

Hot dry weather means SVR switching briefly back to heritage diesel

August 9, 2022



In an effort to avoid lineside fires, [Severn Valley Railway \(SVR\)](#) will run only diesel-hauled passengers services from this Wednesday to Sunday, as another heatwave hits the UK with no rain on the horizon.

“Last weekend we experienced a number of fires,” explained managing director Helen Smith. “They were caused by sparks or cinders escaping from steam locomotives. These can quickly catch hold, because prolonged hot weather has left the lineside vegetation tinder-dry.

- [Severn Valley Railway announces famous ‘Five’ as first guest for Autumn Steam Gala](#)
- [Queen’s Baton Relay welcomed by Severn Valley Railway](#)
- [The purple locomotive wows the crowds at Severn Valley Railway’s Jubilee event](#)

“Under these circumstances, the responsible thing to do is switch to heritage diesel-hauled passenger services for the rest of this week. We’ll review the situation at the beginning of next week, and what we really need is some prolonged rain to improve the condition of the vegetation.

“This is the second time we’ve had to take this action this year, and we very much hope that our visitors

will understand the reasons for it. We are very fortunate to have an amazing fleet of heritage diesels at the SVR, and once again they are rising to the occasion.”

As well as the diesel-hauled passenger services, the railway will be running short footplate rides at both Bridgnorth and Kidderminster stations, with the chance to experience the thrill of travelling on a steam locomotive footplate. To help cover the cost of the coal, there will be a small extra charge. The SVR has said that it has risk-assessed the use of steam locomotives in this limited capacity and is confident these can go ahead safely.