

BANK CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT WORK COMPLETED

By Kim Rennie

INTRODUCTION

What has been described as the “final milestone” of the £700 million Bank Station Capacity Upgrade works (BSCU) was reached on the morning of 27 February 2023 with the opening of the new ticket hall in Cannon Street. When including Monument, which is managed jointly with Bank, the station now has 5 ticket halls, 17 entrances, 31 escalators, 10 passenger lifts and 4 moving walkways.

TIMELINE OF BSCU

- September 2014 – Transport & Works Act Order (TWAO) applied for.
- December 2015 – TWAO granted.
- 30 November 2018 – Walbrook entrance opens.
- 14 May 2022 – New southbound Northern Line platform and concourse opens.
- 28 October 2022 – New escalators and moving walkways linking the Central and Northern lines commissioned.
- 27 February 2023 – the entrance in Cannon Street opens.

CANNON STREET STATION BUILDING

The new entrance is a double-height surface building faced in concrete and sited on the north side of the eponymous road, with a single wide entrance above which is an upswept grey canopy. Two side windows on the east side provide additional light from the pedestrianised Nicholas Lane. Signage consists of a single standard name frieze lettered ‘BANK STATION’ in white-on-blue. The words ‘BANK STATION’ are also incised in the concrete above the canopy. Three projecting ‘silhouette’ roundels are fitted – one at each end of the front elevation, and a third in Nicholas Lane. These are of the ‘Centenary’ type, first introduced in 2008, where the sign is pierced by a white spear (or pole). In a pleasing touch, a number of obsolete fire insurance company marks (metal plaques) that had been on the previous building have been recovered and are now affixed to the new one. The pavement area is protected by a large number of City of London Corporation security bollards. As might be expected, ‘airspace’ development above was envisaged from the start, and an eight-storey 140,000 sq. ft. mixed office and retail block is already planned.

TICKET HALL

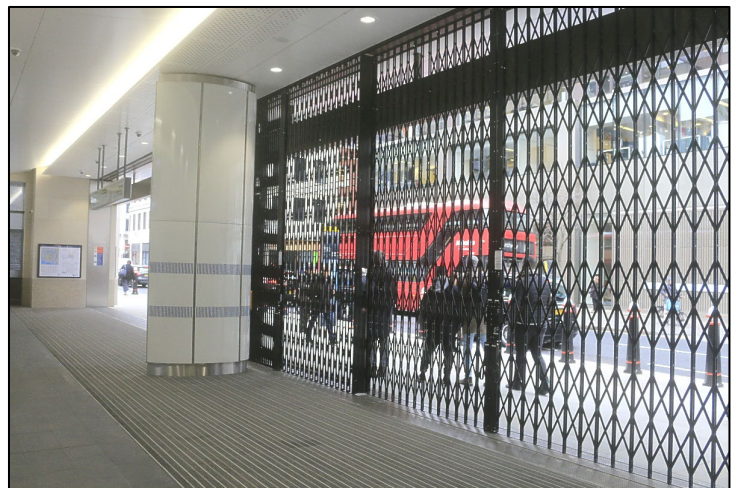
The ticket hall has a single circular support column and is mainly faced with large rectangular light-grey glass panels. It has the following facilities:

TICKETING EQUIPMENT

Cannon Street ticket hall Equipment	Amount	Device Nos.
Touchscreen ticket vending machine	3	37 – 39
Slimline reversable electric E2 gate	10	70 – 79
Wide aisle gate	3	25 – 27



The new surface building in Cannon Street as viewed from the south-east on opening day, showing all three exterior roundels and the



The interior of the new entrance on 28 February 2023 showing that the Bostwick gates remain pulled across in front of the ticket machine and

extensive security bollards.

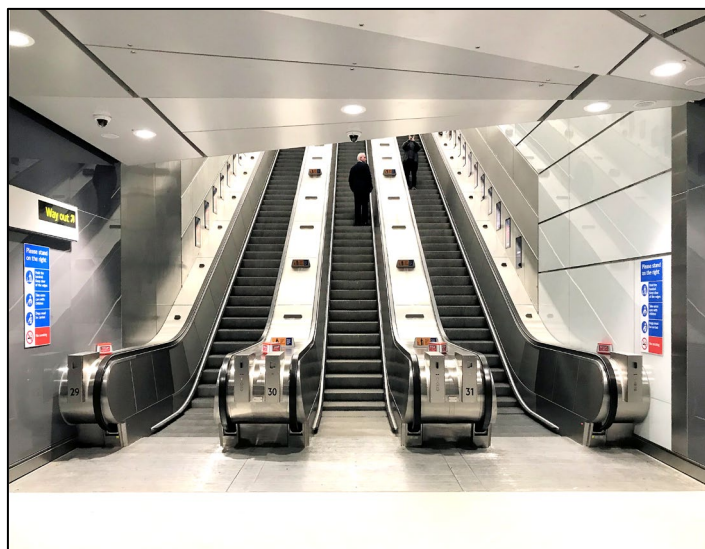
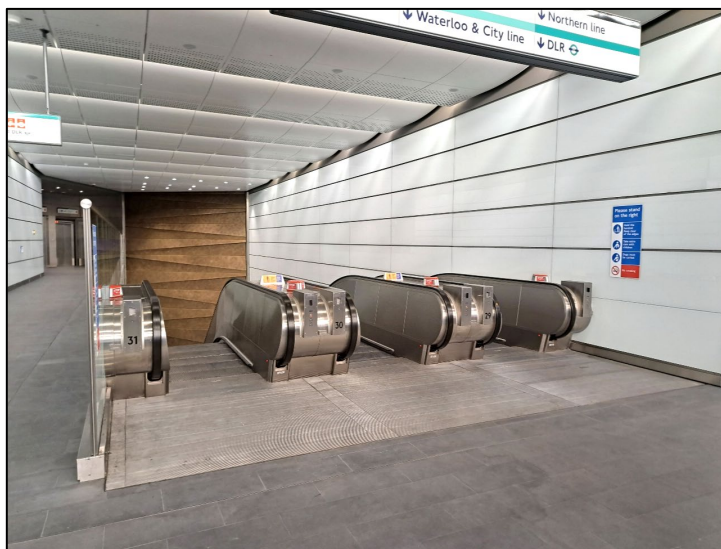
information area.

Photo: Kim Rennie

Photo: Stuart Hicks

LIFTS AND ESCALATORS

Beyond the gateline are three escalators, Nos. 29, 30 and 31, leading down to an intermediate level landing. This shaft is also clad in light-grey tiles, plus with a light-brown section of abstract diagonals facing south. Much of the intermediate area is decorated with tiles in a darker grey. From here, the corridor turns to the left, where a further set of three escalators, Nos.26, 27 and 28, descend to a cross-passage between the southbound Northern Line platform and the Northern Line concourse (where the old northbound Northern Line platform was). White is the predominant colour in this shaft, and the side walls here are devoid of advertising frames.



Above: The three escalators at the top landing in the new Cannon Street ticket hall at Bank (Left) and the intermediate level area looking in the other direction and the lower landing of escalators Nos.29, 30 and 31 (Right).

Photos: Brian Hardy (Left) on 28 February 2023 and Kim Rennie (Right) on 27 February 2023

The escalator lower landing again features light-grey panels, though the cross-passage itself has the vivid Underground Blue colour used elsewhere in this part of the station. At the left-hand rear of the ticket hall is the upper landing of two new lifts, lettered F and G. These both serve a new cross-passage between the southbound Northern Line platform and the Northern Line concourse. The cross-passage décor aligns with others in having the widespread use of blue. In addition, lift G also descends to the DLR level and its lower landing accessed via a narrow lobby off the DLR concourse.

Asset	Make	Between
Lift No.11 (Lift F)	Kone	Cannon Street ticket hall and Northern Line concourse
Lift No.10 (Lift G)	Kone	Cannon Street ticket hall and Northern Line concourse and DLR

Asset	Make	Between
Escalator No.26	Otis 520E	Intermediate level and Northern Line concourse
Escalator No.27	Otis 520E	Intermediate level and Northern Line concourse
Escalator No.28	Otis 520E	Intermediate level and Northern Line concourse
Escalator No.29	Otis 520D	Cannon Street ticket hall and intermediate level
Escalator No.30	Otis 520D	Cannon Street ticket hall and intermediate level
Escalator No.31	Otis 520D	Cannon Street ticket hall and intermediate level



Above: The ticketing and information area just inside the closed Bostwick gates, with access from the right hand side.



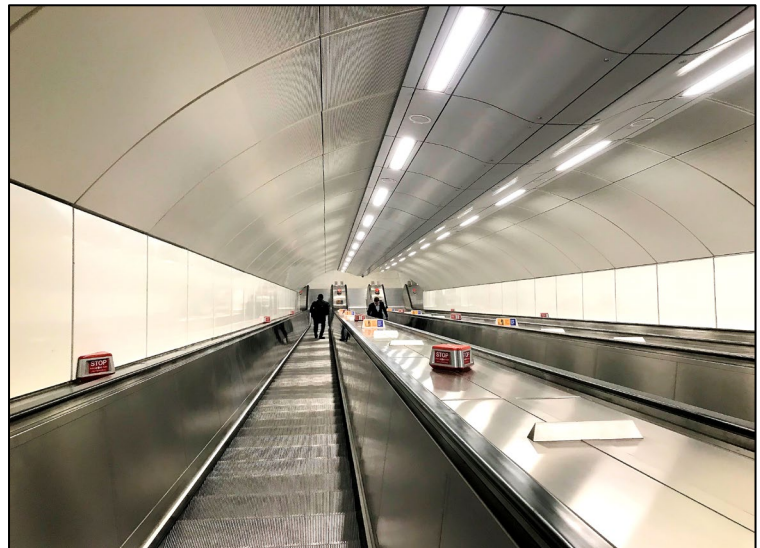
Above: The top lift landing in the ticket hall where two lifts descent to the Northern Line with that on the right also serving the lower level DLR.

Both photos: Brian Hardy

Below: The intermediate level area and the upper landing of escalators Nos.28, 27 and 26 which come up from the Northern Line.

Both photos: Kim Rennie

Below: Looking downwards in the shaft of escalators 28, 27 and 26. Note the absence of commercial advertising panels when compared to escalators 29, 30 and 31.



OPENING DAY

The opening ceremony took place on the morning of Monday 27 February 2023. Among those in attendance were Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan; Chris Hayward, City of London Corporation Policy Chairman; and acting Transport Commissioner, Andy Lord. The events were marred by a power supply problem that temporarily prevented Northern Line trains from stopping for a period, and this also affected the operation of the new lifts.

On a more positive note, Mayor Khan was quoted as saying “These extensive works have transformed Bank station into a world-class station, fit to serve a financial district of international renown”, whilst Andy Lord commented that investment on the Underground “is playing a pivotal role in helping London continue from the pandemic”. The *Evening Standard* editorial of the day referred to the opening as a “A new dawn for Bank” and its rear cover carried a full-page advert from TfL promoting the completion of the scheme.



Above: The official TfL poster promoting the opening of the opening of Bank station entrance in Cannon Street.



Above: close-up of a 'Centenary' roundel. One of the re-sited Fire Insurance 'marks' can be seen below it.

Both photos: Kim Rennie