Rail Innovation & Development Centres (RIDC)

Acting as enablers for new and modified technology within the rail industry, in a safe and reliable testing environment.

RIDC Melton
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Who Are We?

Network Rail owns and operates RIDC Melton and RIDC Tuxford; the RIDC team are part of the Safety, Technical and Engineering directorate within Network Rail. These two strategically important test facilities provide a safe operational environment for the testing of new and modified rolling stock, plant, on-track machines, infrastructure, equipment and technology.

The RIDC team prides itself on working collaboratively with all current and prospective customers to deliver their testing requirements. The RIDC’s are truly representative of the operational railway and include many characteristics found on the national network.

Where Are We?

RIDC Tuxford is located 15 miles north of Newark in Nottinghamshire, off the Robin Hood line, between Thoresby Junction and High Marnham.

RIDC Melton is located at Asfordby Business Park, 3 miles from Melton Mowbray Station. It can be accessed off the Leicester to Peterborough line.

RIDC Melton

RIDC Melton is a purpose built test track for the testing of rolling stock, plant, on-track machines, infrastructure and equipment. The facility has been designed to support high and low speed testing of vehicles and infrastructure using 25kV (11 miles) overhead line equipment and 3rd/4th rail DC equipment. RIDC Melton has two separate test tracks, high speed test facility between Melton Junction and Edwalton, incorporating 13 miles of track up to 125mph and a slow speed test track from Old Dalby to Stanton tunnel, having 4 miles of track capable of up to 60mph.

Facilities

- 3 workshop roads
- 1 fully pitted road
- Lifting and jacking facility
- 415v shore supply
- Stabling
- Dedicated office space
- Ability to change infrastructure characteristics

Available Testing

- TSI high speed noise compliant testing
- Maximum over cant deficiency testing
- Overspeed testing
- Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) testing
- Brake performance testing
- Wheel Slide Protection (WSP)
- Single/dual pantograph testing
- Coupling compatibility testing
- Rescue and recovery
- Surge pressure testing in tunnels
- Low adhesion testing

RIDC Tuxford

RIDC Tuxford spurred off the Robin Hood line, between Thoresby Junction and High Marnham, it is 10 miles of single line test track with a 3 mile double section, with testing speeds capabilities of up to 75mph. It comprises a short section of non-live 25kV type catenary, a short section of non-live 3rd/4th rail. It offers a perfectly suited facility to develop rail vehicles, technology, equipment and to deliver operator training and competence assessments.

Facilities

- Office & mess facilities
- Sidings
- Stabling
- Dummy OLE
- Dummy 3rd & 4th rail
- Ability to change infrastructure characteristics

Types of Testing

- RIS-1530-PLT rail plant test site offering bespoke capabilities and this is unique in the UK. It has all of the required infrastructure parameters for compliance with railway industry standards, applicable to new and modified on-track machines on one site.
- Tamper and Stoneblower training area
- Thimbling training area
- Adhesion test sites up to 1.25 W6A vehicle gauge
- Lifting training site
- Handbrake testing
- Slip brake testing equipment