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January 6, 2021



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Up to 50 per cent of rail services are to be cut during the third national lockdown as operators look to reduce costs while commuters stay at home.

The article in The Times says the emergency plans could result in a repeat of the reduced timetables brought in when the first wave of coronavirus took hold last March.

Services are likely to run at between 50 and 60 per cent of pre-pandemic levels for up to three months, senior rail sources said yesterday.

Meanwhile it was also announced last night that open access operators Grand Central and Hull Trains were both to suspend services from Saturday.

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A central London sewer was diverted and rebuilt in just nine days during major Christmas works on the £1.2 billion upgrade of the East Coast Main Line.

As part of the huge project, the way trains enter and exit King's Cross is being completely revamped – meaning major work on a sewer running beneath the tracks.

A hugely complex engineering challenge meant teams had to remove all four tracks into the station for the first time in 40 years; dig out Camden Sewer from beneath them; divert, rebuild and strengthen the sewer; then relay the tracks in time for passenger services to resume on Monday morning.

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The Severn Valley Railway has welcomed back the overhauled boiler of its flagship locomotive 4930 Hagley Hall.

The return of the boiler marks 18 months of work by Northern Steam Engineering, who previously built a brand new tender tank for Hagley Hall at its premises in Stockton.

Prior to the boiler's return to Severn Valley Railway, a steam test was carried out, where the safety valves lifted for the first time since the locomotive last dropped its fire in October 1986.

Finally, and HS2 says it will plant over 300,000 trees this winter as part of the project's Green Corridor programme.

This adds to the 430,000 trees already planted across Phase One, taking the total to over 730,000 by the spring.

Up to seven million trees will eventually be planted along Phase One.

[Click here for more details.](#)

Photo credit: Rail Delivery Group