

StIP - Station Improvement Plan

Heritage Impact Assessment

**Wrexham General Station: Listed Building Consent
Application**

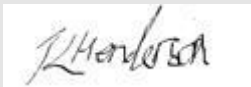
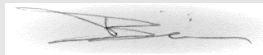
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StIP-AME-ZZ-WRX-RPT-Z-EN-00001-P01

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1 Introduction / Outline

1.1 Brief General Description

Keolis Amey (under the Transport for Wales Rail Services partnership) has been commissioned by Transport for Wales (TfW) to develop the public transport transformation across Wales. This Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) concerns a series of station upgrade works at Wrexham General Station and forms part of the Listed Building Consent Application (LBC) for the works.

1.2 Wrexham General Works

Part of the proposed station upgrades at Wrexham General station will involve:

- The upgrade of the Platform 2/3 waiting room (see drawing Stip-AMA-ZZ-WRX-DDR-A-AR-00005)
- The installation of a family changing place and disabled access toilet and toilet block improvements on Platform 1, (see drawing Stip-AMA-ZZ-WRX-DDR-A-AR-00004)
- The installation of two new directional signs to be located on the Listed Building with a new totem sign to be erected at the entrance to Platform 4 (see Signage Schedule and Signage Drawings for details).

1.3 Listed Status

Wrexham General station is a Grade II Listed structure (Cadw I.D. 1855); therefore, these works will require LBC, supported by this Heritage Impact Assessment.

2 Significance of Asset

2.1 Overview

Wrexham General Station is a Grade II Listed Building (Cadw I.D. 1855) identifying it as “...of special interest which justify every effort being made to preserve them” (Cadw, 2018). Grade II Listed Buildings account for approximately 91% of Listed Buildings in Wales.

The building was Listed for architectural interest on 5th September 1986 as a good example of Great Western Railway station architecture, which, with its fine canopy, survives intact (Cadw records, accessed 10/07/2020).

2.2 Architectural Value

Cadw describe the station architecturally as, “Roughly coursed and squared stone with ashlar dressings and fishscale slate roof. Symmetrical single storeyed entrance range with outer pavilion blocks with wrought iron brattishing surmounted steep roofs. Central entrance in roll-moulded archway, flanked by cross-pane windows. Cornices over similar windows in pavilions (one now a doorway). Long range of offices, waiting rooms etc. Continuous to right, with similar openings. Platform side has roll moulded arches to doorways and 4-pane fixed glazing to windows” (Cadw records accessed 10/07/2020).

2.3 Communal Value

Wrexham General station provides regular train services to a number of towns including Chester and Shrewsbury and is used annually by an estimated 530,000 passengers with this number anticipated to increase in the future.

3 Proposed changes

3.1 Overview of signage additions

As part of general station improvement works at Wrexham station, signage across the station will be rebranded and updated, including the installation of three new signs, two of which are proposed to be located on the listed structure of Wrexham General Station and a third at the Platform 4 entrance to the station on Mould Street with these signs being the subject of this Listed Buildings consent application (see drawing Stip-AMA-ZZ-WRX-DDR-A-AR-00007).

The proposed Sign 1 will be placed by the out of hours exit for the station and will provide directions to facilities in the nearby area. The sign will measure 800mm by 250mm and will consist of a vinyl overlay on two sides of an aluminium panel (shown in Figure):

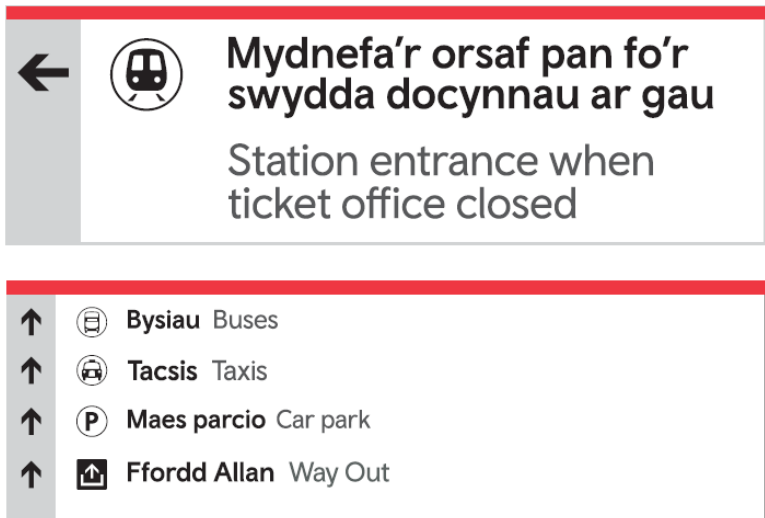


Figure 1: Sign 1 Design

The proposed Sign 2 will be placed at the southern extent of platform 1 and is required to highlight a new family changing place and disabled bathroom as proposed below. The sign will measure 1200mm by 280mm and will consist of a vinyl overlay on an aluminium panel with bracketing details to match existing adjacent signs (shown in Figure 3)



Figure 2: Sign 2 Design

The proposed Sign 3 will be placed at the Mould Street entrance to Platform 4 to improve visibility and awareness of the entrance, particularly for disabled access. The sign will measure 5000mm by 1000mm and will consist of enamel panelling with baked in inscriptions over four panels. The final orientation of the totem will be agreed by temporarily positioning it before the final fix.

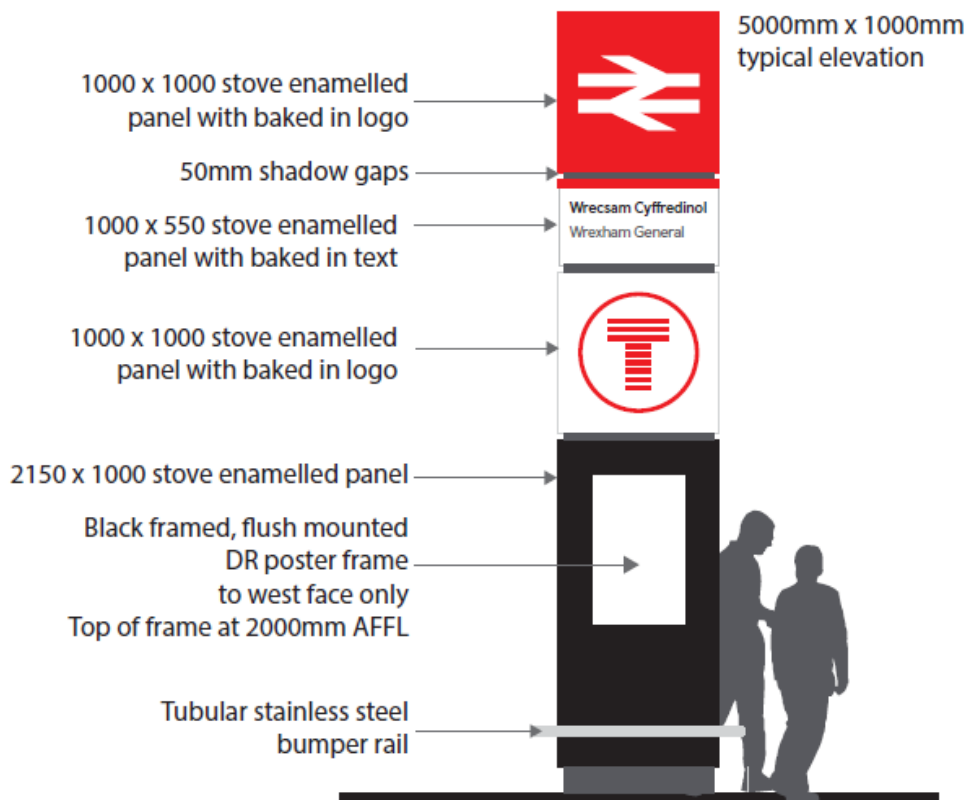


Figure 3: Totem Design

3.2 Overview of Platform 2/3 waiting room renovation

In order to increase usability of the Platform 2/3 waiting room it is proposed that existing bricked up windows are reopened with new timber windows. The internal divide between the existing waiting room and room 1 will be removed to allow for greater space, with the existing seating reused and new seating installed (see drawing StIP-AME-ZZ-WRX-DDR-A-AR-00005 for full details).

3.3 Overview of installation of a new family changing place and disabled toilet and upgrade of toilet block

To provide a family changing place, install disabled toilet facilities and updated toilet facilities, it is proposed that upgrades are carried out to the existing toilet block and a derelict store room immediately next to the existing toilet block is brought back into use. Works will comprise of stripping out the contents and fittings of the store room and installing changing facilities and disabled toilet provisions. The existing toilet block will have its finishes upgraded with new fittings in line with the Station Toolkit Volume 4.

External works will involve the removal of the steel door currently used for the store room and replacing with a timber framed door, window finishings will be brought in line with windows on the main building. The roof felting over the proposed changing place flat roof will be replaced with single ply Sika roofing (see drawing StIP-AME-ZZ-WRX-DDR-A-AR-00004 for full details).

3.4 Works Justification

The upgrading of waiting room facilities on Platform 2/3 will improve the usability of the station and has potential to increase station use during periods of poor weather.

The upgrading and installation of a family changing place and disabled toilet facilities will create a more usable space and potentially help encourage greater train use in the future.

The works will provide clarity for station users by providing directions in both English and Welsh languages, in compliance with the Welsh Government's aim for consistent signage for entire journeys. The signage will also be in keeping with Transport for Wales Guidance that stations should provide direction for those not familiar with the town and will provide clear instructions for the use of disabled and family facilities at the station as well as access to platforms.

4 Impact of Proposals

4.1 Negative Impacts

There is potential for works to impact the Listed Building as well as the overall setting of the Listed Building, the potential impacts consist of:

- The addition of two new signs on the listed structure may detract from the architectural features such as the squared and dressed stone work.
- The reopening of bricked up windows will affect the character of the waiting room building which is within the curtilage of the listed main building.
- The changing of materials from felting to Sika roofing will impact the view of the main station building from Regent Street.

4.2 Positive Impacts

There will be a number of positive impacts from the proposed station works as the works will improve the functionality of the station. Positive impacts include:

- Signage works will be reversible due to the nature of the fittings to be used and in keeping with existing signage on the building. As the installation will be carried out at the same time as the wider signage upgrades, new signs will not stand out from the existing works.
- The signs will provide increased clarity and usability of the station by providing directions to the disabled WC and family changing place as well as local services.
- The impact of the placing of the signs on the listed building will be low and not require alterations to the fabric of the building.
- The totem sign is located away from the main station and screened by vegetation and will therefore not have an impact on the Listed Building.
- The reopening of windows and installing timber frame windows at the waiting room will be in keeping with the original style of building at Wrexham General Station.
- The increase of size and window space in the waiting room will increase its functionality.
- The installation of a family changing place and a disabled toilet as well as the roofing update will mean that a relatively unused element of the station will be brought back into use, helping safeguard it from deterioration.
- Providing family changing places and upgraded of existing toilet facilities will improve the overall functionality of the station.

5 Proposed Solution

Three proposed new signs are to be installed with one to highlight disabled and family changing facilities with another by the out of hours exit to the station directing passengers to local facilities at Wrexham General Station as well as the Mould street entrance to Platform 4.

The new signage will be installed at the agreed locations and will be in keeping with the signage throughout the station during the rebranding and updating of the station signage.

The upgrading of the waiting room by increasing its size, reopening bricked up windows and installing timber windows will improve the waiting rooms quality while keeping the character of the structure in line with its original style.

The bringing back into use of a store room as a family changing place as well as a disabled facility will protect this section of the building from falling into disrepair while providing essential station amenities.

The proposed works have been designed to minimise the impact on the Listed Building, while still effectively providing upgraded station facilities, increasing disabled and family facilities, improving waiting room accommodation as well as signage, in line with Network Rail requirements.

6 Bibliography

Cadw (2017), Heritage Impact Assessments in Wales

Cadw Records. <https://cadw.gov.wales/advice-support/cof-cymru/search-cadw-records> (accessed 10/07/2020)

Appendix A – Drawings Register

<u>Drawing Number</u>	<u>Revision</u>	<u>Drawing Title</u>
<u>WG 04A NTS</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>Wrexham General Signage Drawings 150720</u>
N/A	<u>8</u>	<u>Sign Schedule: Wrexham General</u>
StIP-AME-ZZ-WRX-DDR-A-AR-00005	<u>T01</u>	<u>Wrexham General Station (WRX) Waiting Room Platform 2 & 3 Upgrade</u>
StIP-AME-ZZ-WRX-DDR-A-AR-00004	<u>T01</u>	<u>Wrexham General Station (WRX) New Changing Places facility & Toilets Block Upgrade GA Plans</u>
StIP-AME-ZZ-WRX-DDR-A-AR-0007	<u>P01</u>	<u>Wrexham General Station WRX Listed Building Application</u>