

# Accessibility & Interchange

## Outline for Improvement



# Newbury Station

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West Berkshire  
COUNCIL



## Introduction

Newbury station is well located in Newbury town centre, close to the main retail area, employment, and residential areas.

It is a busy station with around 1.68 million passenger movements per annum, a 10-year increase of 27%. This will increase further as a result of expansion of Newbury and forecasted growth in rail travel.

Services are especially popular with commuters with a high demand for peak trains to Reading & London as well as to Newbury from Reading. This can cause congestion within the station on the station footbridge, platform and ticket office, especially around the gatelines, and can lead to many conflicting movements on the forecourt areas outside both station entrances.

As well as managing movements in and around the station, there is a need to tackle congestion on the local road network around the station by encouraging more sustainable means of accessing the station, such as walking, cycling and by bus. Improvements on routes to and facilities at the station will be crucial in helping to achieve this.

This brochure seeks to identify the key issues that affect passengers at the station and to guide where future investment to facilities is necessary to enable the station to adequately cater for the travel demands of all passengers in the 21st Century.

# About the Station

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Two entrances to the station; Cheap Street/Station Approach (with ticket office and ticket vending machines) and Station Road (ticket vending machine).

The two main platforms are connected by a footbridge; however there is no means of step free access between platforms other than a lengthy diversion outside of the station, which can be difficult for disabled passengers.

Gatelines on both platforms have reduced fare evasion, but cause congestion on the platforms, especially during peak services

Conflicting movements between pedestrians, cyclists and other road users creates potential safety issues outside both station entrances.

The lack of a clearly defined and signed pedestrian route between the Cheap Street/Station Approach entrance and Newbury town centre.

The station has 240 car parking spaces, which are often full before 10:00 on most weekdays.

There are 45 bicycle parking spaces plus eight secure cycle lockers. However incidences of theft and vandalism can deter passengers from cycling to the station.



## Main areas for Improvement

There are a number of areas in and around the station that require improvement to help cater for the needs of all future passengers. These could be supported by the development of a Station Travel Plan to help manage journeys to the station and improve interchange between modes.

The main four areas below identify where improvements are required at the station. In addition there are a number of potential minor improvement works identified through the Council's Accessibility Audit of the station undertaken in 2010.

### 1. Improved access between platforms

- Lifts are needed on both platforms connecting to the footbridge to allow all passengers to cross between the 2 main platforms.
- Current step free route is a lengthy and tiring diversion outside the station via the A339 over bridge.
- Replacement of the station footbridge as part of the electrification project would provide an appropriate opportunity to provide lifts or at very least enable the design to be future proofed so that lifts can be readily installed.
- It is strongly suggested that Network Rail take the opportunity to provide lifts as part of the works for electrification and/or that an application is made to the DfT's

### 2. Improved cycle parking

- Further improvements are needed to accommodate future demand and to increase security.
- Seek to increase the amount of covered platform cycle parking.
- Ensure CCTV coverage is extended to cover all cycle parking areas.

### 3. Better connections to the town centre

- An improved and safer pedestrian and cycle route between the station and Newbury town centre is needed.
- Visitors arriving by train are directed up Station Approach to Cheap Street where the Wayfinding project signs help to guide them around the town centre.
- Pedestrians accessing the Cheap Street/Station Approach entrance from the Bartholomew Street area often make their way through the station and Council offices car parks.
- A clearly defined walking route from the Cheap Street entrance through the car parks to the town centre and bus station needs to be developed to help reduce conflict with car park users.
- Long-term proposals as part of the Market Street redevelopment project will create an opportunity for a new gateway and link between the Station and the town centre.

### 4. Station forecourt improvements

- Need for improvements outside both station entrances to help provide clear routes to/from the station buildings and to improve safety.
- Signing at the station entrances and to the ticket office is poor.
- Surfacing and marking improvements to the forecourt areas outside the station entrances should help improve safety by minimising pedestrian/vehicle conflict.
- Also consider improvements to the Vodafone bus pick-up point on Station Road.

## Market Street area Redevelopment

Newbury Vision recognises the importance of Newbury station as a key gateway to the town and that very little is made of the station's position in the town.

Joint venture between West Berkshire Council, Network Rail and Grainger looking at an opportunity to redevelop land between the Cheap Street entrance and Market Street. This will include the amalgamation of parking areas and relocation of the bus station.

Key objectives of the proposals include facilitating an improvement to the setting and access to Newbury railway station, particularly from the rest of the town centre, and to improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity through the proposed development site.

Will see creation of a new “interchange spine” providing a direct pedestrian route between the station and the town centre which will help improve connectivity and create a better gateway image for the railway station and town.

This will also lead to improvements to interchange, including the development of a possible cycling hub.

Redevelopment and amalgamation of the station and Council offices car parks may present an opportunity to increase the number of car parking spaces at the station.



Station Road Entrance



Part of current step-free route between platforms

If you require this information in an alternative format or translation, please call 01635 42400 and ask for the ask for the Transport Policy Team.

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