



7 March 2018

Electrification work between Reading and Newbury

As part of our Railway Upgrade Plan we are undertaking the largest investment in our network since Victorian times; electrifying the railway from London Paddington to Cardiff, via Bristol, and down to Newbury. Completing this work will enable GWR to introduce brand new all-electric trains to Newbury from January 2019. It will also mean that brand new Intercity Express Trains (IETs) will be able to operate through Newbury onto Bedwyn; and through Pewsey to the South West.

These new trains offer increased capacity and better on-board facilities, and their improved acceleration will also mean better reliability and timetable improvements.

The railway between Reading and Newbury is one of the busiest rail corridors in Britain; carrying vital passenger and freight traffic on local routes and across the country. We have had to balance the time needed to deliver the electrification works, and associated testing and commissioning, against the needs of multiple passenger and freight train operators who use this rail corridor; including the requirement to provide viable alternative diversionary routes; and access to allow mandatory activities to ensure the ongoing safety of the railway.

This does mean a number of weekday closures starting on Monday 12 March for four days. There will be seven further four day closures between March and November with a three week closure in July/August. Full details of timings are on the dedicated Newbury page on the GWR website GWR.com/Newbury2018.

We have arranged for tickets to be accepted from other stations including some South Western Railway stations, on some scheduled bus services and the Mere oak Park and Ride facility at Reading. We will also be operating a number of replacement road services. These are also detailed on the dedicated web page.



In addition, letters have been sent to all affected season ticket holders with full details. If you have not received this please contact GWR on GWRfeedback@GWR.com

Revised rail and connecting shuttle bus timings have been added to online timetable services to help customers plan journeys, and there will be staff at stations and on board trains and buses to help.

We will be reviewing our communication and travel plan, and if there are changes that you think would be helpful, we would like to know. This can be sent to our feedback email.

The upgrade work will mean a better, more reliable railway, with brand new trains and an improved timetable, and we will do all we can to keep customers moving during the necessary closures.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mark Hopwood'.

Mark Hopwood
Managing Director
GWR

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Mark Langman'.

Mark Langman
Western Route Managing Director
Network Rail