

Lymington Branch Line to close for two weeks for vital pier improvements

December 6, 2024



Buses replace trains between Brockenhurst and Lymington Pier from Sunday 22 December with train services resuming on Monday 6 January 2025

The line between Brockenhurst and Lymington Pier will be closed for the second phase of planned upgrades over the festive period. Buses will replace trains between Brockenhurst and Lymington between Sunday 22 December and Sunday 5 January.

Following the successful completion of track upgrades including replacing nearly a mile of track in late October, Network Rail engineers will return to the line to undertake work to strengthen the bridge across the Lymington River between Lymington Town and Pier stations. Work to repair, refurbish and strengthen heavily corroded critical steel elements of Lymington Viaduct will also be completed as well as replacing the wheel timbers, which support the track across the viaduct.

During this time, engineers will also replace the track over Lymington Town Level Crossing. This means that, on Sunday 29 December, the level crossing will be closed to road traffic. A temporary bridge will be built near the level crossing for passengers. South Western Railway's rail replacement service will call at Lymington Town in the Brockenhurst direction only. A shuttle bus will run between Lymington Town and Lymington Pier.

On Christmas Day and Boxing Day only, when no passenger services are running, improvements to Brockenhurst Level Crossing and also tamping – compacting the stones (ballast) underneath the tracks – across the junctions at Brockenhurst station will also be completed.

Mark Goodall, Network Rail’s Wessex Route Director, said: “We appreciate that there is never a good time to close the railway, however we know that fewer people travel during the festive period so this is the least disruptive time to complete these important upgrades.

“Once this work is completed, passengers using the branch line will benefit from smoother and more reliable journeys.

“We have been working closely with our partners South Western Railway and Wightlink to ensure passengers travelling between Lymington and Newport, on the Isle of Wight will have minimum disruption during this period.”