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Luggage bridge to be restored at Worcester Shrub Hill

A Grade II listed former luggage bridge is being lovingly restored for passengers at Worcester Shrub Hill station.

The Georgian-style station was built between 1850-54 by nineteenth century railway engineer Edward Wilson and was first given listed building status in 1971.

In recent years the disused luggage bridge has fallen into disrepair but its railway heritage will now be saved as part of Britain's Railway Upgrade Plan.

Lawrence James, scheme project manager at Network Rail, said: “This Railway Upgrade Plan work is essential to protect the bridge from the elements and we need to take action now before it cannot be saved. Passengers will benefit from the refurbishment as the station will look brighter and the structure of the bridge will be much safer.”

The bridge has to be lifted out by crane so it can be made safe and secure, and a new roof and windows will be fitted. The restored structure will then be repainted and craned back into position next spring.

Work will be taking place from 5 October until May 2020 and passengers are being advised that station car parking will be impacted during the restoration.

Spaces will be limited between 5 October – 29 November, and completely suspended on the weekend of the 15-17 November so the entire bridge can be removed by crane.

Car parking will return to normal while the bridge refurbishment work takes place off site for several months.

Then on 6 March some spaces will be needed to prepare for the bridge to be reinstated, and all parking suspended once again on the weekend of 21-22 March when the restored structure will be lifted back into its original position.

Brenda Lawrence, head of stations for West Midlands Railway, said: “We thank our customers who drive to Worcester Shrub Hill for their patience while Network Rail carries out these important works to improve the appearance of the station.”

Trains will not be disrupted while the bridge restoration takes place.

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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