

Southend East station

Access for All:
Improving your station for everyone

August 2025



#SouthendEastAFA

networkrail.co.uk

What are we doing at Southend East?

We're making Southend East station fully accessible by installing two new lifts and a footbridge to provide step-free access between the ticket hall and platforms.

Why are we doing this work?

Our plans will make it easier for all passengers to access rail services at Southend East.

When will the work be completed?

We're planning to open the new lifts and footbridge at Southend East by the end of 2026.

Will you need to close Southend East station?

The station will remain open for the majority of the time, however, the northern entrance will be temporarily closed from November 2025 to March 2026. There will be some planned weekend railway closures to complete critical work using a crane to install the new lift shafts and the new footbridge.

How will my experience of Southend East station change during construction?

While the northern entrance is closed some passengers will need to access the station via the southern entrance using the council footbridge to cross the railway and allow a few extra minutes to walk the increased distance.

Will there be help if I need assistance?

Yes. The station will remain staffed during its normal hours, and our team will do everything possible to assist passengers, particularly those with accessibility needs.

What will happen to the cycle storage?

The existing cycle storage area will be temporarily removed for the duration of the project and reinstated upon its completion towards the end of 2026.

Will the London bound platform 1 remain accessible during the work?

Yes, platform 1 will remain accessible for those requiring step-free access to London bound services while we build the new lifts and footbridge.

Will parking be affected at the station?

Yes. 30 parking bays on Riviera Drive (adjacent to Platform 2) will be suspended. On-street parking on Riviera Drive (between Ilfracombe Avenue and Belle Vue Avenue) will also be suspended from September to November 2025 to accommodate piling work on the station embankment.

Why are you also using the Ilfracombe Avenue car park?

Because of limited space at the station, the Ilfracombe Avenue car park will be used for the project offices and welfare units for the duration of the project. Approx 40 spaces will be suspended here during the project.

Will there be road closures?

Yes. There will be a single-lane closure on Riviera Drive (between Ilfracombe Avenue and Belle Vue Avenue) from September to November 2025 managed with temporary traffic lights.

A full road closure of Riviera Drive (between Ilfracombe Avenue and Belle Vue Road) around mid-February is also required to safely install the new lift shafts and footbridge. Pedestrian access to properties opposite the station will be maintained, but vehicle access to a small number of properties may be affected for a short time during these road closures.

What will happen to the old station footbridge?

Once the new station footbridge and lifts are complete, the old station footbridge will be permanently closed.

Will you need to remove any trees?

Yes, unfortunately we'll need to remove a small number of trees to install the sheet pile and excavate the embankment on platform 2. If there is an opportunity to replant suitable new trees/shrubs to offset those lost after work has finished, we will explore options with the Council.

How are you funding this work?

This work is funded through the Department for Transport's (DfT) Access for All (AfA) scheme. Thanks to this investment, we now have step-free, accessible routes at more than 200 stations across Britain.

Do you have permission to do this work?

Yes. Planning permission was granted on 28 March 2025 by Southend City Council.

Who is delivering the work?

We've appointed Octavius as the contractor to deliver this work on our behalf. Octavius has worked on similar projects across the region including at Grays and is also delivering lifts at Chalkwell.

What are Octavius' working hours?

Octavius' working hours for the majority of the work is 08:00 to 17:00 Mon-Fri. There will be some weekend and night-time work required when the railway is closed to allow us to work when trains are not running.

If you want to contact us about our work please call Network Rail's 24hr helpline on **08457 11 41 41** or follow us on X **@networkrailANG** using the hashtag **#SouthendEastAFA**

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