

HS2 Euston Trial Holes

Client: eight20 for HS2

Location: Euston, London

Value: £690k

Duration: 4 Months

In Brief...

Barhale were contracted to excavate 30 trial holes across Euston area and within the grounds of Regents Park. Additionally there were 9 window samples and 3 boreholes in the area.

Barhale successfully completed excavating trial holes in highly sensitive locations whilst considering the impacts on local traffic, residents and the environment. The site team worked well with and developed good working relationships with all the different parties involved.

Challenges Faced...

Noise and its solutions: We utilised acoustic barriers across the works area to reduce our general impact. In highly sensitive areas Barhale used additional acoustic tents. We did not carry out any road surface breaking activities before 9am and always carried out noise assessments and worked closely with the local recording studio to minimise our impact on their activities further.

Traffic Congestion and its solutions: After the initial agreement of all the traffic management plans, the team met the council on site again to visit each location and discuss any further issues.

Barhale then reprogrammed the works to target the most intrusive trial holes, concerning traffic, to be done during the school holidays and weekends. This allowed us to lessen our impact on road users and reducing the need for heavy flows of traffic to be diverted into residential areas.

Communication and its solutions: Whilst we were not directly responsible for the communications in the area we worked tirelessly as we moved through the locations to ensure the communications were carried out ahead of our works.

Regents Park and ZSL: The presence of some of the trial holes on Royal Parks land resulted in Barhale having to work closely with our clients, Royal Parks and ZSL to ensure we did not impact the local hedgehog population.

Work Scope...

Temporary Works: The majority of the trial holes were similarly sized. Temporary works designs were done by a shoring supplier and these were then checked by both Barhales internal temporary works department as well as the clients.

The Excavation: The excavation works were carried out by highly experienced operatives who had years of experience in excavating in Central London where there is a high concentration of known and unknown utilities. All the operatives involved in the works wore Flame Retardant overalls as a final line of defence.

There were several different uncharted services uncovered during the works, a 63mm PE gas just under the road surface, a small electrical cable in kerb haunching and electrical cables covered using some timber. In other areas of the works a vacuum excavator was used to successfully excavate around EHV cables without causing any damage and reducing the need for Barhale to put our people in the 'Line of Fire'. All services discovered in the excavations were supported ratchet straps. In areas where trees were present no roots were cut and the larger roots were protected from damage and from frost by covering them with hessian whilst they were exposed.



One of the acoustic tents used outside the Park Village Recording Studio to further reduce our impact on their activities when using louder hand breaking tools. These were used in addition to acoustic barriers on the heras fencing around the site



The mammal tunnel, which allowed the hedgehogs to move along an area with reduced access without being preyed upon. This was set up for two weeks and designed in agreement with Royal Parks, ZSL London Zoo, eight20 and HS2. The results of this hard work were recognised by HS2 when the site was awarded HS2 site of the month for February 2017