



OSBORNE

'Access for All' solution opens 4 weeks early



Station Opens 4 Weeks Early!

“Just wanted to pass on my thanks for all your efforts and the high standard of works you continually set yourself and for delivering the new footbridge ready for operational usage and meeting our Stakeholder requirements”

Networks Rail's Asset Manager

PROJECT

Godalming Station AfA

CUSTOMER

Network Rail

CONTRACT

IP Southern Framework

COMPLETION

2017

Issue

Everyone has the right to safely access our rail transport network. To make it possible there has to be an obstacle free route from the station entrance to the platform. Quite a challenge with many stations 'listed buildings', or located in busy town centres and major cities like London.

In 2006 Network Rail embarked on a programme of station upgrades to install lifts and ramps, supported by the government 'Access for All' fund. Now, over 10 years later, a wealth of knowledge has been accumulated.

There is recognition that every station is unique, but the approach to design and construction is fundamentally the same. Most importantly, people and trains have to keep moving safely.

Solution

Developing the best solution requires a collaborative input from Network Rail, the

TOC, Osborne our designer Arcadis and supply chain. Retrofitting within a live station environment is complex and the team must share a commitment to be flexible, think differently and find creative solutions to overcome challenges.

Capturing the needs of the station operators early in design is essential. Workshops with the Route Asset Managers (RAM) and the TOC are used to identify 'what good looks like' to them. Alongside this, site 'walkover' sessions view the pros and cons of current solutions. The result is a design that makes life easier and safer for the operator.

A simple example is the heritage bridge at Godalming where ventilation louvres were added between the top structural cord and footbridge roof. This eliminated the need for tilt window ventilation, saving cost with simpler turn-only windows and protecting passengers from driving rain.

Space at stations is often limited and passenger flow must always be safely maintained so off-site fabrication and

pre-assembly is the best approach. Success is dependent upon close attention to quality to ensure every section fits seamlessly into place during planned rail possessions.

At Godalming Station, off-site pre-fabrication reduced risk from working at height and in proximity to railway hazards; and allowed the lift and stairs to be craned in a single night, minimising disruption to the live station environment.

Outcome

Godalming Station finished 4 weeks early. The modern AfA was seamlessly integrated within the 1859 Heritage Listed building. Along with step free access, passengers and operators now benefit from platform and electrical upgrades to keep everyone dry and moving safely.

Network Rail praised the professional execution of the project and the quality of finish. Handed back with no defects, it was a fantastic achievement on a project of this complexity.