

Changes to car parking at Bedford station

Bedford station is being redeveloped to enable East West Rail services to stop at the station and provide better connections for the town. Because of these upgrades, there will need to be some changes to car parking which affect parking both during construction and once the redeveloped station opens.



Parking during construction

During the construction phase, a temporary surface level car park will be required at Ford End Road as the existing station car park on Ashburnham Road will be used for a construction compound. Approximately 300 parking spaces can be accommodated in a surface level car park on the existing land to the west of the station.



Permanent solution for parking – our work to date

Once construction is complete, we're considering a range of options for car parking around Bedford station. During our previous consultation in 2024, we proposed a multi-storey car park on Ashburnham Road on the site of the current station car park. However, concerns were raised about impacted views in the Bedford Conservation Area and also limiting space for new homes and businesses to the east of the station.

Reflecting this feedback, we developed a revised proposal to locate the multi-storey car park at Ford End Road. We spoke with the local community in February 2026 ahead of our current consultation and listened to concerns about increased traffic congestion, and the potential for vehicles to cut through the Queens Park area to access the car park. This early engagement was on the designs we would be consulting on during the Spring 2026 Consultation. However, having listened to concerns raised we have also decided to ask for alternative suggestions for parking provision during this consultation period.



Current consultation

Engaging early means we've been able to start exploring alternative options in light of feedback we received from residents. However, there hasn't been enough time for us to develop an alternative proposal ready for this consultation, which is why the Ford End Road option is included. Your previous feedback is already being taken into account and we would welcome further feedback to ensure everyone has a chance to have their say.

Next steps

When our current consultation closes on 9 June 2026, we will consider all the feedback we receive, including on car parking in Bedford. In parallel, we'll continue our technical discussions with officers at Bedford Borough Council on the options we're considering for car parking in Bedford. We will then return to engage with local communities, both in Queens Park and any other impacted communities in Bedford, on the proposals we would like to take forward, ahead of finalising our Development Consent Order (DCO) application (planning application) which we are due to submit next year.

Ultimately it is for East West Rail to make the final recommendation to Government on car parking for the redeveloped Bedford Station, but we're keen to put forward a solution that has the support of people living locally. The Planning Inspectorate will consider our proposals and make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Transport. The SoS for Transport will ultimately decide whether or not to grant East West Rail a DCO to permit the scheme to go ahead.