

Billingham station sees start of biggest upgrade in over 50 years

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Work to make Billingham station more accessible is going ahead, as part of a programme to improve journeys for **Northern** passengers.

Diggers moved in earlier in the week to start building a base for rail workers to move the £3.59m plan forward.

A new and improved bridge, delivered by AmcoGiffen, will connect the station's two platforms by Spring 2023, and step free access will be made possible using two two state-of-the-art lifts. It will be the biggest change to the station since 1966.

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The result will be an easier experience for passengers with limited mobility, heavy luggage, bikes or pushchairs to reap the benefits of Billingham's strong rail connections to places like Newcastle, Whitby,

Hexham, and the onward travel opportunities they unlock.

Kieran Dunkin, principal programme sponsor for **Network Rail**, said: “These major changes will completely transform the way that passengers use Billingham station and help us to provide a railway that truly is here for everybody. Young families, keen cyclists, holiday-goers and disabled travellers will all see a much more welcoming station, and I hope it encourages more people to travel by train.”

Additional improvements to the car park will make it even easier for passengers to access the station, and future plans to upgrade the platforms will improve the look of the entire station.