

THE NEXT STATION IS ... WATER ORTON



Where: 7¹/₂ miles east of Birmingham New Street, this is the first station in Warwickshire on the line to Leicester and Derby.

Service: Just eight trains to Nuneaton and Leicester on weekdays generally running at two hourly intervals - but only six trains a day towards Birmingham! Even fewer trains on Saturdays and none on Sundays. All services operated by Cross Country's modern Class 170s running between Birmingham and Leicester.

Footfall: 42,584 in 2010/11 and growing by 7% a year.

Facilities: Bleak island platform with CIS and a waiting shelter. Access through the old station buildings is appalling. It would be condemned if not railway property.

Other Features: This is one of three stations in the region where only Cross Country trains call but which are actually managed by London Midland. The semi-derelict (paint peeling, ceiling collapsed) station buildings date from 1908.

Car Parking: Free car parking for 42 cars in the adjacent car park run by North Warwickshire District Council and even a public toilet. The half-hourly bus service on route 90 between Birmingham and Coleshill also runs past the station.

Future: Network Rail was planning to install a new platform on the Down Arley (westbound) line as part of the current line and signalling upgrade. The only available railway land though is on the Up side of the line so a staggered platform layout would be needed.

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Every edition will look at one of our stations that seldom makes the news