

Cycles on Trains

The growth in the number of people using trains and cycling is leading to pressure on rail services.

The Rail User Group has worked with First Capital Connect to balance the need to avoid overcrowding with implications for safety, whilst encouraging the use of cycling and public transport. It is encouraging First Capital Connect to provide better cycle park facilities particularly at Meldreth and Foxton, and can recommend where to buy second-hand folding cycles (contact the group at railusergroup@melbourn.org.uk). The A10 Corridor Cycle Campaign will be looking to work with the Rail User Group to encourage and facilitate sustainable transport between Cambridge and Royston.

Between Royston and Cambridge cycled are currently banned from a single service, the 08:06 from Royston to Cambridge, which was suffering from severe overcrowding (reportedly over 40 cycles in a 4 carriage train). The restrictions also need to be enforced to be effective.

It should be noted that the way people use cycles in conjunction with trains is likely to change significantly in the next few years when the proposed 3000 space 'CyclePoint' at Cambridge is complete (hopefully in late 2014), Chesterton station is opened (in 2015) and the Thameslink upgrade covers services to Cambridge (in 2018).

<http://www.abellio.com/uk/cyclepoint.html>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cambridge_Science_Park_railway_station

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-the-combined-thameslink-southern-and-great-northern-franchise>

Cycles on Trains from Royston to Cambridge

The trains in the morning peak from Royston to Cambridge stopping at Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton leave Royston at 07:37, 08:06 and 08:37. Full size cycles are not allowed on the 08:06 service, but folding cycles are allowed on all three services.

A passenger from Royston has been monitoring the number of cycles on these 3 services (and the 17:25 return) by counting the number in the doorway nearest to where he sits.

Service	Non-folding cycles
07:37 Royston to Cambridge	Typically 2, but can be 3 or 4
08:06 Royston to Cambridge	Banned but typically has 0 or 1 cycles per doorway
08:37 Royston to Cambridge	Typically 2
17:25 Cambridge to Royston	Typically 1 or 2

Cycles on Trains arriving in Cambridge in the Morning Peak

Non-folding Cycles are banned from some First Capital Connect and Greater Anglia services heading into Cambridge in the morning Peak, and the total number of cycles is limited on Cross Country services between Birmingham and Stansted, and between Cambridge and Ipswich. Folding cycles are allowed on any service.

The restricted trains are those departing from Ely, Watherbeach or Audley End to Cambridge between 07:45 and 08:45, and on the 08:06 from Royston to Cambridge.

It should be noted that it is legitimate to take cycles on these trains as far as Ely from the North, Audley End from the South and Royston from the South-West, but no further.

Here is a list of trains arriving at Cambridge showing the restrictions:
(Red=None allowed, Blue=limited space, Green=No restriction)

Service from	Time at Ely/Audley End/Royston	Arrival in Cambridge	
Kings Lynn	0721 from Ely	0739	No restriction
Ely	0730 from Ely	0747	No restriction
Norwich	0733 from Ely	0753	No restriction
Stansted	0737 from Audley End	0758	2 per train
Kings Cross	0737 from Royston	0802	No restriction
Kings Cross	Non-stop	0802	No restriction
Ely	0748 from Ely	0804	No cycles (FCC time restriction)
Liverpool Street	0744 from Audley End	0807	No restriction
Birmingham	0752 from Ely	0807	2 per train
Kings Lynn	0756 from Ely	0812	No cycles (FCC time restriction)
Ipswich		0819	4 per train
Ely	0802 from Ely	0820	No cycles (GA time restriction)
Liverpool Street	0803 from Audley End	0829	No cycles (GA time restriction)
Kings Cross	0806 from Royston	0830	No cycles (FCC time restriction)
Kings Lynn	0826 from Ely	0845	No cycles (FCC time restriction)
Liverpool Street	0833 from Audley End	0854	No cycles (GA time restriction)
Norwich	0839 from Ely	0859	No cycles (FCC time restriction)
Stansted	0838 from Audley End	0858	No cycles (GA time restriction)
Kings Cross	0839 from Royston	0902	No restriction
Liverpool Street	Fast	0907	No restriction
Kings Cross	Non-stop	0904	No restriction
Birmingham	0852 from Ely	0908	2 per train
Kings Lynn	0857 from Ely	0915	No restriction
Liverpool Street	0903 from Audley End	0925	No restriction
Kings Cross	0907 from Royston	0928	No restriction

Rules

The rules are stated as (correct to Dec 2012):

First Capital Connect

http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/tocs_maps/tocs/fc/details.html

Cycles are not allowed on any trains scheduled to leave Ely or Waterbeach towards Cambridge between 07:45 and 08:45

Between Royston and Cambridge on the 07:06 train from London Kings Cross which departs Royston at 08:06 and is scheduled to arrive at Cambridge at 08:29.

The First Capital Connect Website adds the following comment:

<http://www.firstcapitalconnect.co.uk/plan-your-journey/cyclists/cycle-rstrictions/>

Cycles are not allowed on any train where your bicycle may cause obstruction to other customers (i.e. where a number of people are standing) or when a member of staff asks you to remove your bicycle.

Greater Anglia

<http://www.greateranglia.co.uk/travel-information/your-journey/cycling>

Cycles are not allowed on any services booked to leave Audley End or Ely towards Cambridge between 0745 and 0845.

Local services in Cambridgeshire (Cambridge to Ipswich)

Four cycle spaces per train

Cross Country Trains

http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/tocs_maps/tocs/xc/details.html

Up to two bicycles can be carried free of charge per train.

Reservations are highly recommended, as bikes for which no reservation has been made will be accepted on a first come, first served basis and subject to space being available.