

## NEW STREET SIGNAL BOX, NAVIGATION STREET (AREA C)

### GRAHAM LENG-WARD

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New Street Signal box was built between 1964 and 1966, designed by Bicknell and Hamilton (firm) in collaboration with Ray Moorcroft, British Rail's regional architect for the London Midland region.

The building operated as a power signal box, meaning that it controlled points and signals by electricity rather than the traditional levers and frames, until it closed on Christmas Eve 2022. Birmingham rail traffic is now controlled from a state-of-the-art centre in the city's Saltley area.

The restricted site produced a compact, forceful four storey structure, clad in massively rough precast concrete. The shape of the building is unique due to the congested nature of the site, hemmed in by railway tracks at below ground and local roads at street level.

The box was designated a grade II listed building on 24 November 1995, along with several other post-war railway buildings including Coventry railway station, as part of a re-evaluation of such structures.

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