

Oct 14, 2019 13:22 BST

Passengers at Bedford reminded of reduced car parking

Passengers using the Marston Vale line are being reminded that car parking at Bedford station will be significantly reduced from Monday 21 October until Sunday 22 December.

The station sits at the end of the London Northwestern Railway branch line service to Bletchley as well as other operators' services towards London and Northamptonshire.

As part of the Midland Main Line Upgrade, work is taking place to lift Bromham Road bridge, which is north of Bedford station, to make way for overhead line equipment, as part of the electrification of the line northwards. This will provide a quieter and cleaner railway for passengers and those living nearby.

The bridge needs to be demolished and reconstructed at a raised height, to provide a safe distance to allow the equipment to be installed. Network Rail engineers will be using two cranes in the car park at Bedford station to allow this upgrade work to be carried out, meaning there is a reduction in parking spaces. Parking for disabled passengers will not be affected.

Alternative car parks within one mile of the station are signposted. A temporary bridge for pedestrians and dismounted cyclists to use is also in place to maintain access whilst Bromham Road is closed.

Gavin Crook, principal programme sponsor for Network Rail, said:

“Network Rail would like to apologise in advance for any inconvenience

caused and thank passengers for their patience while the work is carried out.

“Bromham Road bridge needs to be demolished and reconstructed to enable the electrification of the line northwards towards Wellingborough, Kettering and Corby.

“As the Midland Main Line upgrade progresses well, this work will bring a quieter and cleaner railway for passengers and residents in Bedford and the surrounding area.”

About West Midlands Trains

For further information on this release, call our press office on 03300 955150 or email press.office@wmtrains.co.uk

West Midlands Trains operates both West Midlands Railway and London Northwestern Railway services.

- **London Northwestern Railway** services operate between Liverpool and Birmingham, and on the West Coast mainline to and from London Euston.
- **West Midlands Railway** services operate to destinations across the West Midlands via Birmingham New Street.

For more information on these services visit westmidlandsrailway.co.uk or londonnorthwesternrailway.co.uk

The West Midlands Trains franchise started on 10 December 2017 and will run until 2025/26.

West Midlands Trains operates 1,300 services a day, manages 150 stations and provides over 70 million passenger journeys a year. Over the course of the franchise, West Midlands Trains will be investing £1 billion into the rail network to deliver new trains, improved routes and station upgrades. This will include 400 new train carriages across the network and space for an extra 85,000 passengers into Birmingham and London at peak times.

The franchise is a joint venture between Abellio (70.1% share) and East Japan Railway Company / Mitsui & Co., Ltd (29.9% share in a 50:50 split). Abellio is the international passenger transport subsidiary of the Dutch national railway company, Nederlandse Spoorwegen. In the UK, Abellio operates ScotRail and Greater Anglia train services, Merseyrail services in a joint venture with Serco and buses through Abellio London. For more information visit www.abellio.com

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