

FORT WILLIAM RAILWAY STATION Interchange Audit

Susan Warren
Jolin Warren
11 May 2014

Linking cycling with
public transport

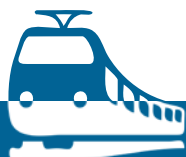


Image copyright Alex Brown

Introduction

Purpose of the Interchange Audit

Transform Scotland has carried out a series of 'Interchange Audits' to assess how easy it is to combine cycling with other forms of sustainable transport. Railway stations, bus stations, and ferry terminals have been audited with consideration given both to cyclists who might want to park their bike and to those who plan to take their bike with them (for instance on the train or ferry). Each audit has involved an on-the-ground survey using the **Interchange Toolkit** which was developed for this project. The survey considers aspects that could make a cyclist's journey easier or more difficult, starting from the station or terminal approach, through entering, to locating parking or the appropriate boarding point. Features such as signage, suitable routes, and access to facilities have been included. However, the project did not assess cycle carriage (for example, the number of cycle spaces on a train or ferry).



overview of fort william railway station

Fort William is the main northern stop on the West Highland Line from Glasgow, though the line then continues on up to Mallaig. As the population centre of the West Highlands, Fort William is a key town for people setting off on outdoor pursuits such as cycling, hiking, hill walking, and mountain biking.

Number of passengers
Used by 136,000 in 2012/13

Station manager
ScotRail

Number of entrances/exits
2

Number of platforms
2

Services
Three return services from Glasgow with regional stops, one return service with regional stops from Edinburgh attached to the sleeper, sleeper (to London), three return services to Mallaig with two additional services by the Jacobite steam train in the summer

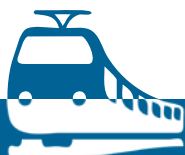
Local authority area
Highland Council

Location
On the northern edge of the small town centre; the town has a population of 9,820

References: Mid-2010 Populations Estimates for Settlements and Localities in Scotland (General Records Office Scotland); Estimates of Station Usage 2012/13 (Office of Rail Regulation); National Rail Enquires; ScotRail

Audit Summary

Fort William railway station is compact, with good facilities, wide passageways, and automatic doors, making using the station with a bicycle easy. Cycle parking is provided just outside the station doors, however it is uncovered and needs to be better maintained. The audit was conducted on a Sunday morning, but during the week and tourist season the number of cycle stands might be insufficient given Fort William's importance as a cycling destination and setting-off point. The lockers provided were nearly full and possibly being used for long-term storage in contravention of their stated purpose.



Signage

- ▶ All station approaches were well signposted.
- ▶ There were maps and details of local cycle routes available outside the station.

Cycle Parking

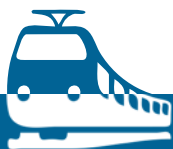
- ▶ There were four bicycle lockers in need of a clean, but clearly in use and otherwise well maintained. All were locked on Sunday, despite there being a notice that they were not for long term use. Three contained bicycles. There were also five Sheffield stands, uncovered with good spacing, good natural surveillance and CCTV coverage. There was one abandoned bicycle attached to the stands and one left lock.

Suitable Routes

- ▶ The entrances to the station had automatic doors which made entering easy with a bicycle.
- ▶ There were also automatic doors between the main concourse and the platforms.

Facilities

- ▶ There was a large waiting area with plenty of space for bicycles in the station. Access to the ticket desk was easy, natural surveillance and CCTV plentiful so it was easy to set a bicycle on the side walls if needed in order to purchase tickets.
- ▶ The following were available: showers, lockers, toilets, café. (For the café and showers, bicycles were best left outside station in parking area.)



transform
scotland

transformscotland.org.uk/interchange

Tel: +44 (0)131 243 2690

info@transformscotland.org.uk