



Claire Perry MP, Richard Benyon MP  
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Western House  
1 Holbrook Way  
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**24 hour National Helpline  
03457 11 41 41**

8 August 2018

Dear Claire and Richard,

### **Upgrade Work 2018**

You asked for an update on our work to electrify the railway from London Paddington, through Reading, to Newbury. As you know, this is a very significant piece of work that is vital to the delivery of the Government's investment in the modernisation of the Great Western Main Line.

From 2019 timetable change, Great Western Railway (GWR) will be able to run new electric trains along this route with more seats and better on-board facilities for passengers. These trains are also quieter and greener than the ones they are replacing which will benefit our railway neighbours.

### **Reading to Newbury electrification**

We have just completed the largest part of our work on the railway line between Reading and Newbury. On Monday morning the line reopened after 21 days of upgrade work on this vital route.

The project has been running on schedule and the majority of the infrastructure work is now complete. Our engineers have been working around the clock to deliver this major section of the project.

Since the beginning of the year we have delivered:

- 1,326 foundations installed – 100% complete
- 1,249 masts erected – 100% complete
- 3,049 steel parts added onto the masts – 98% complete
- Over 100 miles of new wiring installed – 90% complete

Alongside this we have completed station platform extensions at Aldermaston, Midgham stations with Theale close to finishing. We have also removed the redundant footbridge at Newbury station. We continue to engage the public in town centres and at stations in both of your constituencies. Additionally, we regularly upload photographs and videos to our Twitter page @networkrailwest.

We have two phases of work left required to install the remaining wiring, test and commission the electrical equipment and finish the lifts on the new footbridge at Newbury station. These will take place from Tuesday 28 August until Friday 31 August; and from Monday 8 October to Friday 12 October. We will continue to keep our website up-to-date with forthcoming information.

I appreciate that your constituents have been very understanding during this vital upgrade work, and I thank them for their continued patience.

### **Installing additional track south of Bedwyn**

Our plan to lengthen the siding south of Bedwyn station is proceeding on schedule. Our compound setup will begin on Saturday 25 August, with work completing on Friday 31 August. The project will conclude on Sunday 2 September.

By installing additional track here, we will enable GWR to use brand new Intercity Express Trains from next year to serve stations from Bedwyn to Newbury and onto London Paddington. These new, five carriage trains will replace older three carriage diesel trains; which will then be freed to be used elsewhere.

For both the electrification programme and our work at Bedwyn siding we will continue to keep you updated as we progress. If any of your constituents have any concerns they can contact our 24 hour National Helpline on **03457 11 41 41** or by emailing **crwest@networkrail.co.uk**.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Gallop". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**Mike Gallop**  
Director, Route Asset Management – Western

Cc *Mark Hopwood, managing director Great Western Railway*