

Chester Zoo is a zoological garden located in Cheshire, north west England. It was opened in 1931 by George Mottershead and is one of the UK's largest zoos at 110 acres.

Project Brief

The zoo has a total land holding of approximately 400 acres (1.6 km²). Chester Zoo is operated by the North of England Zoological Society, a registered charity founded in 1934. It is the most-visited zoo in Britain with more than 1.3 million visitors in 2007. In the same year Forbes described it as one of the best fifteen zoos in the world. A monorail transportation system called the Zoofari Railway helps visitors circulate and see the animals from a different perspective.

“It was necessary for us to upgrade the communications of the monorail to meet the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) new standards. We viewed this as a great opportunity to upgrade the site network. Four fibres were allocated to the monorail; the other twenty fibres will be used to extend and improve the network services throughout the zoo. With the help of IP Networks (Europe) Ltd we decided on a 2km ring strapped to the underside of the Monorail; we then placed 18 breakout boxes around this loop giving us maximum flexibility to reach each animal enclosure, two restaurants, bar and café, shops and kiosks. The spurs out to each area will be eight core fibre. Primary use will be gigabit Ethernet for EPOS and a number of other applications.

We have been delighted to date with the quality of service and the products. Everything ran smoothly. The hard part was running the fibre through some of the enclosures...”

Martin King, IT Systems Supervisor

“We had put forward three possible designs for the IT department and the monorail engineers to consider. Once the design was agreed a detailed workflow and time management plan was organised; due to the work being done while the zoo was open, health and safety issues and access within the animal enclosures. Weather tents, tables and splice tools were used to create a safe, reliable termination area and after 16 days we had installed the 2km of fibre overhead and spliced 846 fibres. Good communication with the IT staff was key. Overall the project was very interesting and educational, there were no installation issues or faults. We are pleased that we are continuing a good working relationship with Chester Zoo.”

Craig Bibby, Managing Director of IP Networks

Project Scope Overview	
Customer:	Chester Zoo
Installer:	IP Networks
Site Location:	Chester
Requirements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 core multimode 50/125 fibre optic ring installed under the monorail which follows a 2km circular route of the zoo. • 18 IP66 termination boxes spliced with Connectix ST pigtails. • 864 Connectix ST pigtails fusion spliced onsite with Fujikura FSM-60S splicer. • Primary use for the fibre ring is to support the new monorail control systems but also supports gigabit Ethernet for administration and EPOS systems.
Equipment:	Multimode fibre optic ring

