

Stagecoach South West Trains 'Access for All' at Alton, Aldershot and Wokingham Stations

OSBORNE

Design standardisation, offsite fabrication and off-line assembly ensured three AfA schemes were designed and installed simultaneously at three separate stations within a short 12 month window.

PROJECT	Access for All
CUSTOMER	Stagecoach Southwest Trains
STATIONS	Alton, Aldershot and Wokingham
CONTRACT	NEC3 with SSWT Amendments
COMPLETION	September 2013
VALUE	£3.9m

Issue

Stagecoach South West Trains had to deliver three AfA foot bridge and lift projects within tight time scales and budgets. Successful completion would open the doors for SSWT to apply for future funding.

The three AfA upgrades at Alton, Aldershot and Wokingham Stations had to be designed constructed and operational within 12 months.

Each station required a new footbridge, 16 person lifts, access stairs, associated M&E, platform and demolition works.

Alton Station had particular constraints as the Watercress Steam Heritage Line served the station and the local Treloar School and College catered for students with disabilities. Maintaining safe access during construction was paramount.

Solution

The three AfA schemes comprised similar elements in terms of the footbridge, lift and stair design which provided opportunity to standardise design and construction.

During design we incorporated elements of standardisation identified through our programme of AfA upgrades for Network Rail. We addressed known issues around operation and maintenance of the structures. For instance by keeping public spaces open and clutter free from drainage through clever roof design and sealing footbridge spans to prevent driving rain entering walkways.

Off-site fabrication and off-line pre-assembly were an important element of the design to reduce the time on site and hence reduce the impact on passengers and the operational railway.

All three bridge structures arrived on site complete with roof, windows and stairs ready for installation. Advance factory checks verified dimensional accuracy and the quality of finishes to avoid any issues during erection.

On the night of each installation, the bridge and stair sections were simply lifted into place by crane during a booked line blockage.

Impact on rail operations was further minimised by adopting methodology that allowed aspects of the demolition, electrical works, re-surfacing, drainage, canopy adjustments and platform works to be undertaken during normal daytime hours.

Outcome

Standardisation across the structures on the AfA schemes at Alton, Aldershot and Wokingham and the detailed knowledge of implementing AfA schemes on rail infrastructure in an open collaborative way, resulted in completion on time to meet SSWT funding deadline.

The Alton Station scheme was the first of its size and nature for South West Trains and was celebrated with a contingent of local council representatives and pupils from the Treloar College accessing the station and Platform 2 where a Wadebridge 1945 steam locomotive awaited them. They were taken on a memorable journey on the Watercress Heritage Line to mark the opening.

