

SWR's Island Line upgrade gets prestigious sustainability rating

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Work boosting sustainability and biodiversity has meant **SWR's** £26 million Island Line upgrade has earned a top environmental rating.

The leading sustainability assessment and rating scheme, CEEQUAL, gave the project a 'Good' rating, which means sustainable development was considered and implemented throughout the project.

This is the first time **SWR** has completed a CEEQUAL assessment, and this rating reflects its commitment to sustainable working.

- **New e-bikes installed at two SWR stations**
- **SWR announce new partner charities**
- **SWR keeps Class 707 trains for longer to help capacity**

Key sustainability successes included engagement with Natural England and the Isle of Wight Council to ensure that the project resulted in no net biodiversity loss; the installation of platform overlays at six stations to reduce waste by avoiding demolition of existing platforms and the reuse of excavated ballast

and copper stones and FSC certified timber products. **SWR** was also praised for the level of stakeholder engagement taking place and the local partnership links that were formed during the project.

The £26 million upgrade of the Island Line – which was completed last year – has transformed the railway's trains, infrastructure and stations, vastly improving the service SWR is able to offer islanders and visitors alike.

Amy Dickinson, SWR's Head of Sustainability, said "We are absolutely delighted that SWR's ongoing commitment to sustainability has been recognised in this way. The Island Line Upgrade was the first SWR project to be assessed by CEEQUAL and the 'Good' assessment demonstrates that environmental sustainability was at the forefront of the project throughout."