

## Network Rail describes work clashing with local Bees and United match as “own goal”

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Network Rail has issued an apology to Brentford fans ahead of four days of engineering work that clash with the club’s match against Manchester United.

Supporters of both clubs are reminded that Kew Bridge station will be closed because of the work, so they’ll have to use alternative routes to get to the Gtech Community Stadium on Saturday, 13 August.

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Engineers will be out on track working on an essential project that will bring more reliable journeys to South Western Railway customers travelling from stations between Barnes and Feltham, via Hounslow. Buses will replace trains on that line for four days, including two working days, between Saturday 13 to Tuesday 16 August.

**Network Rail’s managing director for Wessex route, Mark Killick, said:** “We know our work will

make getting to Saturday's match more difficult and we're really sorry for the disruption. This is part of a massive £375m scheme to improve the railway in the area by replacing old 1970s signalling equipment with modern kit.

"Resignalling schemes like this one, and the track work that goes with it, are one of the best ways we have of improving the reliability of our network, so it's really important we do the job and I'm grateful to our customers for their patience.

"By doing this work over four days, rather than splitting it up between weekends, means we can get much more done and we can make more progress on improving the railway with less disruption to our customers."

Christian Neill, Customer Experience Director for South Western Railway, added: "The modernisation work that Network Rail is carrying out will significantly boost the reliability and performance of the railway for many years to come.

"The decision to close the railway for four days, including two working days on the Monday and Tuesday, has not been taken lightly. We urge all customers intending to travel from Saturday morning until the end of Tuesday to check before they travel and make use of the alternative transport options available."

Sally Stephens, Community Relations Director at Brentford FC, added: "We've been working closely with South Western Railway (SWR) and Network Rail about the planned engineering works that will impact our first home game of the season.

"It's clearly frustrating for our fans to have their journeys disrupted for our prestigious home season opener against Manchester United but we welcome the clear advanced communication. All supporters are advised to arrive early on Saturday and to check their route before they travel.

"We'd like to thank those customers impacted by these works for their patience and understanding as this vital upgrade is carried out."