National Cycle Rail Awards 2014
Cycle-rail is an industry success story. There are now more than 60,000 cycle parking spaces at rail stations across Britain, up from less than 25,000 five years ago. The rail industry is committed to improving the journeys of customers and this includes providing real choice as to how passengers arrive at stations. This type of joined-up thinking explains why cycling continues to grow, accounting for as much as 8% of access to some rail stations, such as at Albans. Since last year’s ceremony, six new full-service cycle hubs have opened, close to 8,000 cycle spaces have been created and 720 new hire cycles have been installed. Cycle-rail is an industry success story. Since 2008, £14.5m of government investment has been the driver for the rail industry to deliver around £75m of cycling facilities. In July, Baroness Kramer announced another £15m investment in cycle-rail, which will realise additional ground-breaking schemes whilst funding new infrastructure, creating jobs and supporting the economy.

This year, our judges have had the difficult task of selecting winners from some truly outstanding entries. I would like to thank them, together with our partners and those delivering such innovative cycle-rail schemes, as without these people the Awards would not be possible. I would also like to thank this year’s winners, who will help the industry to spread best practice and encourage more people to cycle to and from our railway stations, more of the time.

Michael Roberts
Director General, Rail Delivery Group and Chief Executive, ATOC.

No other event could put cycle-rail facilities and staff dedication to the test quite like the Tour de France. As the country was overcome by cycling fever in the summer of 2014, the rail industry worked together to ensure that the event ran smoothly, carrying hundreds of thousands of additional passengers to see the race, while seamlessly maintaining cycle carriage across the entire TOC network. Since 2008, £14.5m of government investment has been the driver for the rail industry to deliver around £75m of cycling facilities. In July, Baroness Kramer announced another £15m investment in cycle-rail, which will realise additional ground-breaking schemes whilst funding new infrastructure, creating jobs and supporting the economy.

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Michael Roberts
Director General, Rail Delivery Group and Chief Executive, ATOC.
Winner: Northern Rail – Tour de France

“Clear winner for planning and execution.”

Northern Rail’s involvement with the Tour de France (TDF) is a clear example of customer service excellence in action. Le Grand Départ was Northern Rail’s biggest ever event in terms of scale, planning and delivery, with 2.5 million cyclists, tourists and spectators heading to Yorkshire to witness the start of this world-famous event.

For Northern, the TDF was a unique opportunity to deliver an exemplary customer experience, engage staff and front-line teams in a common goal, create awareness of its cycle-rail facilities and build the profile and appeal of cycle-rail in Yorkshire. Preparations and planning took a year. The theme “Taking you to the tour” underpinned all the activity and communications, which included an interactive webpage highlighting cycling facilities and access at each station near the route. The ‘Le Yorkshire’ rail ticket granted unlimited travel around the county, for less than £10 per day.

Engaged staff, satisfied customers
Northern’s staff had a dedicated campaign intranet page providing briefings and tour maker packs for volunteers, to ensure everyone involved was informed and on message. Staff inspired by the athletes, were encouraged to take The Northern Cycle Challenge, designed to harness the buzz and try out cycling to work and for leisure. Northern worked closely with event organisers TDF Hub, stakeholders and partners including Network Rail, BTP and other TOCs to deliver the event. Northern maintained clear communication with and managed the expectations of visiting cyclists. The event was hugely successful for Northern and for cycling, with Leeds CyclePoint enjoying one of its busiest days since it opened. Staff were fully engaged, with 150 volunteering throughout the weekend. In addition, Northern Rail Cycle Forum had a string of successful workshops focusing on the Tour. Northern delivered a slick, unforgettable customer experience for spectators and athletes alike.

Highly Commended: Customer Service for cyclists at East Midlands Trains
“East Midlands Trains are an up-and-coming shining light for cycle-rail”

East Midlands Trains has a measured programme of customer-focused developments for cyclists. These extend throughout the full reach of the network and include station redevelopment, train signage inside and out and staff training. A key part of this programme has been engaging and consulting with cyclists and cycle user groups. Over the last three years, cycle storage at East Midlands Trains has more than doubled, with two landmark cycle hubs installed at Sheffield and Leicester and two more in development at Derby and Nottingham. Customers in Leicester and Sheffield are benefiting from local SMEs providing cycle shops and hire services. The Tour de France gave East Midlands Trains the opportunity to welcome thousands of cyclists to Yorkshire and showcase its cycle-rail provision. Other customer-facing measures have included: a dedicated cycle area on East Midlands Trains website, staff training, cycle surveys, and the appointment of a cycle champion to represent cyclists’ needs in all projects.
Winner:
Sustrans and Bedford Borough Council – Access to Stations

“Large scale partnership works at its best.”

‘Access to Stations’ is a partnership between Sustrans and Bedford Borough Council involving four train operating companies, twenty railway stations, Network Rail and nine local authorities. Its objective is to increase customers’ use of trains for daily journeys by addressing the most common barriers to physically accessing stations by bike and on foot.

Access to Stations is boosting rail usage while tackling local transport issues, addressing shared objectives of the rail industry and the public sector at the same time. Improving cycle access to rail boosts passenger catchment four-fold and makes rail growth possible without the land and management requirements of car travel. Cycle parking is ten times’ more space efficient and over 20 times’ more cost efficient than car parking per space, promising to increase the volume of rail passengers without strain on the environment.

Shared objectives
Warwick, Beaconsfield, Amersham and Exmouth and Exeter Central have increased cycle parking, improved platform access, personalised travel planning, workplace and community engagement, real time passenger information and better integration between bus and rail, with more to follow. Access to Stations is also improving walking and cycling routes, installing safe crossings and improving forecourts. Access to Stations is supported by Chiltern Railways, First Great Western, East Midlands Trains and First Capital Connect and backed by Network Rail to deliver work on major changes at the stations. The project is worth £11m, funded by the DfT’s Local Sustainable Transport Fund (£4.9m) and local authority match funding.

“Good mechanisms for sharing experiences and good practice across the partnership.”

Highly Commended: East Midlands Trains – Leicester
“Leicester was an outstanding partnership with the local community.”

Leicester Station cycle hub is an excellent example of partnership working between East Midlands Trains, Leicester City Council and local cycling groups. From the first design forums through to project delivery, customers have helped to transform Leicester’s disused basement area into a modern and secure cycle hub, granting 24 hour access to 222 mixed style cycle spaces and a repair and cycle hire facility as well as an additional 58 spaces around the station. With extensive CCTV, energy efficient lighting, changing rooms with wash facilities and a dedicated Customer Information Screen available for a one-off £10 registration fee, the cycle hub has seen impressive take-up by customers. In fact, the development has proved so popular and streamlined in delivery that the method will be replicated in all future cycle hub project work. The project was delivered with £600k funding from the Department for Transport through the Cycle-Rail Working Group.

Shortlisted: First TransPennine Express – Grimsby Cycle Hub

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Shortlisted: First TransPennine Express – Grimsby Cycle Hub
Winner: National Rail Enquiries – Cycling in the National Rail Enquiries mobile app

“Addressing a real need, easy to use, an extension of an already well-established app.”

With the number of annual cycle-rail journeys breaking 39 million, the popular National Rail Enquiries iOS / Android App has been enhanced with cycle-rail content to cater for this growing audience.

The ‘Cycling in the Mobile App’ project adds information about cycling amenities on trains and at stations to give passengers the full picture of their whole journey when using the tool. With this new layer of dedicated content, cyclists can check the available facilities conveniently on their smartphones before they start their journeys. Previously, they had to consult the ATOC ‘Cycling by Train’ leaflet or check each train company’s operating policy before travelling. This was time consuming and could be confusing where a TOC’s guidelines were complex and customers often had to speak to staff via contact centres or at ticket offices to clarify whether they could travel with a cycle.

Smart travel
‘Cycling in the Mobile App’ gathered information on each train network’s cycle policy, together with any restrictions and added this layer of cycle-rail intelligence to the existing app to inform journeys mapped out via the app’s ‘Planner’ or ‘Live Trains’ tools. National Rail Enquiries collaborated with Thales to create a ‘cycling web service,’ which pools this cycle-specific information from train operating companies in a format the app can use. Since the new cycle-rail content went live in October 2013, customers have been able to conveniently access cycle-rail information in a couple of clicks on their phone and check if they need a reservation.

Branching out
The project has achieved its objectives in providing customers with clear information about whether they can travel by train with a bicycle and the facilities they can expect before, during and after their journey. It was financed by ATOC, the Enabling Innovation Team, the Department for Transport and the Bicycle Association of Great Britain’s Bike Hub levy fund.
Cycle Champion Stewart McKenna from the British Transport Police Waterloo Hub has been instrumental in coordinating efforts between National Rail, British Transport Police, South West Trains and two local charities to donate 160 abandoned cycles to a fitting local cause. His involvement began in cycle crime prevention, successfully putting together a business case for the purchase of Selectamark bike marking kits.

Waterloo soon became the pilot scheme for free bike marking, which led to £10,000 of funding from the British Transport Police to roll out the initiative to other theft hotspots across the country, resulting in a marked decrease in cycle thefts. Stewart secured valuable time on Waterloo’s ISO screens to advertise these monthly cycle marking sessions and soon saw an opportunity regarding the reuse of unmarked cycles mounting up in storage.

Cause for celebration
Stewart had the idea to donate these unclaimed cycles to worthy causes but BTP policy forbids the giving away of property. Unfazed, he persisted, establishing that Network Rail could donate the bikes under the terms of its liability agreement. By proving his case was ethical and worthwhile and with all parties on side, Waterloo checked its unclaimed cycle stock against reports of missing property in the area (returning 10 to their owners) and selected local Clapham Park Project to receive the remaining 25 bicycles.

Gathering pace
This local charity works with young people during the summer holidays, giving them life skills, promoting teamwork and providing a focus. When word started to spread about Stewart’s mission, other managers from South West Trains got in touch and soon he had accumulated more than sixty more bicycles to give away. Through a contact at the Co-op, a 7.5 ton lorry was enlisted to take the bicycles to new homes with underprivileged youths or families with disabled children (the project can adapt them). Since then, a further 100 bicycles have been donated, allocated and marked with their new owner’s details by Selectamark. The scheme has now been rolled out across the country and Stewart is preparing for a career change as a police constable. But he leaves behind a lasting legacy at Waterloo. His nomination sums it up: “Stewart always goes above and beyond of what is expected of him.”

“Recycling at its best.”

Shortlisted: Andy Saunders – First Great Western and Andy Bristow - Merseyrail
Swindon’s Station Travel Plan wins the ‘Door to Door Journeys’ cycle-rail award for significantly boosting the number of people accessing the station by sustainable modes. The Station Travel Plan has inspired an innovative community engagement programme and responds to the need for a clear strategy to shape Swindon Rail Station’s sustainable travel provision.

The Station Travel Plan addresses peak-time traffic congestion, supports economic growth, improves poor infrastructure and addresses the need for enhanced facilities for cyclists. It offers a five year vision for station improvements and a focus on enabling seamless door-to-door travel by sustainable modes, covering everything from secure cycle parking facilities to personalised travel planning events.

A shared vision
Swindon’s Station Travel Plan is being delivered by Sustrans, First Great Western and Swindon Borough Council. The programme engages with various stakeholders including the local cycling community, health organisations, disability groups and transport service providers to generate a wholly inclusive plan with input from ten organisations. The focus is to integrate sustainable transport modes to and from the station and disregards more traditional solutions like building new roads and/or car parking facilities in favour of increased cycling, improved public transport, better off street drop-off facilities and quality pedestrian routes between the station and key destinations.

Initiatives include personalised travel planning for commuters, cycle breakfasts and other promotional events. The Station Travel Plan’s primary objectives are to increase awareness of sustainable transport options and their benefits to give local residents and employees personalised information about their sustainable travel options. It looks to reduce single occupancy car travel and improve cycle parking and security at Swindon station too.

Going to plan
The project is well ahead of plan with new cycle parking in place, ongoing personalised travel planning conversations and more than half of the twelve action points either reached or well underway. The Station Travel Plan has been delivered on time and to budget thus far. To date, Sustrans has undertaken more than 1,200 user surveys, surpassing projected targets for public and stakeholder input. Key project highlights include the engagement of over 48,000 individuals via 18 workplaces, the production and distribution of 13,000 local travel maps and over 750 bespoke personalised journey plans. In addition, Swindon boasts a new secure cycle compound, 45 new cycle spaces and the legacy of a successful Swindon Bike to Work Day inspiring 11,000 participants.

Shortlisted: Merseyrail – Bike and Go South West Trains

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The 2014 London Cycle Parking award goes to the cycle facilities at Surbiton Station, one of Stagecoach South West Trains’ busiest stations and an important interchange for local buses. Surbiton’s cycle-rail amenities were becoming increasingly overstretched and in demand. During the course of 2013, additional cycle stands and a new secure cycle compound were installed to address the increase in customer demand and Surbiton’s existing facilities were improved and updated. This regeneration programme, delivered in partnership with the London Borough of Kingston, the Department for Transport, the Association of Train Operating Companies and Transport for London led to the installation of a third secure cycle compound, servicing 192 bicycles together with various other measures to encourage more station customers to access rail by cycle. Alongside these improvements came the need to improve cycle security on site and to enable more passengers to use the secure compound facility.

Swiping gesture
To achieve the latter objective, the decision was made to overturn the existing restriction on swipe card entry to the secure cycle storage amenities. This gave SSWT’s season ticket passengers unlimited access to the new facilities and was a direct response to passenger feedback and a positive move to maximise usage of the compound. The new cycle parking provisions are supported by extra signage around the station and from the main highways to boost public awareness of the increased options for cycle rail at Surbiton and drive take-up of the services. The project has been financed and delivered via partnership working to address the significant and consistent growth in the usage of cycle facilities at Surbiton station. With the new compound and various improvements made to existing provisions, Surbiton now offers just under 500 cycle spaces to its customers.

Highly Commended: Cyclehoop/Network Rail – Paddington
“Commended for its aesthetics and pioneering efforts.”

The innovative Cyclehoop facility at Paddington Station is a 380 space secure compound complete with a public bike pump and repair stand. This upgrade was installed to supplement Paddington’s over-subscribed, 380 space cycle hub which was fitted just last year, evidence of the growing popularity of cycle-rail at this location. The custom Cyclehoop cycle hub, financed by Network Rail, features an attractive guardrail and barriers, in a design that complements the station’s traditional interior, whilst remaining robust and modern. The repair stand and public bicycle pump were introduced to address the growing number of cycles abandoned in a poor state of repair by the public. Situated between platforms 8 and 9, Paddington’s custom cycle parking solution works well within the limited space available and remains completely sympathetic to the station’s Grade 1 Listed status.

Shortlisted: Southern – Selhurst
Centro’s ‘Love Your Bike’ wins the Cycle Security award for its work combating cycle-related crime at West Midlands rail stations. The initiative gives customers the confidence to cycle and ride via a dedicated five-point ‘Cycle Crime Action Plan’, tackling enforcement, education, environment, engagement and evaluation.

Stronger together
Centro teamed up with British Transport Police, BikeRight! and various train operators to deliver a series of free two-hour ‘Love your Bike’ drop-in sessions throughout the West Midlands, with additional sessions at those stations prone to cycle crime. Customers were offered free security marking with BikeRegister, advice on locking bicycles safely, a subsidised price on gold standard D-Locks, free Dr Bike cycle safety checks, advice on cycle journey planning and free adult cycle training and maintenance sessions. The sessions have been extremely well attended with more than 70 held so far at different stations, 400 D-Locks purchased and over 7,000 Selectamark bike register kits used.

The personal touch
Other elements of Centro’s multi-partner approach to cycle security include: optimising CCTV coverage together with station poster campaigns, cut-out policemen and vinyls highlighting the best ways to secure cycles on hoops and cycle shelters. Through Love Your Bike, Centro staff and police officers have visited every station to reinforce the simple steps cyclists can take to keep their property secure. Centro is also pursuing a number of undercover operations, including a decoy bike tracker and covert programmes at crime hotspot stations to support the arrests of cycle thieves.

Futureproof
Centro is a founding member of the Safer Travel Partnership, tackling crime on the public transport network which has contributed to a 66% drop over the last five years – including a 6% decrease in cycle crime.

Highly Commended: British Transport Police – Operation Fiesta
“Some really good partnership working.”

Operation Fiesta is a pioneering initiative from the British Transport Police Cycle Team, tackling prolific cycle thieves in London targeting commuter cycle racks at Richmond, Twickenham and Paddington stations. Formed in May 2013, a dedicated five-strong investigation team studied the offending patterns of suspects to secure vital evidence and bring offenders to justice. One notable investigation uncovered a conspiracy involving the sale of over 900 stolen cycles on the Internet, raking in a profit for the criminals of more than £100,000. Thanks to a tireless investigation between the Metropolitan Police, various train operating companies, online trader Gumtree, the Bike Register online database and Richmond Borough Council, the three main perpetrators in this particular crime ring have been taken to court. In fact, the quality and volume of evidence uncovered by the team led to all of the primary defendants pleading guilty prior to the trial.

Shortlisted: British Transport Police – Operation Velodrome
Sheffield Station’s significant transformation over the past few years makes it a worthy winner of Station of the Year. 2014 saw installation of the Sheffield Cycle Hub with a spectrum of associated improvement works. The Cycle Hub is secure, fully integrated and provides 400 spaces on top of the 100 already in place. Access is by a digital door entry system and security is reinforced by extensive CCTV coverage. The Hub also offers changing facilities, a Customer Information Screen and cycling information. There is a cycle shop in operation 7am – 7pm Monday to Friday offering sales and repairs and a very successful cycle hire scheme too. Cycle security is a real priority and staff work closely with the British Transport Police to safeguard cyclists’ property. Each year, they invite the cycle marking team to the station for property identification marking and to provide advice about cycle security.

Early doors Despite only opening at the start of July this year, the Cycle Hub is operating at around 75% usage. Developing the Hub created a wonderful opportunity for East Midlands Trains to address road access issues for cyclists, pedestrians and motorists at the station. The solution was to segregate the road traffic and divert it to a dedicated drop off and pick up area. East Midlands Trains is also working in partnership with a local bike recycling charity at Sheffield that trains young people who are out of work and out of education.

Strength in numbers Sheffield has forged a number of important and influential partnerships including Sheffield City Council, the Chambers of Commerce, universities and local cycle groups. The Tour de France weekend was a great example of how East Midlands Trains staff at Sheffield Station are supporting cycling. They delivered a consistent and exceptionally high standard of customer service during this world-class event. Besides these extensive physical changes to the station, Sheffield’s prime asset is the support and dedication of its staff. They are proud of the facilities and work hard to assist customers who cycle. A number of staff have started cycling and now also use the cycle hub.

Shortlisted: East Midlands Trains – Leicester and First Great Western – Twyford

“A really well joined-up project. Excellent recycling scheme too.”
Northern Rail wins the coveted ‘Operator of the Year’ for its role in delivering the Tour de France Grand Depart. The operator faced the biggest event its rail network had ever seen in terms of scale, planning and delivery, with over 2.5 million cyclists, tourists and spectators descending on Yorkshire.

With several key roads closed for the event, pressure was on the rail network to provide the bulk of transport solutions. At the same time, the event also gave Northern Rail the opportunity to deliver a unique customer experience, engage staff, build awareness of its cycle-rail facilities and create ‘Le Buzz’ for those travelling by rail and cycle. With planning commencing in August 2013 and the theme “Taking you to the Tour” in place, Northern Rail joined forces with Network Rail, BTP and other TOCs, alongside Welcome to Yorkshire and the TdF Hub to devise a masterplan to make the most of this priceless opportunity.

Measure by measure
Northern Rail launched an interactive page on its websites and promoted a “Le Yorkshire” rail ticket, which gave visitors unlimited travel around the county for less than £10 per day. The site also shared information on cycling facilities and access to each station around the race route to encourage spectators to get on their bicycles. Members of staff were fully briefed and had a dedicated intranet site packed with resources, briefings and tour maker packs for all volunteers. Staff and volunteers were also encouraged to record and share their own cycle journeys in the lead-up to the event, making sure everybody involved was engaged and inspired.

Strength in numbers
Northern Rail’s key objective was to deliver a successful event and enjoyable experience for customers, while maintaining its cycling policy of two bikes per train. They also wanted staff to be fully engaged, to meet the needs and wishes of the Northern Rail Cycling Forum and to deliver on revenue targets. The whole project exceeded £350,000 with costs funded by Northern Rail including extra train capacity. Over the TdF weekend, Northern Rail delivered successfully against its cycling policy through a high-profile communications campaign and Leeds CyclePoint had one of its busiest days since it opened in 2009. Members of staff were fully engaged and Northern Rail provided 150 staff volunteers. The Northern Rail Cycle Forum praised Northern Rail’s success and revenue targets were met. The judging panel sums up the success of the Operator of the Year: “A clear winner.”

Shortlisted: South West Trains and East Midlands Trains

“The Tour de France was a big delivery challenge and Northern Rail handled it tremendously well.”
Phil Dominey’s hypnotising ‘By Royal Appointment’ image was captured during the Richmond to Windsor cycle ride, on Sunday 7 September. South West Trains put on extra and longer trains for the event, seeing approximately 600 bikes returning from Windsor & Eton Riverside to London by rail.

Phil explains the story behind the winning composition: “The photo shows how the station was awash with bikes, but the station management instigated a well drilled plan to load trains with each coach identified for a specific station.” He continues: “The team kept everyone informed, resulting in South West Trains receiving praise via Twitter on how well organised the train service was. No complaints were received, no trains were delayed and considering that South West Trains didn’t know the level of demand, all of those involved including train crew and station staff, were pleased with the outcome.” The shot, which sums up the harmonious partnership between South West Trains and cyclists on the day, was described by the judges as using beautiful composition and colours and was also applauded for the background story.

Highly Commended: Andrew Davies for ‘Summer Evening at Bedminster Station’ “Good shot, great light, fantastic composition.”


“Nice story, good shot beautiful composed and technically sound.”
The international public transport company delivers rail and bus services to over 1.1m passengers every day. In the UK, Abellio operates the rail companies Abellio Greater Anglia, Merseyrail and Northern Rail, and the bus company Abellio London and Surrey. In April 2015, Abellio will become the operator of the ScotRail franchise.

From its modest beginnings as a suburban bike shop in North West London, Madison is now one of the UK’s biggest distributors of bicycle parts and accessories and the fastest growing motocross and freesports equipment supplier.

East Midlands Trains is a long-distance UK train operator. They serve passengers travelling to and from London, South Yorkshire, the East Midlands, the East of England and the North. Based in Derby, East Midlands Trains was formed on 11 November 2007. The current franchise runs until 2015 and East Midlands Trains is committed to delivering an excellent service throughout.

Secure by Design-approved bike storage, stylish, space-saving, flexible and highly secure. Cyclepods bike parking products use 50% less space than conventional stands while preventing overcrowding and damage to bikes.

Network Rail is the not-for-dividend owner and operator of Britain’s railway infrastructure, which includes the tracks, signals, tunnels, bridges, viaducts, level crossings and stations – the largest of which it also manages.

Transport for London (TfL) is the integrated body responsible for the Capital’s transport system. Its role is to implement the Mayor’s Transport Strategy and to manage transport services across Greater London.

First Great Western runs 9,079 services every week, calling at 276 stations. Its trains cover 70 million miles, carrying 90 million people every year to London, Bristol and Portsmouth, the West Country, Cotswolds and Southern England.

The All Party Parliamentary Cycling Group (APPCG) promotes cycling, both inside and outside the House, with the aim of getting more people to use bikes for all activities from everyday journeys to recreation.

The Bicycle Association is the industry body representing manufacturers, distributors and wholesalers of bikes, parts and accessories across the UK. It donates over £350,000 p.a. to projects encouraging children’s cycling.

The Cycle-Rail Working Group is a cross industry working group that encourages implementation and best practice development of strategic policy in relation to the delivery of cycle-rail Integration.

The Association of Train Operating Companies’ (ATOC) mission is to work for passenger rail operators in serving customers and supporting a prosperous railway. ATOC brings together all train companies to preserve and enhance the benefits for passengers of Britain’s national rail network.

The Transport for London Cycling Group promotes cycling, both inside and outside the House, with the aim of getting more people to use bikes for all activities from everyday journeys to recreation.

The National Cycling Charity has 67,000 members and has been working to inspire people to cycle and keep cycling for more than a century. It campaigns to protect and promote cycling with the motivation to create a healthier, cleaner world for today and for the future.

British Cycling is the national governing body for cycling as recognised by the UCI. Working across all levels of cycling, including all six disciplines of the sport and representing the interest of its 100,000 members.

Sustrans makes smarter travel choices possible, desirable and inevitable. It is a leading UK charity enabling people to travel by foot, bike or public transport for more of the journeys made every day.
Please walk your bicycle when in or around the station