

# Owen Street Relief Road

**Client :**  
Sandwell MBC

**Designer :**  
Halcrow

**Location :**  
Tipton, West Midlands

**Date :**  
2007 - 2010



In April 2004, BAM Nuttall was appointed as Sandwell's preferred contractor for the Owen Street Relief Road project, located in Tipton Town. The objective of the scheme was to replace a level crossing located on the West Coast mainline with an underbridge.

Over the following 3 years, BAM Nuttall, in an Early Contractor Involvement role, assisted the Employer in gaining planning and funding approval, by carrying out risk identification and mitigation works, including further site investigation works and developing essential designs to enable statutory approvals to be secured.

In August 2007, after receiving Government funding approval, Sandwell awarded BAM Nuttall the design and construct contract

## The Scheme

The underbridge structure is a 56m long by 15m wide by 9m high reinforced concrete tunnel, constructed adjacent to the railway embankment. The underbridge was installed successfully using box jacking techniques during a 101 hour blockade of the line during Easter 2009.

Substantial temporary works were required for the casting pit in which to construct the underbridge. Ground conditions were very poor with a great deal of loose made ground left over from former mining and canal works in the area. Closely spaced, pre-cast concrete driven piles, founded on the underlying rockhead were installed to support the jacking base structure of the casting pit.

Other works in the scheme include:

- A new canal bridge and access road to an existing boat yard located on the Birmingham canal
- Relocation of a commuter car park
- Rail works, including OHLE modifications, S and T diversions and P-Way works
- Earthworks, including redevelopment of adjacent playing fields using the inert spoil from the underbridge site
- Treatment of mine shafts and contaminated ground
- 350m long urban highway to connect the tunnel with the local road network.

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