

New Northern line stations to open on 20 September as Tube extends to Battersea Power Station

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Transport for London (TfL) has confirmed that the two new Tube stations making up the Northern Line Extension will open to the public on Monday 20 September. The two step-free, Zone 1 stations at Battersea Power Station and Nine Elms are set to dramatically improve the connectivity of these vibrant south London neighbourhoods and contribute to the capital's recovery from the pandemic at a vital time.

Major construction on the 3km twin-tunnel railway between Kennington and Battersea Power Station, via Nine Elms, began in 2015. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, the construction project has stayed on track for an autumn opening.

Tube services on the extension will start on Monday 20 September, running from Kennington station on the Charing Cross branch. There will be an initial peak time service of six trains per hour on the extension, increasing to 12 trains per hour by mid-2022. There will be five trains per hour during off-peak times, doubling to 10 trains per hour next year.

The Northern Line Extension is the first major Tube extension this century and is supporting around 25,000 new jobs and more than 20,000 new homes. In addition, construction of the extension boosted the UK economy and supported around 1,000 jobs, including 79 apprenticeships.

Around 100 members of station staff are currently undertaking training to become familiar with the two new step-free Tube stations, and Northern line drivers are receiving instruction on the new route. Work is also nearing completion on Art on the Underground's major new permanent artwork by London-based Brazilian artist Alexandre da Cunha, which is being installed at Battersea Power Station Underground station ahead of the launch.

Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London, said: "After an incredible effort from the huge number of people who worked on this project, it's fantastic that we are now on the final countdown to the Northern Line Extension opening later this month.

"The two new stations at Nine Elms and Battersea Power Station are the first new stations on the Northern line for 80 years. They will hugely improve connectivity between these two areas and the rest of London, and play a major part in the capital's recovery from the pandemic by supporting thousands of new jobs, homes and businesses."

Stuart Harvey, Director of Major Projects at TfL, said: "In just a few weeks' time, we'll be opening the first major Tube extension this century and welcoming our first customers to the new stations at Nine Elms and Battersea Power Station. It has been a huge collaborative effort with our London-based stakeholders and suppliers from around the UK. It's going to be a fantastic moment when this thriving south London neighbourhood makes it onto the Tube map for the first time, which will also highlight the vital importance of public transport in connecting communities and assisting London in its continuing recovery from the pandemic."

Councillor Ravi Govindia, Leader of Wandsworth Council and co-chair of the Nine Elms Vauxhall Partnership, said: "It is fantastic to finally have a date for the Tube opening in Battersea for the first time, bringing long-awaited new travel connections to the area.

"This huge £1bn transport investment to extend the Northern line to Battersea Power Station and Nine Elms has been over 10 years in the making, so we are delighted that this growing Wandsworth neighbourhood is now firmly on the London Underground map.

"Our leadership and resolution with partners including TfL, GLA, Lambeth, Battersea Power Station and all local developers to transform the area from a transport backwater to a thriving centre for homes and jobs will bring benefits and opportunities for all our residents and businesses for decades to come."

Simon Murphy, CEO of Battersea Power Station Development Company, said: "We are delighted to have played a key role alongside TfL, Wandsworth Council and the Nine Elms Vauxhall Partnership in delivering the first major extension to the London Underground in nearly 25 years. The Northern Line Extension is a gamechanger for this area of London and an extremely significant milestone in the regeneration of Battersea Power Station, which is soon to be one of the most well-connected developments in the capital. We look forward to welcoming further visitors to the thriving riverside neighbourhood we are creating once

the new Battersea Power Station Underground station is open on 20 September.”

David Darcy, Project Director for the Ferrovial Construction Laing O’Rourke joint venture, FLO, said: “FLO has designed and constructed a crucial transportation system asset for London, which comes into service as the city’s post-pandemic recovery begins. A project of this scale and complexity, with the challenges posed by COVID-19, has been a joined-up effort on so many fronts, proving the benefit of close collaborative working across the entire project at all levels. We are grateful to our supply chain and delivery partners and the local communities. Importantly, the NLE comes into service with an industry-leading safety performance and, underpinned by the culture of the project team and integrated delivery approach, has set a new standard for delivering major and complex transportation schemes for the UK.”

Working with stakeholders including the London Borough of Wandsworth and the Nine Elms Vauxhall Partnership, a number of schemes making it easier for people to walk, cycle and use public transport in the Nine Elms and Battersea areas are also nearing completion. These schemes include new pavements, seating and signage, tree planting and increased cycle parking. They also include the opening up of a Victorian railway arch in Nine Elms, known as Arch 42, to create a vital new walking route between Nine Elms station, Nine Elms Lane and the River Thames. Santander Cycles are also available to hire across the Nine Elms and Battersea area.

The opening of the Northern Line Extension comes ahead of the transformational Elizabeth line launching in the first half of next year, revolutionising travel across the capital.

Photo credit: Transport for London