

## Comments from the Public about the Chinley Station Footbridge February 2022



### Background

In November 2016 the Chinley & Buxworth Transport Group carried out an extensive survey of people's experiences of using Chinley Station. By far the greatest number of comments received related to the steeply stepped footbridge which is the only way of accessing the station's island platform

Following the decision of Derbyshire County Council (Transport, Economy, Environment) to apply for Access for All funding for the new DfT funding period, we invited comments again via our website and our social media pages.

Posts received 12/2 2022 (Anonymised)

### BRG

Excellent campaigning. I've written a letter with my full support and reasons Chinley needs to be fully accessible asap. We've waited too long

### TSN

When we first moved to the village our children were only little. Carrying a double buggy over that bridge whilst trying to coax twin toddlers to stay with me was tricky at best. It really restricted my ability use the train.

### GEL

I have slipped on the bridge in bad weather and ended up quite badly bruised on 2 occasions now. I am luckily not needing to use a pram now but I have had to travel to another station to use the train. Not everyone has that luxury though

### JAB

"The Equality Act 2010 requires all station operators to take reasonable steps to ensure that they do not discriminate against disabled people." That's really all the comment that should be required - Northern Rail are breaking the law and discriminating against our village. More than 200 stations have been improved with Access for All funding since 2016 and Chinley has been snubbed year on year.

JMB

My 11yr old son is a full-time wheelchair user. He is able to navigate independently around the village using his powered wheel. He's not many years away from an age where he will not be old enough to drive but he will be old enough to go places on the train by himself. However right now that is impossible for him because there is no level access for him to Chinley station. While his friends will be able to enjoy increased freedom, he will continue to have to rely his mum and dad taking him places.

PLE

I regularly use the Hope Valley Line to see my volunteers in South and West Yorkshire but I need to take my bike with me when I do so which is often loaded up with panniers...I have been very anxious carrying my bike up and down the stairs, the worst was recently with the ice. Proper access to both platforms has to be a priority now

FST Couldn't agree more - have also had unpleasant experiences trying to get a bike across, and have been quite worried about the risks involved trying to get a pushchair across. It is absolutely unsafe if only one adult is present. The current MP has always supported our group, as did DCC Cllr Ruth George when she was the MP...

TKT

Was told by a conductor that I couldn't get off in Chinley because I was in my wheelchair luckily I had brilliant friends and together we managed. I don't use the train station any more the stairs are too steep for me and slippery (plus if I'm going out all I need my wheelchair, unfortunately it's easier in the car). Let's hope we can get it sorted soon.

KCC

We are encouraged to use public transport a lot but if station is not accessible for lots of people incl parents with prams, the elderly and disabled then how can we? My kids are older now but when my first was little it was a struggle to get him across in pushchair and luckily I used a sling with my second. It needs updating asap x

LKW

I cannot use Chinley station if I am using my wheelchair. When I worked in Manchester, I had to go from Chapel, which took longer and was much more expensive. It's just not right.

KLM

I live in Chinley and have struggled with a push chair and gave up using the train when I had two toddlers. I was too worried about falling on the stairs and my children's safety. I also have experience of family that can't visit by train as they physically cannot manage the stairs. Always envious when we stop at Marple train station!!!

UAD

Chinley is home to a lovely community of young people who have additional needs. By not ensuring equal access for all in the village a significant number of residents are denied opportunities afforded to others.

WRB

I visit family in Chinley and find it very difficult to carry a heavy suitcase up and down those stairs. I dread to think what it would be like in winter conditions. I'd like to bring my wheelchair using friend but that would be impossible. This station should be accessible to all - it's the 21st century!

HPK

I would like to take my bike out onto the Hope Valley to cycle, but it's impossible as it's too heavy for me to push up the steps, and get it down without it zooming down of its own accord. So therefore I just don't use the train. I imagine there are lots of people in that position.

ATM

It needs a modern covered walkway with lift access... when it's wet and icy it is treacherous it's such a useful station for Sheffield and Manchester and beyond . better than driving!

KLG

Used to be able to carry suitcase or bag of work but it is enough and more now to face the steps with nothing to carry. Even a steep ramp is difficult in icy weather. Lift would be grand with ramp as backup in a power cut.

GFS

I couldn't use the train when I had a toddler, because I couldn't get the buggy and the toddler safely to the station.

DPM

Before my wife died we had to use the station and the only way we could get her across, because she was in a wheelchair I had to ask two friends to help me carry her across, then meet us on our return. I never used the train with her again, it was a nightmare and frightened my wife so much she cried. Its a disgrace in times of HS2 (just to knock off 20 mins) ripping up the countryside costing billions and we can't let disabled and infirm catch a train at Chinley.

GVB

As an older person I struggle to get to the platforms and hope better access can be arranged.

AJH

It needs some way for disabled people to access train station

ESM

My parents in law can't visit here by train any more because they can't manage the stairs. A lift or level access is definitely needed...

OKM

It need some disabled access and parents with prams too

DAG

As a sprightly 68 year old, I don't have a problem with those stairs.

As I get older, I expect that I will have, in a few years time.

I'm expecting a significant remodelling of the station, as part of improvements to the line.

Access should be included!

NLC

I would welcome any access improvements to Chinley Station. My husband has several times helped when he's seen someone struggling with a pushchair trying to get up the steps. One Mum did say she wasn't sure how she'd manage and was grateful for the help. I, at times have mobility problems due to my Rheumatoid Arthritis. Any help with access would be appreciated by many Chinley Station users. Thank you

FPR

I stopped using the station and now go into Manchester from Glossop and out again to get to Sheffield and beyond. That bridge is a killer if I have to carry a case. Also very exposed in bad weather.

JGP

I could not take my mother on the train as she could not manage the steps. She can walk a little, but at 91 years, needs a wheelchair for long journeys. It is just not safe for anyone with mobility problems. The steps are lethal in wet or icy conditions. Chinley station is a wonderful asset to the community, so I really hope there is something that can be done to make it more accessible.

OMW

My mother struggles with mobility and uses a cane to walk; she sometimes travels to Chinley by train to visit us and struggles to get over the footbridge, especially in bad weather.

HPK

I have given a neighbour with a heavy suitcase a lift to the station. With level access I could drop her off at the entrance and she could manage on her own. Luckily the lay by was free

so I could leave the car there and carry it over for her. But the access does make it more difficult when parking up to meet people who can't manage their own luggage. Instead of coming 5 mins after train arrives when the traffic is calmer, you have to come at the same time as everyone else and add to the traffic chaos. Because independent minded people won't wait on the platform as instructed, they try to carry their own luggage over the bridge. Accident waiting to happen.

RLM

Campaigners have tried for years to get a access for disabled passengers, the rail company answer is you can book a taxi to nearest station that has access and they will reimburse you. I am not sure if this works xx

IJH

I have a mother who can not manage steps. She would like to take train to see her other daughter as i don't drive. But we could go on train together

EPT

Slippery, treacherous bridge (22 steps) in wet weather. There have been lots of minor accidents on this footbridge - and alongside people with mobility problems, so many people with pushchairs and/or heavy suitcases struggle to use this overbridge - which is the only way to access the station !

TBR

If chinley station were to be built today it would have to be access friendly. The station has services to cross country and could be promoted and more widely used. I recently got a train from Derby but either walk home or get a rarely available taxi to Whaley bridge

HSG

Dated Bridge that does not function for so many people in a village that's has doubled in size with many visitors commuting on trains to work or stay in holiday cottages struggling with suitcases, lots of young families moving here have struggled with prams and the elderly have restricted options as they cannot use the steps. No disabled access at all. Dangerous in wet/icy conditions.

TPR

I use the station but am finding the steps increasingly difficult especially if I have no one to help with a suitcase. It's one time when wheels on a case are no use at all. And as to managing a wheelchair; that's a definite no no.

JNR

To add on to what SG said above, the bridge is very dated. It wouldn't meet current regulations by having open risers to start off with. They're actually really dangerous as you can get the toes of your shoes caught in them. The anti slip covering is also chipping away as it's an old bridge and the contrast on the nosings isn't up to scratch especially at night - even with the lighting.