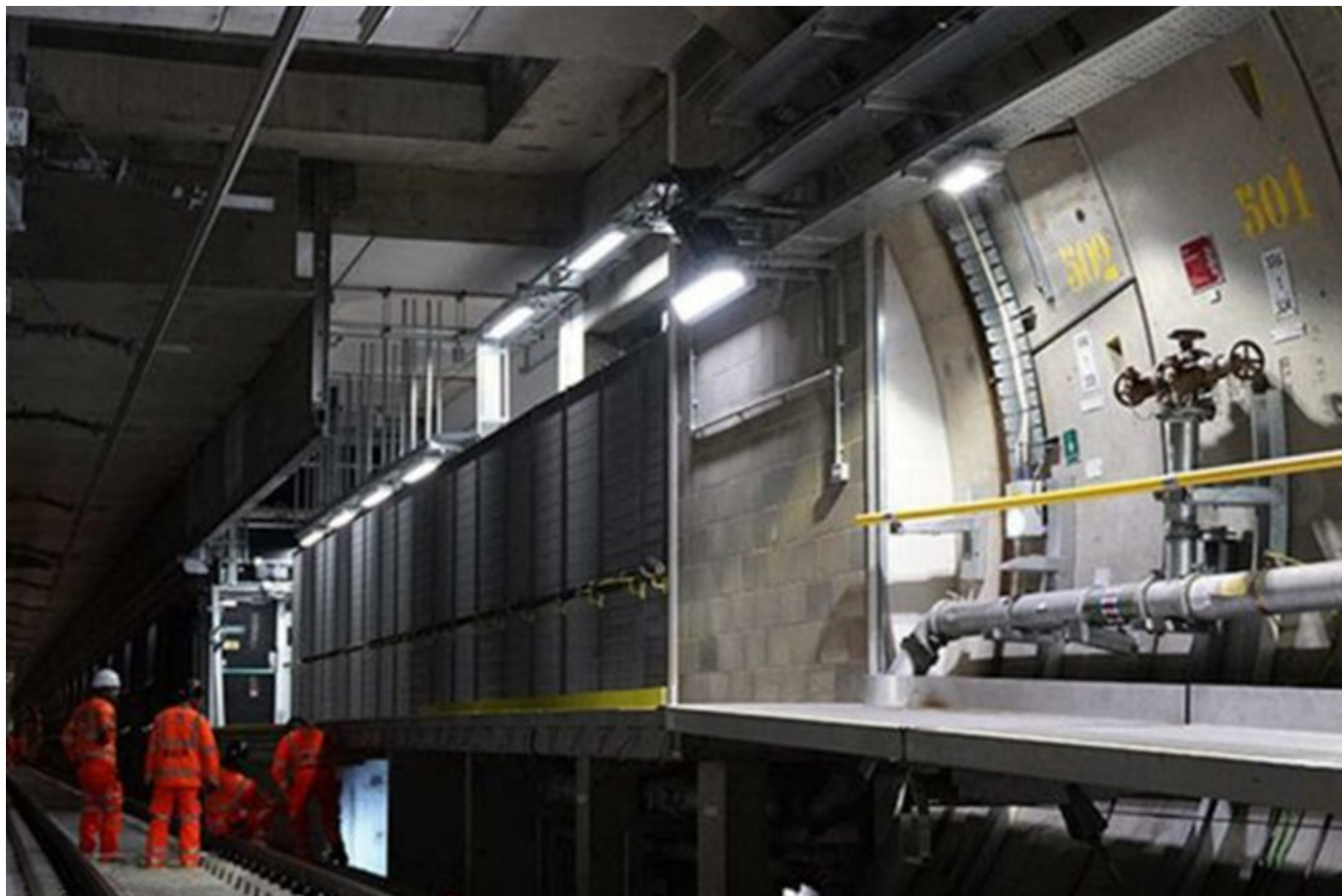


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January 20, 2021



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The latest rail news on Wednesday, 20th January 2021



The CEO of Crossrail has described this year as the pivotal year for the programme. In the first report of the year to the London Assembly Transport Committee, Mark Wild says everyone is recharged and raring to go to complete the delivery of this railway.

He said that following the strong finish to the end of last year, there is great momentum across the programme as they look to accomplish vital milestones in the year ahead.

The two critical paths to opening the railway are intensive operational testing of the railway and the handover of the central section stations.

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The Carron Water rail bridge parapet which collapsed on Friday was last checked on three months ago in the wake of the nearby fatal landslide, Network Rail has revealed.

That's according to an article in The Scotsman that says repairs will now keep the line between Montrose and Stonehaven closed until at least Sunday.

The paper says trains were halted after ScotRail staff spotted an 80ft long section of the river bridge's side wall had fallen away, about three miles west of Stonehaven.

A rail company has begun an internal investigation after staff allegedly held a surprise baby shower in a closed Patisserie Valerie bakery at London's Marylebone station during lockdown.

That is according to the BBC that says Chiltern Railway workers told BBC News up to 20 colleagues attended the gathering.

The article then says that some workers claim some party-goers then had positive COVID tests, forcing most of the team to self-isolate.

A Patisserie Valerie spokesman said the company had not been informed of any such event. Chiltern Railways said it was investigating and that none of the staff who were alleged to have attended tested positive.

Finally, and over 2,000 exclusive rail industry leaders and subscribers will be receiving the first RailDirector magazine of 2021 in the coming days.

This month's magazine leads with Network Rail's Ellie Burrows who talks to us about her incredible work leading the £2.2 billion transformation of Anglia's railways.

It also features the thoughts of the Railway Industry Association's Kate Jennings and Neil Walker on how to ensure the UK's supply chain is prepared for new export opportunities following Brexit.

[Click here for more details.](#)

Photo credit: Crossrail