

CURZON STREET (AREA 2)

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The northern side of Curzon Street is devoted to educational buildings from the Thinktank to student accommodation via the relocated Conservatoire. The south side is dominated by construction work for HS2, effectively cutting off the area from the rest of Eastside and making travel to and from the city centre difficult. The day I took my photos I had arranged to meet fellow grid photographer Greg Mason in the Lobby of Millennium Point. I had not visited the area since the 2020 Grid Project (B4B4HS2) and I realised I was not sure of how to get there from the Bullring. It took me a couple of attempts to negotiate my way past dead ends in Aston University. We did not meet in the lobby as there was a jobs fair in progress with hundreds of Year 11 students in attendance. Indeed, this made picture taking difficult later as photographing school kids is not exactly good practice.

As well as the developments of the last 25 years, there are glimpses of Birmingham's history to be seen on both sides of the road including the original Curzon Street Station, the now closed Woodman pub and a stretch of canal. To get a better look at the HS2 site we used our bus passes and jumped on the train.

As a footnote, the day after taking these photos Rishi Sunak cancelled the Northern Section of HS2.

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