

CRL gives new life to Drewstead Bridge

Concrete Repairs Ltd (CRL) have recently completed the repairs and installation of a cathodic protection system on the Drewstead Road Bridge in Streatham Hill, London. The bridge which carries the B221 across the main railway line is a significant transport route for Lambeth, with bus routes, commuting pedestrians, heavy goods and light vehicles constantly crossing the bridge. The bridge, built in 1968, comprises precast, prestressed concrete bridge beams spanning the railway lines, supported by two sets of four circular columns and a crosshead beam.

In 2012, it became evident that repairs to the superstructure and supporting columns and crosshead beams were required, and in 2014 the bridge underwent a large-scale refurbishment to address problems and extend the life of the structure.

Working with Free4M Consulting, a programme of testing by CRL Surveys determined the extent of the problem and enabled a suitable repair option to be presented to the client. The agreed solution consisted of a combination of concrete repairs, with an impressed current cathodic protection (ICCP) system to the portal crossheads. Hydrodemolition was used to first remove all loose, spalling concrete and to get behind the reinforcing, with the repairs being carried out using a combination of hand placed material, and a poured/cast micro-repair concrete. The cathodic protection system, a mesh and overlay was then installed over the entire area of the crosshead beams.



Early contractor involvement, a proactive client and a forward-thinking engineer ensured the works were completed on time, to budget and to the client's satisfaction.

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