

= Down Street tube station =

Down Street , also known as Down Street (Mayfair) , is a disused station on the London Underground , located in Mayfair , west London . It was opened in 1907 by the Great Northern , Piccadilly and Brompton Railway . It was latterly served by the Piccadilly line and was situated between Dover Street (now named Green Park) and Hyde Park Corner stations .

The station was little used and trains often passed through it without stopping . Its lack of patronage coupled with its proximity to other stations resulted in its closure in 1932 . During the Second World War it was used as a bunker by prime minister Winston Churchill and his War Cabinet . The station building survives today and is close to Down Street 's junction with Piccadilly . Part of it is now converted to a retail outlet .

= = History = =

= = = Operation = = =

The station is in Down Street in Mayfair , just off Piccadilly and a short distance from Park Lane . It lies between Green Park (originally named Dover Street) and Hyde Park Corner on the Piccadilly line . It was opened by the Great Northern , Piccadilly and Brompton Railway (GNP & BR ; the precursor to the Piccadilly line) on 15 March 1907 , a few months after the rest of the line opened . The delay was due to difficulties in purchasing the site for the station building and agreeing a safe layout of the passages below ground with the Board of Trade . The surface building was designed by the Underground Electric Railways Company of London 's (UERL 's) architect Leslie Green in the UERL house style of a two @-@ storey steel @-@ framed building faced with red glazed terracotta blocks , with wide semi @-@ circular windows on the upper floor . The station had a pair of Otis lifts , with the platforms located 22 @.@ 2 metres (73 ft) below the street level of Piccadilly .

Down Street was never a busy station , as the surrounding area was largely residential and its residents mostly wealthy enough to travel by other means . The neighbouring stations were also close by , with Dover Street station about 550 metres (600 yd) to the east and Hyde Park Corner 500 metres (550 yd) to the west , . From 1909 , like Brompton Road , Down Street was often skipped by trains . From 1918 it was closed on Sundays .

In 1929 , Down Street was one of the stations suggested for closure in connection with the extension of the Piccadilly line : the elimination of less @-@ busy stations in the central area would improve both reliability and journey times for long @-@ distance commuters . Additionally , the neighbouring stations were being rebuilt with escalators in place of lifts and their new entrances were even nearer to Down Street , further squeezing its catchment area . The station was permanently closed on 21 May 1932 .

After the station was closed it was almost immediately modified . The western headwalls of both platform tunnels were rebuilt to allow a step plate junction to be installed , providing access from the eastbound and westbound tunnels to a new siding located between Down Street and Hyde Park Corner . The siding is mainly used to reverse westbound trains , but could also be used for servicing trains . The siding tunnel is accessible at its western end through a small foot tunnel constructed from Hyde Park Corner station . The lifts were removed and the shafts adapted to provide additional tunnel ventilation .

= = = Wartime use and after = = =

The station was selected for use as an underground bunker in early 1939 as part of a programme of developing deep shelters to protect government operations from bombing in the event of war . The platform faces were bricked up and the enclosed platform areas and space in the circulation passages were divided up into offices , meeting rooms and dormitories . The engineering and

structural work was carried out by the London Passenger Transport Board and the fitting @-@ out of the rooms and installation of the power and communications equipment was done by the London , Midland and Scottish Railway . A two @-@ person lift was installed in the original emergency stairwell and a telephone exchange , toilets and bathrooms were added . The main occupant of the shelter was the Railway Executive Committee , but it was also used by prime minister Winston Churchill and his war cabinet until the Cabinet War Rooms were ready for use . Churchill called the establishment at Down Street " The Barn " .

Since the end of the war , the station has been used only as an emergency exit point from the Underground .

In April 2015 , Transport for London announced that it was seeking proposals for the commercial use of parts of the surface building , disused lift shaft and underground passages . Suggested possible uses included a restaurant , a bar , a theatre , a gallery or retail space .

= = Use in media = =

Down Street is the inspiration for a location in the television series and novel *Neverwhere* , where it provides an entrance to an underground labyrinth . A much modified and expanded version of the station appears as a part of a level in the video game *Shadow Man* .

Part of the 2004 British horror film *Creep* was set in Down Street station , although the scenes were actually shot at the disused Aldwych station and on studio sets . The British band Hefner released a song titled " Down Street " on their 2006 album *Catfight* ; according to its sleeve notes , it is set in the early 1930s and tells the story of two lovers who meet at the station . Steve Hackett also recorded a song titled " Down Street " on his 2006 album *Wild Orchids* , about the station .

The station features in Billy Connolly 's *World Tour Of England , Ireland and Wales* , Dan Cruickshank 's National Geographic Channel series *Great Railway Adventures* and the 2012 TV Series *The Tube* .