

Best practice at Farringdon – reducing the impact of construction on listed structures

Overview

A major part of the transformation of Farringdon station is the construction of a new Turnmill Street entrance and concourse, which sit alongside the existing station building.

Farringdon Station is a grade II listed building. As such, any designs which either affect its special historic and architectural character and importance need to be undertaken in a sensitive and considerate manner. In addition, all associated construction works need to be undertaken with great care and attention in order to cause minimal impact on the heritage asset.



The 1920's facade, captured in 1933

The new concourse is made of steel and concrete and has been designed to be as independent as possible from the existing station in order to minimise alterations to adjoining listed train shed walls.

Close working between Network Rail (including contractors Costain and its specialist heritage and consents advisors) the London Borough of Islington (LBI) and English Heritage (EH) has resulted in a scheme which augments the historic station and adjacent conservation area while retaining its own character and identity.

Furthermore, in implementing both the temporary and permanent works, practices and working methods have been adopted and developed which not only minimise the impact on the heritage asset but also seek to protect and provide greater longevity.

Benefits

- 50% fewer penetrations in the listed eastern train shed wall, by combining the temporary and permanent fixings for the new lift.
- The retention of the historic arches leading from platform 1 to the new concourse, through a detailed design process which removed the need for them to be demolished and rebuilt.
- The repair of faulty and leaking guttering that was allowing water ingress into the heritage structure and causing it to decay.
- The reinstatement of the historic shop fronts which date from the 1920s following their temporary removal to allow the underpinning of the station frontage.



Artist's impression of the new concourse

Targets and objectives

Our work on preserving Farringdon Station as a heritage asset has helped meet our targets and objectives in the following areas:

- CEEQUAL – archaeology and cultural Heritage; relations with the local community and stakeholders
- Sustainable Design and Construction strategy – no enforcement action for legal non-compliance
- Farringdon Targets and objectives – protect and enhance cultural heritage; the historic environment, relations with the local community and non-railway stakeholders