

Alexandra Place ventilation shaft question and answers

Why have you changed your mind?

- The decision is the result of a detailed design review of the engineering requirements for the Old Oak Common to Euston tunnels. This review looked at whether, as a result of the decision to move the adjacent Salisbury Road ventilation shaft to a new location at Canterbury Works, we could safely remove Alexandra Place while still maintaining a safe distance between ventilation shafts. The review concluded that it was possible, subject to some minor engineering design changes.

• Why did you not do this earlier?

- Ventilation shafts are designed to provide ventilation to the tunnels and access/exit in case of emergency. While we are determined to limit disruption to residents wherever possible, safety comes first, and it was not until a thorough review had been completed that we were able to remove the Alexandra Place ventilation shaft from our plans.

• Why this shaft and not Adelaide Road/Canterbury works?

- We would not be able to remove one of the other shafts and still meet the escape and ventilation requirements for the railway.

• Does this mean the powers to build the ventilation shaft will be removed from the Act?

- No. The powers remain in the Act. We have simply decided not to use them at this time.

• Does this mean there will be no HS2 work at the Alexandra Place site?

- No. There will still be construction activities in the area, although at a much smaller scale, these works are set out below.
 - There will still be some investigatory works required in the local area, including ground investigation (GI) works that will need to take place to inform the design for the tunnels. These investigations are ongoing, with some completed and further yet to take place. We will continue to send out information about the GI works to properties close to the investigation sites as the plans are finalised. More information about GI can be found on the HS2 website here: gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-ground-investigations-a-non-technical-guide
 - Settlement monitoring equipment will potentially still need to be installed in some areas above the route of the construction of the tunnels where predictions identify this is needed to ensure proper mitigation of the effects of tunnelling. As the plans for the detailed design for the scheme are further developed we will continue to keep residents updated on any works required.

▪ Will any other major changes be made?

- As we continue to move towards the start of construction and the appointment of our main works contractors we will continue to refine the plans and, wherever possible and within the powers outlined in the HS2 Act, we will continue to look for ways to limit disruption to residents and the travelling public.