

FIRST LOOK AT COSFORD RAILWAY STATION PLANS



THE PLANS FOR COSFORD RAILWAY STATION

Network Rail's plan to spend £2.1 million transforming Cosford Railway Station was welcomed today.

The rail company announced it will close the station for nearly five months from October 29 to install glass waiting rooms, information screens for passengers and new staircases to access the platforms.

The wooden station was built and opened to the public in 1937 to coincide with the opening of RAF Cosford and some of the materials are more than 100 years old.

London Midland has announced it will provide a shuttle bus service between Cosford Railway Station and Albrighton Railway Station until the work finishes in March next year.

Michelle Worthington, from Cosford Air Museum Welcomed the investment. She said: "We are hoping the bus provided will come past the museum so it will be really beneficial while the work is being done.

"Once it is finished, the museum is only a short walk from the station and hopefully the work will increase visitors using public transport. It could also bring more people to the area."

Wrekin MP Mark Pritchard said: "I have been campaigning for years to see greater investment in local rail infrastructure and stations.

"This is a clear sign Cosford has a secure future either with the RAF or, after 2018, with the British Army."

Servicemen attending the RAF base will have to find alternative ways of getting to training during the work.



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Additional Information:

Preparatory work began in Aug 1937 on the RAF Cosford Site, with the major contract going to the relatively new, but booming, company of Robert McAlpine Limited. The value of the contract awarded was £1.35 million. (Cost of Fulton Block £250,000)

On 15 July 1938 an 'Opening Up' party commanded by Sqn Ldr A C Francis AFC arrived from Halton. Equipment packed into trains, lorries and private furniture vans flooded in.

Practically everything was manhandled off the lorries that came by road from Halton. **ALL THE TRAINS** stopped at Albrighton where an unloading party transferred equipment to lorries for the short trip to Cosford. The Cosford Halt railways station was still under construction and would not be opened until later in the year.

To accommodate lorries, who could not get under the A41 railway bridge close to the camp because of large/high loads (A41 By-Pass came much later) McAlpine workmen from the Cosford (Building) Site lowered the road under the bridge, building a raised pedestrian walkway – which still remains to this day!