



What's happening?

Best practice at Farringdon - managing heritage impacts

Overview

Farringdon station was the terminus of the world's first underground railway, the Metropolitan Railway, which ran from Farringdon to Paddington. Built in 1865 its front building, designed by Charles Walter Clark, was built in 1922.

The historic and architectural importance of the station is recognised in it being afforded statutory protection as a grade II listed building. As such, any works to the station which affect its special character and/or its appearance must be authorised by the local planning authority via the granting of listed building consent. Furthermore, English Heritage can direct the local planning authority on whether or not to grant listed building consents and what conditions needs to be attached to any consent.

To manage the listed building issues that must be considered, Network Rail has obtained additional assistance and advice from specialists with extensive expertise and experience in dealing with heritage structures, construction methods and the associated consents processes. A Heritage Advisor and Consents Advisor have been appointed. They bring to the project knowledge and experience gained from other, similar, projects including the refurbishment of St Pancras and King's Cross mainline stations and King's Cross Underground station.

They work alongside Network Rail's consents specialist, forming a dedicated, expert resource for the project. Together, the team have:

- Agreed a planning protocol with LBI, managing the consents application process more smoothly
- Overseen the salvage (and eventual restoration) of a number of historic station features
- Undertaken specialist historic building recording of structures or elements lost through the scheme
- Produced statements of significance and impact assessments, which have since become statutory requirements as set out in Planning Policy Statement 5

Alongside this, the project has part funded the London Borough of Islington's Conservation Officer, who oversees the project.

Targets and objectives

The work of the consents team helps meets our targets in the following areas:

- Farringdon sustainability strategy – The historic environment, Relations with the local community and non-railway stakeholders
- Sustainability targets – no enforcement action for legal non-compliance
- CEEQUAL – Archaeology and cultural heritage, Relations with the local community and stakeholders