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PRESS RELEASE

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RAILFUTURE RESEARCH FINDS AIRPORT LINK QUALITY VARIES

There's a huge variation in the quality of public transport links to UK airports, according to new research by transport campaigners. The research, conducted by the campaign group Railfuture, assessed each airport on the quality of rail, bus and coach links and the information given to passengers about public transport. It highlights the difference between those with excellent all-round provision such as London Gatwick and those with relatively poor provision such as Norwich.

"Clearly there's huge room for improvement" said Trevor Garrod, who helped compile the report. "Naturally you'd expect the larger airports to have better links, but there are some surprises, such as Southampton coming out better than Heathrow. Gatwick is a good example of best practice, with the rail station connected to the airport. Other rail connections have to be made via a bus or coach link, which is less satisfactory"

"In some cases, simple actions such as reorganising bus routes so that buses call at the airport and the railway station could bring huge improvements. No one seems to have taken responsibility for this on a national level. There's a piecemeal approach, and some joined-up thinking is really needed."

"It's not just the passengers who benefit from decent public transport links. We have to remember the thousands of people who work in UK airports who can also benefit, as well as the general population through reduced pollution and congestion."

The report can be viewed online at:

http://www.railfuture.org.uk/tiki-download_file.php?fileId=169

Notes for editors:

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Rail is a vital part of an integrated efficient transport system serving a modern, vibrant, environmentally sustainable economy. We are pro-rail but not anti-road. Railfuture maintains that investment in rail travel and rail freight is vital to the future of the UK economy and environment.

For more information please contact:

**Bruce Williamson, media spokesman
Tel: 0117 927 2954 Mobile: 07759 557389
media@railfuture.org.uk**

www.railfuture.org.uk

Railfuture is on Twitter: [@Railfuture](https://twitter.com/Railfuture)