

Blackwall Tunnel Refurbishment

Client :
Transport for London

Designer :
Mott MacDonald

Location :
London

Date :
2010 - 2012



BAM Nuttall was awarded the contract for the refurbishment of the northbound carriageway of the Blackwall Tunnel in east London. The northbound tunnel was opened in 1897, is 1,364m long and carries one of London's busiest commuter roads under the River Thames.

The primary objective was to make sure the tunnel remained open to the travelling public at the agreed times. This required disciplined project management to progress the works as efficiently as possible within each shift period and was successfully achieved.

The contract was split into two parts comprising internal works to the tunnel bore itself and refurbishment works to four of the ventilation shafts. The works to the shafts included replacement of the existing ventilation fans and the fan floors, the removal of the existing concrete roofs (which were replaced with modern smoke vents) and the installation of new access stairs. New service lifts were installed in two of the shafts.

Engagement and liaison with all affected bodies on this main arterial route through London was fundamental to the project's success. We were proactive in attending the regular liaison meetings and meeting the many other stakeholders and public bodies involved. All closures were notified via VMS, newspapers, radio, public meetings and mail drops.

When work started in February 2010 the refurbishment was expected to take three years to complete. However, the excellent progress BAM Nuttall made on the refurbishment meant the safety upgrade was completed 13 months ahead of initial projections, in time for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games in July 2012.

"Completing this project 13 months early and with fewer weekend closures than we originally anticipated is a massive achievement and one that Londoners will welcome."

Garrett Emmerson - TfL Chief Operating Officer for London Streets

BAM Nuttall Ltd
St James House, Knoll Road,
Camberley, Surrey. GU15 3XW

Tel: 01276 63484
E-mail: headoffice@bamnuttall.co.uk
www.bamnuttall.co.uk