



MAKING RAIL ACCESSIBLE

Helping Older and
Disabled Passengers

20 September 2026

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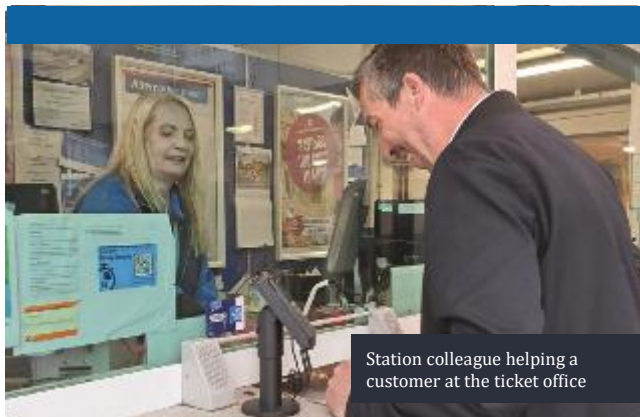
Introduction

This leaflet provides an overview of the assistance available to passengers on Chiltern Railways.

At Chiltern Railways, we are committed to providing a safe, reliable and accessible service. Our Accessible Travel Policy is available on our [Chiltern Railways website](#) or by contacting our Customer Relations Team on **03456 005165** (selecting option 3, then option 4).

This [Making Rail Accessible](#) leaflet will provide you with details on:

- [How to get assistance](#) – Step-by-step guide on booking help, unbooked/Turn Up and Go services and what to do at staffed and unstaffed stations.
- [What to expect during travel](#) – Information on accessibility at stations, onboard services, seating and mobility aid policies.
- [Disruption and emergency support](#) – Guidance on alternative transport, dealing with delays and emergency procedures.
- [Where to find more information](#) – Contact details for assistance, customer service and accessing the leaflet in different formats.



Station colleague helping a customer at the ticket office

Assistance

What is available and how to get it

For immediate travel

- We provide assistance at staffed stations during operating hours
- Unbooked assistance (Turn Up and Go) is available, but booking in advance is recommended so that we can make sure the assistance you need is in place at the time you need it
- If assistance is required at an unstaffed station, passengers can use Help Points or call our assistance number **03456 005165** (selecting option 3, then option 3 again)
- We recommend people arrive at least 20 minutes before their train's departure time, so that we can make sure the assistance you need is in place at the time you need it

Booking assistance

Assistance can be pre-booked up to 2 hours before travel with these options:

- Chiltern Railways Assist Team (03456 005 165, option 3, then option 3 again) available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (except 25 December)
- Passenger Assistance by Transreport app (available on iOS and Android)
- Online – Make a request for assistance on the Passenger Assistance website – [Home | Passenger Assistance](#)
- When purchasing tickets over the phone (03456 005 165 selecting option 1, then option 2) assistance can be arranged at the same time as purchase from 07:00–22:00, 7 days a week (except 25 December)
- If you are Deaf and/or Hard of Hearing, dial **0870 240 9598** (which connects you to the Relay Assist service). If you are a British Sign Language (BSL) user, you can

use Convo to connect to us via an interpreter. You can access Convo via the app or a web browser. Visit <https://www.convo.io/uk/home> for more information

We may run a reduced timetable on 26 December and might not serve all our stations; you are able to book assistance up to 22:00 on 24 December or check our website for more details on these services.

Levels of assistance we provide

- Help with journey planning
- Assistance with boarding and alighting from trains
- Explaining what services and facilities are available on the train and at the station
- Support with wheelchairs, scooters and other mobility aids
- Help with luggage for older and disabled customers who have booked assistance and, where reasonably practical, we will provide this service for customers who are not pre-booked (up to three items per passenger)
- Guidance through stations, to platforms and to onward transport
- Purchasing travel tickets
- Making seat reservations on other train operators' services

Our staff are trained to support passengers with visible and non-visible disabilities. We support the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Lanyard scheme and our staff are trained in recognising that wearers may need extra assistance on their journey.

We cannot provide continuous assistance throughout your journey or offer personal care, such as help with eating, taking medication, or using the toilet. If you require this level of support, we recommend travelling with a companion.

For safety reasons, our staff cannot lift you from a wheelchair into a train seat, but they can assist you in making the transfer.

What to expect

Our commitment to passengers at every stage of the journey

Before you travel

Information about train services, station accessibility and ticketing is available via:

- Phone: [03456 005 165](tel:03456005165) (option 3, then option 3) open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (except 25 December)
- Website: www.chilternrailways.co.uk purchasing ticket and obtaining travel information
- Staffed ticket office location and opening hours www.chilternrailways.co.uk/routes-and-destinations
- National Rail Enquiries www.nationalrail.co.uk

Our staff will be able to provide information on our facilities and services, which can also be found via the following links to our website:

- Station facilities, accessibility information, train facilities, staff availability and disabled parking spaces: www.chilternrailways.co.uk/routes-and-destinations
- Use of wheelchairs and mobility scooters and other mobility aids: www.chilternrailways.co.uk/before-you-travel/Assisted-Travel-Information
- How to purchase a ticket and discounts available: www.chilternrailways.co.uk/before-you-travel/Assisted-Travel-Information
- Temporary reductions in accessibility (including of toilet facilities): www.journeycheck.com/chilternrailways
- Train times and routes: www.chilternrailways.co.uk/before-you-travel/download-ourtimetable
- Details of delays, disruption and emergencies (including emergency or temporary timetables): www.chilternrailways.co.uk/live-train-times

At the station

- All staffed stations have clearly marked Meeting Points for assistance

- Portable access ramps are available at staffed stations
- Where available, Train Managers can provide assistance at unstaffed stations, but they are unable to provide assistance beyond the platform. Train Managers are available on all of our Chiltern Explorer trains and on 168 trains north of Banbury. Our primary method for delivering assistance is via a staff member attending from a nearby station or to use alternative accessible transport when staff members are not available. So, we will arrange for a staff member to be sent from a nearby station or provide alternative accessible transport to take you (and a companion, if applicable) to either the nearest accessible station or your destination, depending on your journey.
- If a station is physically inaccessible for customers, we will arrange alternative accessible transport at no extra cost

Assistance at staffed stations

Whether you have pre-booked assistance or not, we recommend arriving at the station at least 20 minutes before departure

If booked in advance through Passenger Assist, we can help older and disabled customers carry luggage on or off the train and to a connecting service, taxi rank, or other vehicle free of charge. Our staff must be able to lift the item(s) safely. Where reasonably practicable, we will provide this service for customers who are not pre-booked.

At accessible staffed stations, we have portable access ramps for wheelchairs and mobility devices, but some larger devices may not fit on our trains. For more details, visit [Assisted Travel Information | Chiltern Railways](#)

Assistance at unstaffed stations

If you need assistance at a Chiltern Railways station, you can use the Help Points located on all platforms. These provide access to live service updates, assistance with boarding or alighting and allow you to report accessibility issues or station faults.

To use a Help Point:

- Press the assistance button for non-emergency support (e.g., requesting a ramp or checking train times)

- Press the emergency button only for urgent safety concerns
- Stay near the Help Point while assistance is being arranged or inform the operator where you will be waiting

At unstaffed stations, it is recommended to use the Help Point at least 20 minutes before your train departs to allow time for arrangements to be made. As staff may need to travel to you and services can be less frequent, this may not be suitable for time-sensitive journeys. In such cases, you can check the “Welcome to...” posters at the station for the nearest staffed station.

If a Help Point is not working, you can contact our Customer Relations Team on [03456 005 165](tel:03456005165) (option 3, then option 4) open 08:00–20:00.



A station Help point

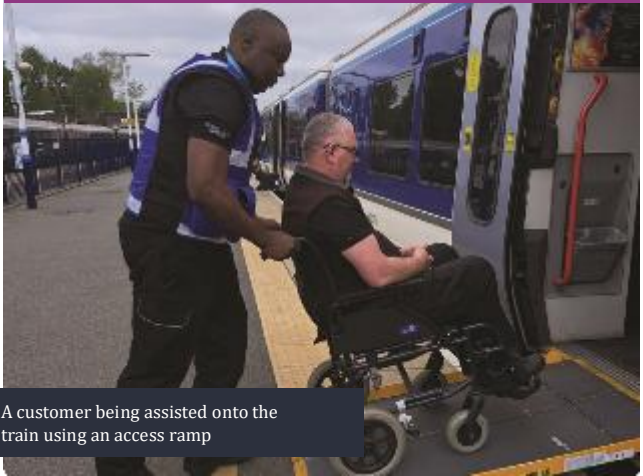
For services north of Banbury and all of our Chiltern Explorer trains, Train Managers are on board to assist with boarding and alighting at unstaffed or part-staffed stations. Wait at the Meeting Point/Help Point for assistance.

Whether you have pre-booked assistance or not, staff will contact your destination or interchange station before you board to confirm assistance will be available when you arrive. After you board, they will call back to confirm your location on the train, arrival time and the type of assistance required. On services with a Train Manager, they will help you alight at unstaffed or partially staffed stations.

For stations south of Banbury where trains do not have Train Managers, as our primary method, we will arrange mobile staff to assist, but if not possible, we will arrange with you alternative accessible transport to the nearest staffed station or your destination station, whichever is nearest, if needed.



Passenger Assistance meeting point at a station



A customer being assisted onto the train using an access ramp

Travel Safe Officers

Chiltern Railways' Travel Safe Officers (TSOs) enhance passenger safety by patrolling stations and trains. They:

- Deter anti-social behaviour and offer reassurance
- Assist with directions and boarding/alighting from trains at the station, as a part of the services they provide
- Relay passenger feedback to Chiltern Railways

TSOs cannot provide personal care (e.g., eating, medication, or toileting), so passengers needing such assistance should travel with a companion.

Inaccessible stations

Not all of our stations are accessible to wheelchair users and people with reduced mobility. In these circumstances, we will provide alternative transport such as a taxi – at no extra cost to you – to take you to the nearest accessible station. We will send a member of staff to assist you where it's practical to do so.

On the train

Our staff on board are committed to ensuring that your journey will be as comfortable and stress-free as possible.

Seats on trains

We do not provide seat reservations on any of our routes. Priority seating (situated near the doors) is available on all of our trains. Wheelchair spaces are available on all of our trains and our onboard staff will assist in ensuring these dedicated spaces give wheelchair users first priority. Accessible toilets can be found in the same carriages.

Some of our services operate as a driver-only service, in this instance the station staff will assist you in locating an appropriate seat. If you are with companions and/or family members, we will do our best to seat them close to your seat. In particular, we will aim to ensure that family groups, especially those requiring adult supervision, are located in close proximity.

Assistance dogs

Assistance dogs are welcome on all of our trains, free of charge and can travel in any part of the train. Assistance dogs must not be allowed to sit or travel on a seat on the train; this is for the comfort of all customers.

Wheelchairs, scooters and mobility aids

Wheelchairs and mobility scooters can be carried in the designated spaces on our trains if they meet the following requirements:

Wheelchair dimensions:

- Max width: 700mm
- Max length: 1200mm
- Max weight (including passenger): 300kg

Mobility scooter criteria:

- Max width: 700mm
- Max length: 1200mm
- Max speed: 4mph
- Max weight (including passenger): 300kg

- Free-wheeling facility for power failure
- Sealed batteries
- Can negotiate gradients of 8 degrees or more, or
- Can fold down to hand luggage size

If your wheelchair or mobility scooter exceeds the above dimensions, we will be unable to accommodate you on our services.



Please note, we will also be unable to arrange alternative accessible transport for mobility scooters that exceed the above size dimensions, due to the size restrictions for taxis and buses being the same.

Some powered mobility scooters are only meant for road use and cannot be used on trains, so if you have not travelled before or recently changed your scooter, please check the dimensions with us (as above) to ensure it is okay to use on our trains.

Some of our stations have floor vinyls showing the accepted dimensions for wheelchairs and mobility scooters on Chiltern Railways trains. Please position your wheelchair or mobility scooter on this to ensure it will fit. If you are connecting onto another train operators service, their size restrictions may differ. Although we can book assistance on other train companies' services, mobility scooter policies may differ, including the requirements for scooter permits. Our Passenger Assistance booking team will be able to assist you with this information.



Wheelchair and scooter
dimension guide at a station

Additional information:

- Wheelchairs are available at some stations for passengers who need assistance walking to the platform
- At London Marylebone, mobility assistance buggies are available
- Passengers can remain in their mobility scooters if they meet the size criteria or fold them down if they choose to transfer to a seat
- In line with industry standards, including other Train Operating Companies and Network Rail, E-scooters cannot be used on our stations or trains

Aural and visual information

- Our trains are fitted with Passenger Information Screens which show final destination, calling pattern and next stop
- Most trains have automated announcements for the final destination, calling pattern and next stop
- If the system fails or during delays/changes, staff will make clear, concise announcements where possible. At

unstaffed stations please use the Help Points provided and we will be able to provide you with assistance

Onboard staff aim to make these announcements:

- 5 minutes before departure and again 1–2 minutes before
- 2 minutes before arriving at each station
- During unscheduled stops and delays of 2 or more minutes, with reasons provided if known

We offer a Video Relay Service in partnership with Convo, which provides visual information to support customers whose first or preferred language is British Sign Language (BSL). This free service allows customers to video call a BSL interpreter who will relay the conversation with our team.

For more information, visit:

www.chilternrailways.co.uk/before-you-travel/Assisted-Travel-Information

Assistance on arrival

When a train terminates at one of our stations, our Passenger Assist service will help you to alight from the train as soon as possible and in any event within five minutes of the train's arrival time. At all other stations, assistance will also be provided as soon as possible and in any event, within five minutes of the train's arrival time.



If things do not go as planned

During service disruption, we will do our best to ensure you can continue your journey and are not left stranded.

If your original arrangements are no longer possible, we will re-book any required assistance through Passenger Assist.

In cases of platform changes, our staff will assist you in reaching the revised platform, if accessible. If not, we will discuss with you your preferred alternative accessible transport, such as an accessible taxi, at no extra cost.

For rail replacement services, we will aim to provide accessible buses. If none are available, we will arrange a suitable accessible vehicle.

At times when our facilities or services are disrupted, we will give you notice on our Chiltern Mobile App, website and other communication channels such as social media. When you begin to search on our mobile app or website for a journey, there will be a “banner” with headline information which will expand when you click on this. If the disruption means your original arrangements are no longer possible, if booked, we will do our best to make contact with you and re-book any required assistance through Passenger Assist.

Our staff are trained to anticipate your needs, especially if you have cognitive or sensory impairments. They will communicate news of any service disruption and provision of alternative transport to you via the Customer Information Systems or, where possible, in person.

The provision of Help Points at all of our stations provides a link to a staff member (except 25 December) who will also be able to assist you in continuing your journey.

Emergency procedures

In an emergency, our staff will supervise evacuation and identify the safest routes, including alternatives if needed.

If you have a disability and there is no accessible evacuation route, you will be moved to a preidentified place of safety with a staff member until emergency services arrive.

Wheelchair users will only be evacuated where there are safety concerns, otherwise, you will be moved to a safer part of the train or station until the train can reach the nearest station.

Our staff will accompany you at all times and collaborate with emergency services for expert assistance.

Redress and compensation

When assistance has been booked but has not been provided due to a failure of the assistance service, we must provide you with appropriate redress. In these instances, the form and value must be determined on a case-by-case basis taking into account the circumstances of each case.

We will be happy to assist you with your claim. More details of the claim process can be found on

www.chilternrailways.co.uk/compensation

We would coordinate a response to your complaint if you travelled with multiple train companies and we will provide you with a full explanation in response, including why it happened and what mitigating actions we intend to take as a result.

We will also always comply with the Consumer Rights Act 2015. In line with the National Rail Conditions of Travel, we will consider all additional compensation claims for any losses or extra costs caused by a service failure. For example, the cost of a new plane ticket if you miss a flight. This does not diminish or remove the obligations operators have to passengers under relevant legislation and will not affect your legal and statutory rights to make claims under the Consumer Rights Act 2015, Rail Passengers Rights and Obligations Regulations or the Equality Act 2010. Any payments we make will be internally assessed so that the same loss is not compensated more than once.



Yellow strip above the doors to indicate the accessible carriage onboard the train

Where to get more information and how to get in touch

Our [Customer Relations Team](#) is available from 08:00–20:00, 7 days a week (excluding 25 December) and can be contacted by phone on [03456 005 165](#) (option 3 and option 4) or via our website www.chilternrailways.co.uk/contact-us

Large print, braille or easy-read versions of this leaflet

Contact our team on [03456 005 165](#) (option 3 and option 4) and they will send it to you within seven days.

Our Accessible Travel Policy

This document sets out in more detail our commitments and standards of service provision, as well as relevant policies and practices, with regard to disabled people using the rail network. It is available both online [Assisted Travel Information | Chiltern Railways](#) and in Large Print and Easy Read formats available from our team on [03456 005 165](#) (option 3 and option 4).

Stations and trains accessibility information

Available from our website at: [Assisted Travel Information | Chiltern Railways](#)

Getting in touch

Day of travel queries or issues:

[03456 005 165](#) (option 3 and option 4) between 08:00 – 20:00 7 days a week (except 25 December)

Assisted travel service opening hours and contact details:

03456 005 165 (option 3 and option 3) 24 hours
a day (except 25 December)

Text Phone or minicom:

0845 60 50 600

Provide feedback or make a complaint:

Customer Services (Mon-Sun 08:00–20:00)

Email: customer.service@chilternrailways.co.uk

Phone: 03456 005 165

Post: FREEPOST Chiltern Railways

The Rail Ombudsman

Email: info@railombudsman.org

Phone: 0330 094 0362

Post: 1st Floor

Premier House

Argyle Way

Stevenage

Hertfordshire SG1

2AD

How to contact us via social media:

X/Twitter: [@chilternrailway](https://twitter.com/chilternrailway)

Facebook: [@chilternrailway](https://www.facebook.com/chilternrailway)

WhatsApp: 0203 856 2007

To get involved in the Chiltern Railways Accessibility Group:

We currently have 10 members and review the members in the group on an annual basis. If you would like to be part of our Accessibility Group or join the waiting list to join when positions become available, please email:

accessibility@chilternrailways.co.uk



Scan here to view the
Accessible Travel section
of the Chiltern website