

Work begins to lift bridge out of river flood zone

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Network Rail engineers begin work to raise Black Bridge, near Machynlleth, on Saturday 15th May to reduce passenger delays due to flooding.

The £3.6m project involves heightening the bridge, which runs over the river Dulas, by one metre, enough to significantly reduce the impact from high river levels during storms and heavy rain.

In recent years, the bridge has been repeatedly flooded in bad weather, causing regular closures on the Machynlleth to Shrewsbury route.

The railway will be closed from 15 May to 28 June so that the main work to raise the bridge and reprofile the track can be carried out safely.

Kevin Giles, senior asset engineer for Network Rail Wales and Borders, said: "This is a big project for us at Network Rail and the first time a railway bridge will have been raised away from flood waters in Wales.

"The issues of flooding on this line go back more than three decades and the result is that large sections of

the Cambrian line in central Wales end up cut-off and isolated while repair work is carried out.

“We want to ensure our passengers have more reliable journeys and this project highlights our dedication to making the railway more resilient in Wales.”

Transport for Wales will be providing rail replacement services between Machynlleth and Shrewsbury during this time.

There will also be an amended timetable in operation from Pwllheli and Aberystwyth to Machynlleth.

Alexia Course, Transport for Wales’ Transport Operations Director, said: “The much-needed work will help us to provide a more reliable service during periods of bad weather and will benefit passengers using this route for many years to come.

“Our team will be working hard to support our customers throughout the improvement work. We understand disruption to services is frustrating for our customers, and we would like to thank them in advance for their patience while this work is taking place.”

Photo credit: Network Rail