

## Press Release

### London Bridge station design team celebrates completion of landmark project

19<sup>th</sup> July 2018

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

London Bridge station has received its royal re-opening by His Royal Highness Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge. The celebration marked the end of a £1bn redevelopment project which has transformed the station, catalysing the London Bridge Quarter and connecting millions more passengers to the capital's transport network.

The station is the lynchpin of the Thameslink Programme's government-funded commitment to improving London's transport infrastructure between the north and south of the city. Its grand opening marks the final chapter of the station's ambitious redevelopment which has been a collaborative effort between engineers Arcadis and WSP, who partnered for a joint venture, and architects Grimshaw, Costain, and Network Rail.

Construction started on site in 2013, and since then the design team has worked together to resolve the technically challenging project in both scale and demand. The resulting design gives careful consideration to its heritage context and surrounding communities, as well as its practical status as one of the UK's most used stations. Due to a modular design technique with off-site construction, the station was open to the public throughout the redevelopment.

London Bridge station is designed to regenerate Southwark with a permeable design linking the station to the public realm at multiple points. Two new entrances on Tooley Street and St Thomas Street provide a modern response to nearby Victorian arches, seamlessly marrying the old with the new and demonstrating the station's status as a quintessential London building.

There are two key architectural concepts for London Bridge station. The first provides an expansive concourse and civic space that can accommodate increased passenger numbers and facilitate a quicker and easier interchange. Larger in size than the pitch of Wembley Stadium, the new concourse is 80m wide and 165m long and provides a generous public space which accommodates 50 million annual journeys and creates an environment where visitors can spend time in between travel with an array of high-quality retail and café offerings.

Another key architectural concept was to design with construction in mind; London Bridge is a major interchange and only two platforms at a time could be removed. Grimshaw designed the scheme to be modular and constructed off-site wherever possible, and this can be seen in the development of the roof as a series of ribbons which comprise 1,200 pre-fabricated cassettes. The canopies are designed to be read as one structure with unifying roof lights in the concourse to signal the importance of the space.

Engineered elements including bridge deck columns, crossheads and Y-shape columns are expressed and actively celebrated. At the more 'human scale' and to balance the grey and steel palette, warm materials bring warmth to the space, such as the red cedar timber soffit in the concourse.

Mark Middleton, Partner at Grimshaw said, "The successful delivery of London Bridge station is a highly complex feat of design and engineering. As architects, our vision for the station was to create a great civic space that connected two communities, and respected its Victorian heritage whilst providing a modern, functional and enjoyable experience for train

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passengers. It is a bold scheme, and its below track concourse is not only unique but also the largest in our country; it is a transformational project for Southwark and for London.”

Darren Reed, Managing Director – Rail at WSP, said, “We are very proud of the comprehensive role we have played in delivering the Thameslink Programme and the iconic London Bridge station, a journey that began for us a decade ago. Robust early construction and operational planning combined with effective design and integration of every team involved in this complicated programme has allowed us to hit every major milestone while keeping the station open for millions of passengers.”

Chris Pike, UK Rail Director at Arcadis, said: “From reconfiguring track layouts to creating a new concourse that is two-thirds larger than before, the upgrade work at London Bridge station was a truly remarkable feat of design and engineering. London Bridge has an iconic status as one of the country’s key transport hubs, both in scale and in its unique heritage location, and it was important for us to respect this history, whilst also ensuring the station and our wider transport network is equipped to meet the demands of a growing population and modern passenger needs long into the future.”

Simon Blanchflower, Major Programme Director at Network Rail said: “Working with Grimshaw, we’ve rebuilt London Bridge station, transforming central London’s oldest station into a station fit for the 21st century by making it modern, spacious and fully accessible. This has all been achieved while keeping London’s fourth busiest station open for the 50 million passengers that use the station each year. London Bridge is now a world-class transport facility. To be able to create such a striking and unique station despite all of the challenges presented by the project is a fantastic achievement.”

With an increase in ‘through’ platforms from six to nine and a reduction in terminus platforms from nine to six, London Bridge now offers increased capacity for the expected passenger numbers of up to 90 million per year.

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High resolution photos can be downloaded via ftp:

<https://grimshaw.ftpstream.com/17902/2be4444810547885050925b107cb5a4e/high%2bres%2bimages%2bLondon%2bBridge%2bstation.zip>

All photographs ©Paul Raftery.

#### About Grimshaw

Grimshaw is an award-winning, international architectural practice with offices in Los Angeles, New York, London, Doha, Dubai, Kuala Lumpur, Melbourne and Sydney employing over 550 staff. The practice’s international portfolio covers all major sectors and has been honoured with over 200 international design awards including the prestigious Lubetkin Prize.

Grimshaw is dedicated to the deepest level of involvement in the design of their buildings in order to deliver projects which meet the highest possible standards of excellence. The

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company's work is characterised by strong conceptual legibility, innovation and a rigorous approach to detailing, all underpinned by the principles of humane, enduring and sustainable design. Notable transport projects include: International Terminal Waterloo (London, UK); HS2 Euston Station (London, UK); Fulton Center (New York, USA) and Southern Cross Station (Melbourne, Australia).

<https://grimshaw.global>

#### About WSP

WSP is one of the world's leading engineering professional services consulting firms. We are dedicated to our local communities and propelled by international brainpower. We are technical experts and strategic advisors including engineers, technicians, scientists, architects, planners, surveyors and environmental specialists, as well as other design, program and construction management professionals. We design lasting solutions in the Property & Buildings, Transportation & Infrastructure, Environment, Industry, Resources (including Mining and Oil & Gas) and Power & Energy sectors as well as project delivery and strategic consulting services.

With 7,800 talented people in the UK and more than 42,000 globally, we engineer projects that will help societies grow for lifetimes to come. WSP has been involved in many high-profile UK projects including the Shard, Crossrail, Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Manchester Metrolink, M1 Smart Motorway, the re-development of London Bridge Station, and the London Olympic & Paralympic Route Network.

[www.wsp.com/uk](http://www.wsp.com/uk)

#### About Arcadis

Arcadis is the leading global Design & Consultancy firm for natural and built assets. Applying our deep market sector insights and collective design, consultancy, engineering, project and management services we work in partnership with our clients to deliver exceptional and sustainable outcomes throughout the lifecycle of their natural and built assets. We are 27,000 people active in over 70 countries that generate €3.4 billion in revenues. We support UN-Habitat with knowledge and expertise to improve the quality of life in rapidly growing cities around the world. Arcadis. Improving quality of life.

#### Thameslink Programme

The Government-sponsored £7bn Thameslink Programme is an ambitious 10 year programme to transform north-south travel through London. It is delivering new longer and more spacious trains running every 2 to 3 minutes through central London in the peak, improved connections to more destinations on an expanded Thameslink network including Cambridge and Peterborough and more robust tracks and modern signalling using digital railway technology to make journeys more reliable. The Programme has also completely rebuilt stations at Blackfriars and London Bridge. “

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The Thameslink Programme is being delivered in partnership between the Department for Transport, Network Rail, Govia Thameslink Railway, Southeastern and Siemens.

#### Network Rail

We own, operate and develop Britain's railway infrastructure; that's 20,000 miles of [track](#), 30,000 [bridges, tunnels and viaducts](#) and the thousands of [signals](#), level crossings and stations. We run 20 of the UK's largest [stations](#) while all the others, over 2,500, are run by the country's [train operating companies](#).

Every day, there are more than 4.7 million journeys made in the UK and over 600 freight trains run on the network. People depend on Britain's railway for their daily commute, to visit friends and loved ones and to get them home safe every day. Our role is to deliver [a safe and reliable railway](#), so we carefully manage and deliver thousands of projects every year that form part of the [multi-billion pound Railway Upgrade Plan](#), to grow and expand the nation's railway network to respond to the tremendous growth and demand the railway has experienced - a doubling of passenger journeys over the past 20 years.

We are building a better railway for a better Britain.

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