

The Prison Tunnel

Dreweatt Berrys' Surveyors Graham Bowcock and Sarah Rawlins were presented with an interesting plan of Shrewsbury Railway Station, which showed a tunnel leading from the adjacent prison. Luckily site investigations revealed that inmates trying to escape had not breached the disused railway tunnel.

Network Rail needed to gain access to the tunnel to fill it as it is now abandoned. This involved negotiations with Arriva Trains Wales who operate Shrewsbury Station. Contractors have temporarily taken over part of a Station car park in order to access the tunnel and provide staff welfare facilities. Dreweatt Berrys undertook these negotiations in conjunction with representatives of Network Rail and their contractors.



In addition to the tunnel in-fill, bridge parapets required replacement and this led to a visit to the prison (this was the first time!). One of the parapets forms the boundary to the prison car park and access for cranes and materials needs to be taken through the car park. The Prison Service Property Department have been involved and negotiations have been ongoing to provide them with alternative parking for the duration of the works. The Nature of the prison means that it is staffed twenty-four hours a day with staff on shifts. They never have a quiet time and don't even get to rest at weekends or bank holidays. Consequently their requirements have had to be fully accommodated.

Works are still ongoing on the Station car park at the time of writing.

www.dreweatt-berrys.co.uk

Email: enquiries@dreweatt-berrys.co.uk