

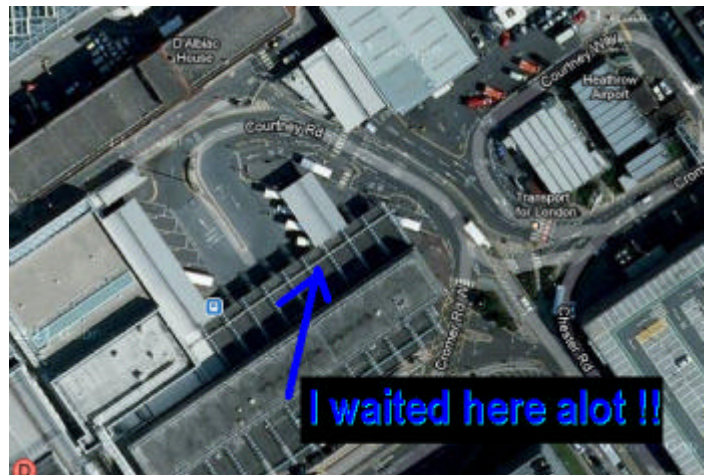
Sunday 3rd June

Should be reporting more, but been a long night and a full on day. We landed after a long night little real sleep, so were tired, really tired. Being presented with daytime I were a bit of a zombie.. Getting through customs, baggage claim all ok. Rainy and overcast, nice weather to be greeted in the UK. Already it has been faninating, seeing the houses, the london taxis and the red double decker buses.

So via a shuttle bus to the the hotel. This terminal was to be my initial impression of London for a while as the bus took forever to come, well the right bus for my hotel. The area was untidy, getting redeveloped, the drizzly rain. This was a key location for my london stay as I were to return several times to this ! Eventually the right bus appeared, boarded and were dropped off at the hotel.

This was 8am in the morning, so not rooms were ready untill 2pm. So they stowed my luggage and I went off to the airport again via the next shuttlebus. At the airport I took money out, bought the simple prepaid phone that I can use overseas too (unlocked)

Had enough of this terminal so a longish walk through undeerground hallways to the tube. So my first train experiance. Heard a lot about the londontube, and I were first surprised on how small they were. The Heathrow line had above ground segments, which was interesting as I looked at a forign city, noted some railway lines too.



The Olympic Rings at St. Pancras



No loco hauled trains here.



That roof at St. Pancras I have only seen in books, and now I see it with my own two eyes, (then this camera shot)



The HST, class 43, our XPT cousin

Deciding on what to do was easy - train stations. A bit of a walk though through the passageways. In the tube they have a map of the line so I could work out where to go. I decided to go to St. Pancras station to see the Eurostar. The amount of people surprised me. Then I realised today was the big river pageant for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee - a big deal and here I were for the day !

At St. Pancras I found my way from the tube to the main station. One side was for the Eurostar, the left hand for conventional train services. No way to get close of the

Eurostars, like airports it was well fenced off. The roof was fascinating - one end had the Olympic Rings, a reminder that in a month's time the city was to be massively busy. So I wandered down the other side. A kind ticket barrier officer let me through to see the trains - and I wandered down the platform. One side a DMU, the other a HST - signed for East Midland lines. Fascinating to compare it to the XPT to be sure. London had a wet drizzly day so took care on the exposed part of the platform. At this end it was easier to see the Eurostars and took two photos of three sets side by side.

There was so much I did not know - to find Kings Cross station across the street - so a short walk across to the Kings Cross station. Again a fascinating station with roof and a range of DMU's and HST's. Off to a street map to see what was close - Euston Station was down the street. So a longer walk down Euston Road to Euston Station. This was as interesting too, the buildings, the buses etc. At Euston had a lunch break once I found a shop that appealed to me. One observation I just could not find a rubbish bin and the original shop I bought my food took the rubbish for me. Didn't wander as much at this station.



Signal in the rain.....



Eurostars line up.....

Getting around 1pm it was back to the tube for the trip back to the airport - once I did a another tube line back to St. Pancras. From there back to Heathrow and that same bus area,.The bus duly arrived which got me back to the hotel about 3pm so got my room. Had a shower, food while watching the boat procession on the Thames it was busy in London I would have tried for Tower bridge but it would have been chaotic, even in the rain. Then a sleep, woke up 11.22pm

Decided to type this up then email. Lots to do tomorrow - as it starts the trip in the UK properly.



Between the stations.



Trains in King Cross Station



"Read the sign..."



Kings Cross Station roof one section.



LONDON BUS - seen in London !



First loco seen.. Standby duties ???



Another Kings cross shot



Euston Station - didn't wander this one. Iching to sleep at hotel.