

Press release: Former BHS warehouse makes way for new HS2 station

The images highlight the scale of the new mega-station, whose 400 metre platforms and concourse will be built adjacent to the existing station, doubling capacity and improving journeys for millions of people.

The former BHS warehouse was once the centre of the department store's London distribution network, with the building providing office space above the warehouse, loading bays and basement.

Since the closure of the warehouse, the 5,000 square foot building had been temporarily occupied by UCL's Bartlett School of Architecture and used by HS2's contractors as office space.

The building, made up of 2 separate 3 and 5 storey concrete-framed structures, was demolished over 8 months, by a Costain and Skanska team (CSjv) and specialist subcontractors John F Hunt.

A top-down demolition technique was used, with machines lifted onto the top of the buildings and protective screening installed around the outside to limit noise and dust. During the work, more than 35,000 tonnes of concrete was crushed and reused on site. With the demolition complete, the team are now working to finish the clearance of the site, ready for handover to the station construction teams.

Across the UK, more than 9,000 jobs are now supported by HS2 both directly and in the supply chain, delivering essential early works, including demolition, utilities, ecological works and the project's pioneering archaeological programme.

HS2 Ltd's Programme Director, Matthew Botelle, said:

HS2 will transform Euston, delivering much-needed extra capacity, improving journeys and unlocking the opportunity for thousands of new jobs and homes.

This week's milestone is the latest evidence of the progress we are making across London. With our fascinating archaeological programme in full swing and more than two thirds of demolitions now complete, I'd like to thank all those involved in the project for their hard work and dedication.

CSjv's Programme Director, Peter Jones, said:

Costain and Skanska have successfully completed yet another major

building demolition as part of our huge HS2 enabling works programme. With more than 1,500 people now at work across the capital, we are proud to be part of what will be, the UK's biggest infrastructure project.

Glen Clark, Managing Director of John F Hunt Ltd, said:

From the start, we recognised that the reinforced concrete frame construction coupled with the unusual 7 metre high floor to ceiling heights positioned directly adjacent to the busy Hampstead Road thoroughfare, meant that the project offered the type of engineering challenges that we enjoy taking on.

I'm pleased to say that through an excellent and collaborative working arrangement with both the CSjv and our client teams, we collectively produced meticulously planned, innovative engineered solutions to the myriad of challenges presented and I'm proud to say that the scheme has been delivered on time, on budget and most importantly with everyone going home safely every night.

It has been an excellent scheme to work on and we thank both CSjv and our client for providing us with the opportunity to deliver on their behalf.

This week's milestone follows on from the demolition of the former Ibis hotel on Cardington Street, which was completed last month and the clearance of the nearby disused National Temperance Hospital buildings.

Across the capital, more than two thirds of demolitions have now been completed, with utility work and the creation of new wildlife habitats as part of HS2's 'green corridor' project, also well underway.

Once complete, the station, could, for the first time, include a new entrance facing north towards Camden Town and west towards Hampstead Road and the shops and restaurants of Drummond Street. In total, the arrival of HS2 will more than double the number of seats out of the station during peak hours.