



APTU's Guide to Best Fares: Off-Peak travellers Radlett to Harlington (and Flitwick & Bedford too)

(Valid as of August 2020)

APTU is the local traveller's Group representing the interests of passengers travelling on Govia Thameslink Railway ("Thameslink") to/from stations between Harlington and West Hampstead inclusive on the Bedford - London - Brighton line.

Our website is at www.aptu.org.uk and we can be contacted at aptu@aptu.org.uk.

For Off-Peak travellers – by which we mean people who leave their local station once off-peak tickets are valid: which varies between 09:16 and 09:35 Monday to Friday for ‘our patch’ (time per station in the detailed tables) – and any time at the weekend and bank holidays – the general rules of thumb are:

1. Buy an off-peak return ticket.
2. If you have a Railcard, if possible, wait for that Railcard to become valid – which is only occasionally the start of the off-peak.
3. On Ticket Vending Machines, the front page may not give the option to buy an off-peak ticket, nor to apply a Railcard. If they aren't available, choose the option *Tickets for Future Travel*.
4. And don't forget that KeyGo may be as cheap, be more convenient, and require less use of touchpoints.

A key question is whether to buy the relevant Day Travelcard or a through ticket to an Underground / DLR Zone 1 / 2 station – or buy a London Thameslink ticket and then use Oyster / Contactless on TfL services.

We have prepared a [calculator](#) in Excel to help you (the tables are also available in [PDF format](#)):

1. Table 1 shows the simple choice – Only going to London Thameslink or the convenience of buying a Travelcard. In both cases, the cost of a peak ticket is given for comparison.
2. Table 2 set out the savings that may be possible if the only travel in Central London is a single return journey by Underground or DLR to a Zone 1 or 2 station.
3. The ‘Show my fare’ Sheet allows you to work out whether it is worthwhile to buy a London Thameslink ticket and then use Oyster / Contactless on TfL services for specific journeys.
 - The calculator does not cater for every possible situation – eg it does not hold or refer to all fares - eg not for Oyster from Radlett, nor journeys to East Croydon, nor to Underground DLR Zones 3 to 6 - or Buses.

Railcard validity start time	
Disabled Persons	No AM restriction
16-17 Saver	No AM restriction
16-25	10:00
26-30	10:00
Senior	Start of Off-peak
Gold Card	09:30
Network	10:00
Two Together	09:30
Family & Friends	Start of Off-peak

Minimum price on Anytime Travelcards.
 Valid before 10am, with a £12 minimum, except July & August where no minimum.

Top tip: If travelling at the start of off-peak / validity of your railcard, you may be buying your ticket before it is valid. If, so, on Ticket Vending Machines, the front page may not give the option to buy an off-peak ticket, nor to apply a Railcard. If they aren't available, choose the option *Tickets for Future Travel*.





- It is likely that there are undetected errors.

In broad terms, for those travelling after the start of the off-peak:

1. When making a single return journey within Zones 1 / 2 in TfL off-peak periods, a Thameslink only ticket + Pay as You Go in London can be a saving:

<i>Saving</i>	<i>No saving</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not a Railcard holder• Railcard Holder with Railcard registered on Oyster	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Railcard holder, but paying full TfL prices (ie Contactless or unliked Railcard)

2. Using a bank contactless card for your full journey usually costs more – and a lot more at weekends, so is generally to be avoided. The main exception is if you are planning only a one way journey (or a return on a subsequent day); then Contactless can offer a saving.
3. Otherwise a Thameslink Travelcard generally makes sense.