



Mr Alan Wito
London Borough of Camden
Development Management
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Direct Dial: 020 7973 3765

Our ref: L01588683

5 March 2025

Dear Mr Wito

Schedule 18 High Speed Rail (London-West Midlands) Act 2017

STATUE OF ROBERT STEPHENSON EUSTON RAILWAY STATION EUSTON SQUARE LONDON

Application No. 2025/0612/HS2

Thank you for your letter of 13 February 2025 regarding the above application for listed building consent. On the basis of the information available to date, we offer the following advice to assist your authority in determining the application.

Historic England Advice Background

The Stephenson Statue is identified in Table 1 of Schedule 18 ('Listed Buildings') of the High-Speed Rail (London-West Midlands) Act 2017. This disappplies some of this legislation and particularly the requirement for listed building consent.

The subsequent Heritage Agreement of 5th May 2017 entered into by HS2 Ltd, London Borough of Camden and Historic England requires method statements to be submitted concerning the relocation of the Stephenson statue.

Significance

The statue to of Robert Stephenson was designed by Carlo Marochetti of the Royal Academy and erected in 1871 in recognition of his achievements in railway engineering. Known as the 'Father of the Railways', he built the world's first inter-city railway line between Liverpool and Manchester in 1830 and was the chief engineer for the London and Birmingham Line. He designed the company's line into central London into Euston, which was highly challenging, and advocated for the route to terminate at Euston rather than Chalk Farm.

The bronze statue stands on an inscribed granite plinth that is formed of three blocks: the moulded base, large block bearing the inscription and moulded cap. The statute was fixed to the plinth with four modern stainless-steel bolts. The statue and its associated plinth are listed grade II.



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The statue and its plinth were placed in an HS2 heritage storage facility in 2020 with agreement of the Heritage Agreements Method Statement (HAMS) reference 2019/3205/HS2.

Proposals and their impact

This HAMS proposed the loan of the statue to the Locomotion Museum, which is part of the Science Museum Group (SMG) on a temporary basis and for its transportation back to an HS2 storage facility prior to its final re-erection of the statue and the plinth at Euston Station as per the HAMS of 2019. The plinth will remain in safe storage with HS2 and does not form part of the HAMS proposals

The current HAMS outlines the necessary conservation work to the bronze statue prior to the statue's assembly at the museum at Shildon, Durham. It also includes the details its location within the museum. There are provisions within the HAMS to inform Historic England and LB Camden prior to any relocations of the statue either within the museum, to other museums within the SMG and/or its return to HS2 safe storage.

Position

Historic England welcomes the opportunity for the public to enjoy the statue on display at the museum during the course of the works at Euston. We are pleased to be able to support its outreach and education programmes in this way and recognise the public benefits associated with its display. We also welcome the conservation works to the statue being undertaken at this stage and that there are provisions for further conservation works in future, should these be necessary prior to its return to Euston in due course.

It is vital that we continue to remain informed of the location of the statue (and if necessary, the plinth) to ensure that it remains within the 'working memory' of all the relevant organisations. We will expect to remain informed of the statue's location and condition as appropriate, as per the HAMS.

This response relates to designated heritage assets only. If the proposals meet the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service's published consultation criteria we recommend that you seek their view as specialist archaeological adviser to the local planning authority.

The full GLAAS consultation criteria are on our webpage at the following link:

<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/services-skills/our-planning-services/greater-london-archaeology-advisory-service/our-advice/>

Yours sincerely

Breda Daly

Inspector of Historic Buildings and Areas



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