

= Euston Road =

Euston Road in Central London , England , runs from Marylebone Road to King 's Cross . The road is part of the London Inner Ring Road and forms part of the London congestion charge zone boundary .

The road was originally the central section of New Road from Paddington to Islington which opened in 1756 as London 's first bypass providing a route along which to drive cattle to Smithfield Market avoiding central London . Traffic increased when major railway stations , including Euston , opened in the mid @-@ 19th century and led to the road 's renaming in 1857 . Euston Road was widened in the 1960s to cater for the increasing demands of motor traffic , and the Euston Tower was built around that time . The road contains several significant buildings including the Wellcome Library , the British Library and the St. Pancras Renaissance London Hotel .

= = Geography = =

The road starts as a continuation of the A501 , a major road through Central London , at its junction with Marylebone Road and Great Portland Street . It meets the northern end of Tottenham Court Road at a large junction where there is an underpass , and ends at King 's Cross with Gray 's Inn Road . The road ahead to Islington is Pentonville Road .

The road is part of the London Inner Ring Road and on the edge of the London congestion charge zone . Drivers are not charged for travelling on the road , but may be if they turn south into the zone during its hours of operation . King 's Cross and St Pancras railway stations are at the eastern end of the road , the British Library is nearby , and Euston railway station is a further west . The Euston Tower is a landmark on the road . The old and new headquarters of the Wellcome Trust are on its south side . From west to east the road passes Regent 's Park , Great Portland Street , Warren Street , Euston Square , Euston and King 's Cross St Pancras tube stations . London Bus Route 205 runs along the entire extent of Euston Road from Great Portland Street to King 's Cross .

= = History = =

= = = 18th ? 19th century = = =

Before the 18th century , the land along which Euston Road runs was fields and farmland . Camden Town was a village retreat for Londoners working in the city . Euston Road was originally part of New Road , promoted by Charles FitzRoy , 2nd Duke of Grafton and enabled by an Act of Parliament passed in 1756 . Construction began in May that year , and it was open to traffic by September .

The road provided a new drovers ' road for moving sheep and cattle to Smithfield Market avoiding Oxford Street and Holborn , and ended at St John 's Street , Islington . It provided a quicker route for army units to reach the Essex coast when there was a threat of invasion , without passing through the cities of London and Westminster , and was a barrier between the increasing urban sprawl that threatened to reach places such as Camden Town . The Capper family , who lived on the south side of the proposed route , opposed its construction and complained their crops would be ruined by dust kicked up by cattle along the route . Capper Street , a side street off Tottenham Court Road , is named after the family . A clause in the 1756 Act stipulated that no buildings should be constructed within 50 feet (15 m) of the road , with the result that most of the houses along it lay behind substantial gardens . During the 19th century the law was increasingly ignored .

Euston Station opened on the north side of New Road in July 1837 . It was planned by Robert Stephenson on the site of gardens called Euston Grove , and was the first mainline station to open in London . Its entrance , designed by Philip Hardwick , cost £ 35 @,@ 000 (now 2 @,@ 868 @,@ 000) and had the highest portico in London at 72 feet (22 m) . The Great Hall opened in 1849 to improve accommodation for passengers , and a statue of Stephenson 's father , George was

installed in 1852 . The Dukes of Grafton had become the main property owners in the area , and in 1857 the central section of the road , between Osnaburgh Street and Kings Cross , was renamed Euston Road after Euston Hall , their country house . The eastern section became Pentonville Road , the western Marylebone Road . The full length of Euston Road was dug up so that the Metropolitan Railway could be built beneath it using a cut @-@ and @-@ cover system and the road was then relaid to a much higher standard . St Pancras station opened in 1867 , with the Midland Grand Hotel in 1873 . The station complex was controversially demolished in 1963 to accommodate British Rail 's facilities . The replacement building opened in 1968 , and now serves 50 million passengers annually .

Tolmers Village was in the tiny triangle (less than 2 hectares (4 @. @ 9 acres)) on the north side of Euston Road between Hampstead Road and North Gower Street . It was built in the early 1860s over a former reservoir to provide affordable middle @-@ class terraced housing but its proximity to a main road and the Euston Station complex meant it ultimately catered for the working classes . By 1871 , around 5 @, @ 000 residents were housed in a 12 acres (4 @. @ 9 ha) area . The estate continued to expand throughout the early 20th century in a piecemeal fashion , and attracted Greek , Cypriot and Asian immigrants following World War II . In the 1970s , the estate came under threat from property developers who wanted to demolish it and build offices , which led to demonstrations and protests , including supporters from University College . The plans were cancelled , but the estate was still bulldozed and replaced by tower blocks .

= = = 20th ? 21st century = = =

The area around the junction with Tottenham Court Road suffered significant bomb damage during the Second World War . Patrick Abercrombie 's contemporary Greater London Plan called for a new ring road around Central London called the ' A ' Ring , but post @-@ war budget constraints meant that a medley of existing routes were improved to form the ring road , including Euston Road . An underpass to avoid the junction with Tottenham Court Road was proposed in 1961 , with construction taking place in 1964 . The property developer Joe Levy was keen to develop buildings in the area and bought various properties . When the London County Council (LCC) refused planning permission because of the underpass development , Levy , who had outline planning permission , insisted the council pay him £ 1 million if they wanted to compulsorily purchase the site . Over the next four years , Levy bought properties along the north side of Euston Road , and an agreement was reached so that the council built the underpass and he built a complex of two tower blocks with office shops and apartments , the Euston Tower .

The tower attracted a number of significant tenants , including INMARSAT and the independent radio station Capital Radio . The ITV broadcaster Thames Television 's corporate headquarters were based nearby at No. 306 ? 316 Euston Road from 1971 to 1992 when the station closed . That building was demolished in 1994 and redeveloped when Thames , now a production company , moved all operations to Teddington Studios .

In the early @-@ 21st century , the Greater London Authority commissioned a plan to improve the road from the architectural firm , Terry Farrell and Partners . The original study proposed removing the underpass (which was subsequently cancelled) and providing a pedestrian crossing and removing the gyratory system connecting Tottenham Court Road and Gower Street . The scheme was approved by the Mayor of London , Ken Livingstone as " the start of changing the Marylebone to Euston road from a highway into a series of linked public spaces . " The pedestrian crossing opened in March 2010 . Livingstone 's successor , Boris Johnston , favours keeping the Euston Road underpass and declared it to be a good place to test his nerves when cycling around London .

In 2015 , Transport for London announced its intention to close one lane in each direction on Euston Road between 2020 and 2026 to accommodate work on High Speed 2 . The decision was condemned by Camden Borough Council as it could affect business and cost more than £ 1 billion in lost revenue . The Automobile Association said the works were the largest ever proposed in London and would affect far more than local traffic due to its Inner Ring Road status .

= = Notable buildings = =

About halfway along Euston Road , at the junction with Upper Woburn Place , is St Pancras New Church , built in 1822 . Designed by William and Henry Inwood and costing around £ 90 @, @ 000 (now £ 7 @, @ 396 @, @ 000) , it was the most expensive property to be designed in London since St Paul 's Cathedral the previous century . Almost opposite is Euston Road fire station , built 1901 ? 2 , in an Arts and Crafts style by Percy Nobbs . The Shaw Theatre opened at No. 100 ? 110 in 1971 , in honour of George Bernard Shaw . It was refurbished in 2000 as part of an adjacent Novotel development . The Keith Grant sculpture at the theatre 's front was removed but was subsequently reinstated after protests .

The New Hospital for Women moved to No. 144 Euston Road in 1888 , and was rebuilt by J.M. Brydon two years later . It housed 42 beds and was staffed entirely by women , which made it a comfortable environment for gynaecological problems . It was renamed the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital in 1918 following the death of the hospital 's founder , Elizabeth Garrett Anderson , the first woman in England to qualify as a doctor of medicine . The Euston Road premises closed in 1993 , its services transferred to University College Hospital . The current hospital is at No. 235 . The Wellcome Trust , a private medical research charity , was established in 1936 and has premises at No. 183 and No. 210 Euston Road . Its library holds about half a million books , including more than 6 @, @ 000 Sanskrit manuscripts and the largest collection of Hindi and Punjabi medical documents in Europe . Its objects were transferred on permanent loan to the Science Museum in 1976 . The University College London Hospital 's archives are at No 250 Euston Road .

The Midland Grand Hotel , fronting St Pancras station , was designed by George Gilbert Scott . It was built mainly with red bricks with a tower at one end and a spire at the other . It closed in 1935 and was repeatedly threatened with demolition until it was Grade I listed in 1967 . It was used as offices and a major restoration was undertaken in the early 1990s . The hotel reopened as the St. Pancras Renaissance London Hotel in 2011 .

Camden Town Hall , formerly St Pancras Town Hall opened in 1937 . The Euston Theatre of Varieties was based at No. 37 ? 43 . It was renamed the Regent Theatre in 1922 , and converted to a cinema in 1932 . It was demolished in 1950 so that the town hall could be extended .

The headquarters of the Religious Society of Friends , better known as the Quakers , is at the Friends House , No. 173 Euston Road . It was built between 1925 ? 7 and holds the society 's library dating back to 1673 , including George Fox 's journal covering the foundation of Pennsylvania . Euston Road School was opened at No. 314 in 1934 by William Coldstream , Victor Pasmore and Claude Rogers to encourage artwork in an atmosphere different to traditional art schools . The school struggled and closed by the start of World War II . It was demolished in the early 1960s ; the cover shot of the Beatles ' Twist and Shout EP was taken on its remains after demoliion .

The British Library moved to No. 96 Euston Road in 1999 into a new complex designed by Colin St John Wilson and opened by Queen Elizabeth II . It was built using more than ten million bricks and covers a floor area of 112 @, @ 000 square metres (1 @, @ 210 @, @ 000 sq ft) . Although it was given a critical reception by architectural critics , visitors have enjoyed the welcoming entrance and praised its internal arrangements . It caters for around 16 @, @ 000 daily visitors .

= = Cultural references = =

In Oscar Wilde 's The Picture of Dorian Gray , the characters Sibyl and James Vane live at a " shabby lodgings " on Euston Road .

The street is referenced as a property in the United Kingdom edition of the board game Monopoly , which features famous London areas on its gameboard , it is a part of the pale blue set , including Pentonville Road and the only space named after a building , The Angel , Islington .