk. This improves the cost effectiveness of the operation enabling rail to compete with road.

Almost 3,000 trucks a year will be taken off the road following the re-opening. Replacing trucks with trains will halve the annual CO2 emissions for one of the key deliveries into Europe. 1 road truck can transport 8 cars so 1 train service could effectively take 30 trucks off the road.

The Kilbride Swindon terminal represents another investment in rail freight infrastructure on behalf of a major industrial customer by the Kilbride Group, following on from the Jaguar Castle Bromwich facility.

