

HOBSON BAY SEWER TUNNEL AUCKLAND, HOBSON BAY

WIRAND FIBRE PRECAST SEGMENT

Product: Wirand Steel Fibres - FF3

Problem

For over 90 years a reinforced concrete sewer pipe has graced Hobson Bay near Auckland in New Zealand. Not only the location and the appearance of this structure, but also its deteriorating state led to the decision to replace this pipe with a tunnel underneath the bay. The removal of the above ground sewer pipe would also open up the bay for the recreational purposes and other uses.

Solution

To meet the future requirements of Auckland and to virtually eliminate overflows into Hobson Bay a tunnel of three kilometres in length with an internal diameter of 3.70m was proposed. The tunnel route extended across Hobson Bay from the pumping station in Orakei to Logan Terrace Parnell. The depth of the tunnel varied from 40m underneath the Hobson Bay up to a 95m below the Orakei Ridge.

The initial design suggested a TBM (Tunnel Boring Machine) driven tunnel lined with precast concrete segments reinforced with conventional welded rebar reinforcement (120kg per segment). To improve the engineering process and reduce production costs, Wilson Tunnelling Ltd put forward the concept of using steel fibres to reinforce the segments. This approach to totally replace conventional reinforcement with steel fibres was developed further and reviewed by the segment led design team from Barbendererde Ingenieure GmbH, based in Germany. The design values for steel fibre concrete used in calculations and structural analysis were verified from beam tests carried out at the Institute of Construction Materials Technology at Ruhr-University of Bochum in Germany.

Two fibres types one being Maccaferri Wirand Fibre, FF3 were considered for the beam tests which used the same Greywacke aggregate and concrete mix provided by Wilson Tunnelling. Three fibre dosages of 30, 40 and 50kg/m³ were considered in the tests.

Client name:

WATERCARE SERVICES

Main contractor name:

MCCONNELL DOWELL - FLETCHERS JV

Tunnel Segments Precaster name:

WILSON TUNNELLING LTD

Consultant:

BARBENDERERDE INGENIEURE GmbH, GERMANY

Product used:

WIRAND STEEL FIBRES - FF3

Construction date:

JUNE 2008 - FEBRUARY 2009



Wilson Tunnelling production facility



Doso machine installed at the production facility



Completed segments ready for delivery

The test results clearly showed that Wirand FF3 provided the best results in terms of workability and performance when compared to the other fibre tested having the same diameter but with a longer fibre length. Wirand FF3, with its shorter length and same wire diameter, has 20% more fibres per unit weight, which improves its effectiveness in preventing cracks, thus improving its ductility.

The Hobson Bay Sewer Tunnel was the first earth pressure balance TBM excavated tunnel in New Zealand. In addition, the very high productivity rate and the extremely low damage rate of the segments reinforced with Wirand Fibres resulted in considerable cost savings. Steel fibre reinforced concrete significantly improves the impact strength of the segment due to improved ductility. This is especially essential for segment handling and installation.



View of Hobson Bay Tunnel from the Shaft



View of the tunnel installed segment lining in the Hobson Bay Tunnel

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Quality System AS/NZS ISO 9001:2000

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