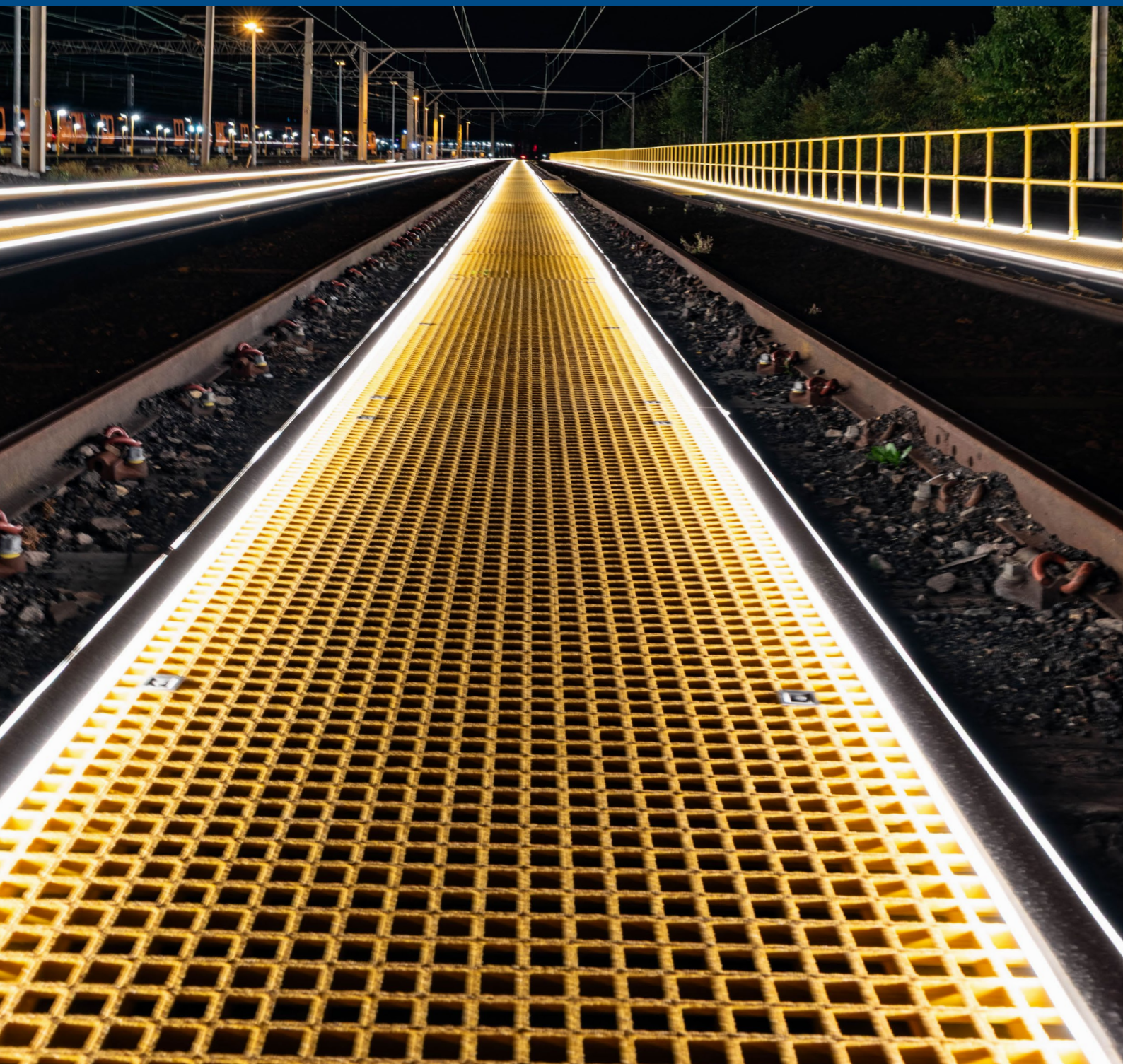




Case study
Bespoke LED walkway lighting
Bletchley Train Maintenance Depot



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Background

When West Midlands Trains required safe, unobstructed lighting for narrow maintenance walkways at Bletchley TMD, the project team

turned to Holophane for a tailored solution. Working closely with the specifier and installer, we delivered a low-profile LED strip lighting system

within a bespoke channel that ensures clear, compliant illumination without introducing trip hazards or physical obstructions.



In such a tight space, a traditional lighting system simply wouldn't have worked. The Holophane LED strip was quick to install, provided excellent light levels, and didn't get in the way of operations. It was a genuine team effort with clear communication between Holophane, Taylor Woodrow, and our team. The client was delighted with the result, and I'd recommend this approach for any similar rail project."

Ben Tilley, MEP Foreman, March Engineering

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Challenge

The 1m-wide walkways within Bletchley TMD were unlit, creating a clear safety risk during night operations and low-light conditions. While there was no previous lighting in place, the opportunity arose because West Midlands Trains are continually striving to do better and improve the working environment for their teams.

Traditional column-based lighting was initially considered but quickly dismissed because it would:

- **Reduce clearance in already narrow spaces**
- **Introduce obstructions along operational routes**
- **Increase the potential for maintenance issues in confined areas**

To comply with industry standards for depot safety and inspection lighting, the solution needed to achieve 10 lux inwards onto the

footpath and 50 lux outwards onto the train side for rolling stock inspection. These figures are drawn from recognised rail lighting guidelines to ensure both safe access for personnel and sufficient illumination for visual inspections.

Taylor Woodrow, the project's specifier, brought Holophane in at an early stage after reviewing an alternative supplier's proposal. The goal was to meet required light levels, comply with safety requirements, and maintain clear access along the full walkway length.

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The Solution

Holophane, working alongside Taylor Woodrow, West Midlands Trains and March Engineering, delivered a tailored LED strip lighting system that provides safe, compliant and obstruction-free illumination.

Key features of the solution included:

- Low-profile LED strips fixed directly to the walkway structure to avoid obstruction
- In-house lux testing to ensure compliance with the project's illumination requirements

- Flexible solution — both in the physical flexibility of the product and the adaptability of the design to meet unique site conditions
- Side lighting installed at a 45° tilt, a design choice made to achieve the required 50 lux efficiently while avoiding obstructions and unnecessary light spill
- Silicone strips, added after installation, to prevent the LED strips from edging out of the extrusion and hold them securely in place

- Train-facing lights manually controlled by switches, walkway lights operating via photocell sensors for energy efficiency
- 5-year warranty to provide long-term performance assurance
- Robust, sealed LED housings suitable for challenging depot environments

This design achieved uniformity, glare-controlled lighting across the full length of the walkway without compromising operational space.



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Collaboration in action

West Midlands Trains – defined operational and safety priorities.

Taylor Woodrow – identified design challenges and engaged Holophane early in the process.

Holophane – designed, tested, and supplied the lighting solution.

March Engineering – installed the system to meet rail safety and operational standards.



The walkways were completely unlit, which created a serious safety concern for our teams working at night. Keeping the walkways clear of obstructions was critical, and Holophane's low-profile approach was the perfect fit. The new lighting has transformed visibility and made inspections much safer and more efficient. We're confident in its long-term performance and would absolutely consider rolling it out at other depots.

Tony Redfern, Construction Manager, West Midlands Trains



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