

## Medway Tunnel, Kent, UK

**Client:** Kent County Council  
**Design:** Mott McDonald / BAM Infraconsult  
**Construction:** BAM Civiel bv (as joint venture partner)  
**Contract value:** € 105,000,000  
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# BAM Civiel

The tunnel under the River Medway in the English county of Kent was built under a design and construct contract. The overall length of the tunnel is 1,460 metres: 370 metres of submerged sections, 355 metres built in situ as a closed tunnel and 735 metres of open cutting for the two entrances. The tunnel has two sets of double lanes and the eastern entrance also has acceleration and deceleration lanes. The eastern entrance was built using underwater concrete in a construction pit made from steel sheet piling. The walls were combi-walls and were driven in by BAM Groundtechnique. The three submerged sections were built in this pit. When the tide was suitable, the elements

were moved out and prepared for submerging. Two pairs of pontoons joined by cross-beams to form 'catamarans' were floated over the elements, which were then attached to the beams by the winch cables that would control their descent into the dredged trench. Tugs and winches on the bank were used to position the sections above the trench. Once the tunnel elements were in place in the trench, sand was injected under them to provide support. Tide differences of up to five metres and the subsequent strong current made it extremely difficult to organise a float-position-submerge cycle within a maximum blocking period of 36 hours.