

# Network Rail to undertake £88m investment in Britain's railway

March 23, 2023



Thousands of rail workers prepare to deliver an £88 million programme of engineering work over the Easter bank holiday weekend (Friday, April 7th to Monday April 10th).

Whilst the vast majority of the network – more than 95 per cent – will be unaffected by the engineering work taking place, there will be disruption on some routes, so passengers should visit National Rail Enquiries or their train operator's website to check the status of their journey before travelling.

Engineering work programmes are scheduled for bank holidays to minimise disruption to passengers, as typically fewer passengers use the railway during these periods.

Andrew Haines, Network Rail chief executive, said: "Our Easter engineering programme has been carefully planned so the majority of the rail network will remain open for business. However, some routes will be affected by this work, so please remember to check before you travel.

"Colleagues from Network Rail and our rail partners will be working hard to deliver £88 million worth of investment during the course of the weekend. These vital projects will upgrade the railway so that we can

provide a better and more reliable service for our passengers and freight users in the future.”

More than 12,000 metres of new rail and 33,000 tonnes of ballast will be laid over the long weekend amongst other major projects being undertaken to boost reliability and performance across Britain.

The major upgrade projects to be carried out over the Easter bank holiday weekend include:

- Various projects including track renewals, bridge work and maintenance work between London Euston and Milton Keynes Central from Friday 7<sup>th</sup> – Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April (inclusive). No services will operate between London Euston and Milton Keynes Central throughout the bank holiday weekend. Bus services will operate from Milton Keynes Central and Bedford to connect into GTR/EMR services to and from London. LNW will also operate bus services to serve stations south of Milton Keynes to connect with GTR services at Potters Bar. Caledonian Sleeper services will start from London King’s Cross.
- Track upgrades taking place from Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April will mean the West Coast main line is closed between Lancaster and Carlisle. Avanti West Coast services will terminate at Lancaster to/from the south. Replacement bus services will be in operation between Lancaster and Carlisle.
- Renewal of switches and crossings (the moveable sections of track that guide trains from one track to another and allow them to cross path) at Streatham North Junction to improve safety and reliability. As a result of this work, platforms 9-19 at London Victoria will not be in service throughout the bank holiday weekend. Services will start and terminate at London Bridge. London Victoria to Dorking services will be diverted to start/terminate at London Bridge via Peckham Rye.
- Maintenance work and track renewals at Charing Cross on Sat 8<sup>th</sup> & Sun 9<sup>th</sup> April. Trains will not run to or from via Waterloo East to Charing Cross. Southeastern services will start and terminate from Cannon Street or London Victoria. Bus replacement services will be in operation between Lewisham and Dartford via Sidcup.
- Vital embankment improvements and track renewals in Kent between Tunbridge Wells and Hastings from Friday 7 to Saturday 15 April. As a result, between these dates, buses will replace Southeastern train services between Tunbridge Wells and Hastings.
- Significant work to improve reliability and resilience at Carstairs will mean there is no route through Carstairs Junction to and from Edinburgh Waverley or Glasgow Central via the West Coast main line for the whole of the bank holiday weekend.
- Points conversion work for HS2 will mean services to and from Crewe will be severely impacted from Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> to Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April (inclusive).

Passengers can find out how their Easter journeys will be affected with their train operator, via [National Rail Enquiries](#), or by following [#EasterRailWorks](#) on Twitter.

*Photo credit: Network Rail*