

# Securing railway arches

A tailored solution for a complex problem



## Background

Railway arches are tucked away below many of the UK's historic railway tracks and provide a fantastic opportunity as premises for a wide range of small businesses. However, when an arch becomes vacant, it acts like a magnet for illegal activity such as vandalism, illegal raves and even cannabis farms.

In January 2021, there were reports of vandalism and illegal entry when a rave took place in a vacant railway arch near the Olympic Stadium in London during a pandemic lockdown. Complaints by the public about the noise were made to both police and the landlord, the Arch Company, leading them to urgently need the site secured against future break-ins.

During the site survey, concerns were raised that the recommended security measures could cause damage to the exterior old brickwork of the railway arch.

## Solution

The unique shape of a railway arch presents its own challenges when security is required, not least because they tend to be open at both ends of the 'tunnel'.

Clearway's tailored solution was to construct bespoke wooden frames that were tied into the brickwork, and to which our team secured steel sheets, thereby minimising any damage when compared to securing steel sheets directly onto the building exterior.



## Key Services

-  Site survey
-  Steel security sheets
-  Temporary concrete barriers



The opposite end of the arch was partially bricked-up to incorporate an access point for authorised personnel. The existing roller shutter was locked with only a standard lock and was frequently broken into. Our team constructed an additional wooden frame to cover the shutters, to which steel sheets were secured and a steel keyless door was installed. As the arch also included a car park, concrete blocks were positioned around the perimeter to deter vehicle access and illegal fly-tipping.

## Outcome

The installation of concrete perimeter blocks ensured no further instances of illegal vehicle access and fly-tipping. The addition of a keyless steel security door allowed controlled access for contractors and potential tenants and prevented any more instances of illegal entry. The general condition of the building was upheld with no further deterioration to the premises.

Due to lack of vehicular access no more anti-social behavior or criminal damage was reported on site. The Arch Company were very happy with the quick and effective security solution we provided at this location.

To date, Clearway have successfully secured more than 85 railway arch sites, many of which have benefitted from additional services such as wireless alarm systems and security guards.

T: 01322 479652 E: [enquiries@clearwayservices.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@clearwayservices.co.uk)

[www.clearway.co.uk](http://www.clearway.co.uk)     

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