

Network Rail engineers tackle landslip risk site at Hove

September 14, 2021



Engineers are preparing to improve and strengthen a section of track at Hove between Saturday 18 September 2021 and Friday 1 October 2021. These works are planned to stabilise a section of railway cutting in Hove and prevent landslips, which have caused significant delays to passengers in recent years.

Engineers will be installing 1,012 rock bolts into the ground to stabilise the cutting and protect the railway from rockfall. These bolts will hold rock netting in place that will catch loose rocks, and in the areas where required, hold the ground together.

While this work takes place, no trains can run on the route directly linking Brighton with Hove and buses will replace trains between Brighton and Littlehampton on Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 September. We expect these journeys will be very busy, and passengers will have to wait and queue to board rail replacement buses.

From Monday 20 September until Friday 1 October

- Trains between Brighton and London are unaffected
- No trains will run directly between Brighton and Hove/stations towards Littlehampton
- Trains will run to an amended timetable between Preston Park and Littlehampton and between Littlehampton and Portsmouth Harbour/Southampton Central
- Southern customers will need to change trains at Preston Park to travel to/from Brighton
- Customers travelling between Portsmouth/Southampton and Brighton will need to change trains at Littlehampton and Preston Park

Great Western Railway services to and from Brighton will end at Worthing on weekdays or Portsmouth Harbour at weekends. Throughout the whole time when works are taking place, train tickets will be accepted on Brighton & Hove bus routes 2, 6, 7, 46 and 49 between Shoreham, Portslade, Hove and Brighton (Brighton station / Churchill Square) to help people to get around.

Katie Frost, Sussex route director for Network Rail, said: "These works will ensure reliable journeys for passengers across the Brighton Main Line for decades to come. Engineers will be working hard to stop any future slips and make the line much more secure.

"We know this site very well and I want to thank the local community for their patience while we complete this vital project."

Chris Fowler, Customer Services Director for Southern, said: "We've worked hard to provide alternative routes for customers between Hove and Brighton during Network Rail's essential work. Buses will replace trains between Littlehampton and Brighton on the weekend of 18th and 19th September. Then for 12 days from Monday 20th September until Friday 1st October, West Coastway services will be diverted to run to and from Preston Park instead of running in and out of Brighton.

"Customers will need to change there for a train southward to Brighton or westward towards Littlehampton, so Preston Park will be much busier than normal. At peak times there may be a need to queue to enter or leave the station, and we will have extra staff on duty to help customers.

"During these works, train times at all stations on our West Coastway route will be altered, some journeys may take slightly longer and it may mean you will need to change trains, so please allow plenty of extra time and check times in advance."

Sporting events are taking place on Sunday 19th September including Brighton & Hove Albion v Leicester City at the Amex Stadium and the London to Brighton Cycle Ride, so trains will be busier than normal.

Preston Park station will be busier than usual and at peak times, access to the station may be restricted to avoid overcrowding. Passengers starting their journey at Preston Park in busy times are advised to arrive a few minutes before their train departs as they may be held outside the station as trains arrive, to facilitate a one-way system through the subway.

The Goodwood Revival from 17-19 September is a three-day motoring festival held each September in Chichester and passengers should expect a busier journey over this weekend including queues.

Photo credit: Network Rail