Tame revival

GLASS FIBRE flat bar anchors are helping support temporary works during piling for a new rail bridge over the River Tame in Staffordshire.

The line, part of the West Coast Mainline Railway Network, is now being upgraded with a new high-speed track which is being installed by main contractor Birse Rail.

The line will be diverted onto the new bridge being built alongside the original one. The old bridge will be replaced with a second new bridge later in the project.

Foundation contractor Systems Geotechnique installed 106, 600mm diameter CFA piles for the pier foundations and bankseat using its new Klemm 709-1 restricted access and low headroom rig for the first phase of work.

The firm also installed ground anchors to pre-stress the sheet piled retaining walls which are part of the temporary works needed to give access to the piling level.

The 18m to 21m long ground anchors were installed at an angle of 35°. They comprise a mixture of 32mm steel hollow bar anchors and Durglass FL glass fibre flat bar anchors, supplied by Italian manufacturer Sireg.

This is the first time Systems Geotechnique has used this type of tie bar in the UK. Measuring 40mm by 8mm, the tie bars are designed for a maximum load of 188kN.

They were chosen because piling for the second bridge may require boring through some of the anchors.

The first phase of work is due to be finished in May, with phase two completing in June 2007.