

# Trains take time out for Victoria signalling revamp

November 22, 2021



Trains will not run on two occasions between East Croydon and London Victoria – so that the major four-year Victoria resignalling project can continue apace.

One of those is over Christmas, from Saturday 25 December until Monday 3 January. The other, closer suspension of services is Saturday 27 November and Sunday 28 November.

Most southern trains on those occasions will instead be diverted to London Bridge.

Network Rail will use the time to continue work on the Victoria resignalling project, a major four-year programme of investment to upgrade signalling and track at key rail junctions on the south London lines into London Victoria.

Network Rail has said that over the 10-day Christmas closure, Pouperts Junction, near Clapham, will be completely rebuilt with new track and ballast. Signal gantries to house the new signalling equipment, cables routes and power supply points will be installed along the lines from Balham to London Victoria.

The infrastructure owner says that these blockades will allow work to be carried out more quickly.

Sussex route Director for Network Rail, Katie Frost, said: "Putting passengers first is at the heart of what we do, and that works across everything, including how we plan and deliver work. Blockades are a massive opportunity for us to deliver more efficiently, reduce overall disruption to services and ultimately do more work to improve journeys for our passengers.

"But we won't forget that the success of previous extended line closures was in no small part due to our strong focus on passenger and stakeholder management, and our close partnership with train operator colleagues.

"That's why we'll work closely with local stakeholders and train operators to ensure people who live by the railway, passengers and businesses are fully aware of the impact on their journeys and the alternative travel options available to them. "

Customer Services Director for Southern, Chris Fowler, said: "These engineering programmes are essential to give our customers the reliable, on-time services they rightly expect. We're working closely with Network Rail and other transport partners to ensure our customers can get where they need to be when services are affected. Some journeys will take considerably longer than normal, so please check routes and times in advance."