

CROXTON



History of local rail links



The Watford branch of the Metropolitan line has never served Watford town centre. While this was the intention when the line was first proposed in the early 1900s, constraints dictated that the route would terminate to the South of Cassiobury Park, located on the outskirts of Watford.

The Croxley Green National Rail branch line was lightly used for most of its life, resulting in increasingly limited train services. The route was finally severed by the construction of the Ascot Road dual carriageway in 1996.

Closure Notice for the branch line was authorised by the Secretary of State for Transport on 6th November 2002. The Secretary of State supported the retention of the branch line for future rail infrastructure as it was aware of Hertfordshire County Council's aspirations to link this route with the Metropolitan line.

History of the project

The Croxley Rail Link Scheme has been an aspiration since the early 1990s and has been developed over the years by a number of different promoters. The outline scheme has been consulted upon during a number of studies. This development process included various iterations of engineering design however the overall scheme concept of diverting the Metropolitan line along the disused Croxley Green National Rail branch line to terminate at the Watford Junction Station remained unchanged.



Alternatives

A number of alternatives to the current proposals have been assessed including:

- Retention of existing Watford Met line station and running a split service to Watford Junction
- Reopening the Croxley Green Branch Line and not connecting to the Metropolitan line
- Conversion of the Croxley Green Branch Line to a segregated bus way
- Improvements to the existing local bus network
- Connecting the rail link to the St Albans Abbey Line and the Amersham branch of the Metropolitan line
- Construction of a Watford relief road
- Tunnelling under Cassiobury Park

The preferred scheme continues to offer the greatest benefits whilst remaining financially and operationally viable.