

NEWS

NEW COVENT GARDEN SITES



The new market trader units shown with the dark grey roofs

Second phase completed

IN BRIEF

The second phase of the redevelopment of the UK's largest wholesale fruit and vegetable market has been completed and handed over for fitting-out for 24 new market trader units.

The new 130,000 sq ft section has state-of-the-art facilities and forms the second of six construction phases on the transformation of the market. Market traders have already begun to fit out their new units in readiness to transfer to open in October this year.

New market units delivered to date across the site total almost 220,000 sq. ft. and work on the third phase is also scheduled to begin in October.



Inside this issue:

Making Progress

We look at how far we have got and what's next.

In other news..

Stories from the Market including:

Musical Merchants Way

World Heart Beat has brought music lessons to the Alcoves this summer.

Sunflowers on the Fringe

How the walk to and from Nine Elms Tube was pollinated with sunflowers.

Making good progress

Constructing a legacy



Looking west at the completed second phase



Nick Harrington, Senior Construction Manager at St. Modwen responsible for the market project, is proud of the progress made during the last few challenging years:

"It's a brilliant job and huge congratulations to our team and VINCI for delivering this high-quality complex project on schedule in the challenging period during the pandemic and, in particular, ensuring the market continued to trade throughout. This is not just about building a new wholesale fruit and vegetable market - we are contributing to maintaining the local supply of fresh food in London and helping establish a whole new food quarter for the city."

Nick is also looking forward to the next phase:

"We are already planning to push on with the next phase in October and looking forward to continuing our great partnership with the Covent Garden Market Authority on this landmark redevelopment project, which is actually the largest development site within the Vauxhall Nine Elms Battersea Opportunity Area."

David Frankish, Executive Chair of Covent Garden Market Authority, has welcomed the progress achieved:

"This is another important milestone for the Market. With each completed phase, the Market community is seeing real progress and while there is still a way to go until the programme completes in January 2027, the fact that we are visibly on schedule is giving everyone here a boost of confidence. We continue to work extremely hard with VINCI StModwen to create facilities that will ensure New Covent Garden Market remains a vital link in the food, drink and flower supply chain for London and the South East for many years to come."

The completed second phase was formally handed over in July and key team partners from the Covent Garden Market Authority and St. Modwen were captured by our photographer:



From left to right above we have:
St. Modwen Developments:
Nick Harrington, Senior Construction Manager; Josef Vere-Bujnowski, Construction Manager.
Covent Garden Market Authority:
Colin Corderoy, Senior Market Operations Manager; Jo Breare, General Manager; Tony O'Reilly, Project Director.

Milestones in the programme

Site clearance commenced in 2015 on Nine Elms Lane to make way for the relocated Interim Flower Market, which opened for business in 2017.

A stunning Food Exchange facility has been delivered, which houses the Market Authority and provides workspace for growing food businesses, including the Mission Kitchen initiative, as the foundation of what will be a new Food Quarter for London.

A new entrance plaza and security facility now welcomes customers and visitors with a refurbished multi-storey car park and a brand new recycling and waste on-site facility, which features 5-a-side football pitches for community use on the upper level and on the roof.

The first trader block - phase A1 commenced construction in 2018 and was completed and handed over in late 2019. The completion and hand-over of the second phase (A2) means that whole of the first 220,000 sq ft block is now complete. This brings an end to market construction works at the western edge of site along Thessaly Road.



The interim flower market



The new entrance plaza

Powerleague



Mission Kitchen



The recycling plant, multi-storey car park and Powerleague football pitches

What's next

The third phase with the second trader block is scheduled to start this October, with the sixth and last phase (the permanent Flower Market) completing in early 2027, so there is still some way to go on the market redevelopment.

Separate programmes are in place for the mixed-use developments on the surplus land, which is freed up by the concentration of the fruit & vegetable and flower markets onto a single efficient site.



The new Food Exchange

In other news



Chelsea Fringe 2022

VINCI St. Modwen (VSM) once again supported the Chelsea Fringe Festival, commissioning New Covent Garden's very own master guerrilla florist, Warren Bushaway from London Event Florists. Warren was in action live on site and built a stunning sunflower arch installation in Merchants Way - the new pedestrian route between Nine Elms Tube Station and the Arch 42 underpass link to Embassy Gardens.

Meanwhile Merchants Way's alcoves were brought to life with children and adults trying their hand at some pollinator planting, and taking some Sunflower seeds away for fun at home with top gardening tips from Father Nature, a landscape gardening company & social enterprise. Visitors and passers by also explored creativity through making, with a nature inspired mindful art and craft workshop, run with founder and director Julie Norburn, of Art4Space.

Music in the Alcoves

Throughout the summer and up to the end of August, in conjunction with World Heart Beat, free music lessons have been available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3.30 – 7.30pm. Children and young adults between 5 and 25 years old who are interested in piano, guitar or vocals have been able to sign up for lessons.

The decorated alcove of Merchants Way features a piano donated under World Heart Beat's instrument donation programme and has been painted by local artist Nunziatina Del Vecchio.

The pop-up music space, between Nine Elms Tube and railway Arch 42, off Ponton Road, will be available until the end of August. So if you're a musician keen to find a regular space to perform al fresco then we'd also love to hear from you. To find out more, please email info@worldheartbeat.org or visit the World Heart Beat website: <https://worldheartbeat.org/>



Don't forget anyone, group or business can book a Merchants Way alcove for free, just register interest at: <https://form.jotform.com/213405461323041>

If you have any queries or concerns about works on site, please contact:

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If you want to receive this development update by email contact:
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For an overview of the project visit: www.newcoventgardensites.com

