

More than 50 lifts upgraded across the Northern network

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Northern and Network Rail have delivered a new project that has transformed accessibility for many stations in the north west.

The working hours of more than 50 lifts across 25 Northern stations have now been extended ensuring that, when trains are running, the lifts can be used.

The upgrades have been carried out to provide passengers, particularly those with special mobility needs, with more reliable step-free access to platforms.

The project is part of a wider work by the rail industry to improve accessibility to stations and trains as well as modernise the network.

Chris Jackson, Regional Director at Northern, said: “We have inherited an ageing infrastructure with many of our stations tracing their heritage and facilities back to the Victorian era.

“As an industry we are working hard to modernise the network and the improvements made to the lifts will

enhance the overall experience for our customers.

“This is a phased project to deliver improved accessibility and we will seek to roll out similar improvements at other stations in the future.”

Stephen Brookes, Minister for Disabled People’s rail sector champion, said: “It is vitally important that the large number of disabled passengers who travel by rail are supported by projects which make trains and stations more accessible.

“I am very pleased to see that Northern is continuing to empower disabled people to access rail services independently. By making changes and improvements to the lift operation times at many stations, this is another positive step toward a truly integrated transport system.”

Phil James, North West route director at Network Rail said: “The rail industry is working hard to improve accessibility and I hope projects like this demonstrate our commitment to give people with additional mobility needs the confidence to travel by rail.

“Extending the operating hours of the 50 lifts in 25 of Northern’s stations will mean passengers can travel more flexibly across the full timetable and help themselves when assistance staff are not on duty. We are delighted to work with Northern on this putting passengers first initiative.”

A full list of the stations with this new facility can be seen below:

Altrincham, Ashton, Atherton, Barrow in Furness, Birchwood, Blackburn, Bolton, Buckshaw Parkway, Cheadle Hulme, Deansgate, Huyton, Kirkham & Wesham, Leyland, Manchester Victoria, Marple, Newton-le-Willows, Manchester Oxford Road, Poulton-Le-Fylde, Roby, Rochdale, Salford Central, Salford Crescent, St Helens Central, Warrington Central, Warrington West, Wigan Wallgate.

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