

Bristol railway work update

April/May 2020



Overview

This newsletter aims to update you on railway work in the Bristol area. There is a whole programme of work for the next two years that is currently being planned.



Responding to COVID-19

Safety of our workers is paramount and we are carefully following Government guidelines on COVID-19 to protect our staff and the public, and prevent the spread of the virus.

We are constantly reviewing planned projects to determine feasibility in terms of maintaining appropriate distance between workers and other essential measures needed to maintain safe work sites in the current situation.

We will continue to closely monitor and assess these issues on an ongoing basis for planned and live projects.

To keep up to date with our plans, see: networkrail.co.uk/city-of-bristol

Bristol East Junction renewal

This spring we begin renewing sections of straight track at Bristol East Junction, which lies just outside Bristol Temple Meads in the St Phillips area of the city. This is preparatory work ahead of the full replacement of the junction next year.

Ultimately the junction needs replacing due to its age, and this presents a fantastic opportunity to remodel the layout at the same time. The full upgrade in summer 2021 will therefore not only increase reliability, but it will also help to improve operational flexibility to support future rail growth.

The work we're starting this month to relay these straight sections of track at the fringes of the junction will ease the workload for next summer reducing the length of the

main upgrade. It takes place over two weekends this spring:

- Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 April
- Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 May

Weekend work will then be ongoing, though mostly concentrated around Saturday nights, until early autumn when we have two further solid weekends planned for September and October. Further detail about the remodelling of Bristol East Junction will be provided over the coming months.

Working within the context of the current pandemic we are carefully following Government guidelines on COVID-19, to ensure the safety of our workers and prevent the spread of the virus. We are confident this work can be undertaken safely.

Filton Bank drainage work

We are nearing completion of our follow up work on Filton Bank, after opening our two new railway lines between Bristol Temple Meads and Filton Abbey Wood.

Further drainage work is needed alongside the track in the Horfield and Lockleaze areas in Bristol, as well as further north into South Gloucestershire at Filton Abbey Wood.

The main focus will be between Constable Road and Bonnington Walk where we will be removing track stone with a suction excavator, repairing the drainage and replacing the stone. Engineering trains will transport materials and a tamper train will pack the stone, which will be noisy.

We will be returning to our Dovercourt Road compound for this work as, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic we require more space for welfare and car parking facilities

to ensure the safety of our workers. We will also have welfare cabins at Stapleton Road station. We will be using our access points behind Trust Ford on Muller Road and next to the M32, while working continuously around the clock as follows:

- 01.00 Sat 25 April – 03.40 Mon 27 April
- 01.00 Sat 02 May – 03.40 Mon 04 May

This drainage work was planned to coincide with follow up work on other jobs in the wider Bristol/South Gloucestershire area, to reduce overall disruption to passengers.

Alongside our work at Bristol East Junction, this is crucial maintenance to ensure the continued safe and smooth running of the railway for essential passengers and freight. It has been deemed safe to proceed in line with current Government guidelines on COVID-19.

Bristol Portway station

Plans for a proposed new railway station for the Severn Beach line, between Shirehampton and Avonmouth stations, are moving forward.

The station will be built by Network Rail on behalf of Bristol City Council, on land adjacent to the existing Portway park and ride site off the A4.

Funding for the scheme has been secured and plans are in development with the aim of starting work on site at the end of 2020 and completion in 2021.

The station is being jointly funded by Bristol City Council, the West of England Combined Authority and the Department for Transport.

After planning permission was granted in March 2019, it is set to become the first new station built in the wider Bristol area since Filton Abbey Wood in 1996.

This scheme forms part of the West of England's wider MetroWest programme. For more information see: travelwest.info/projects/metrowest



Safety improvements at Bristol Temple Meads

We have a number of projects in progress outside the entrance to Bristol Temple Meads, aimed at improving general safety on Station Approach.

Over two weeks, from 1 – 13 March, we completed work to repair and restore the existing cobbles outside the entrance, to allow for safer walking access to and from the station.

The number of taxi permits for the station is also being reviewed but remains at 250 until further notice.

In due course we are planning to install new zebra crossings, along with speed bumps as a traffic calming measure to reduce the speed of vehicles, to provide safer walking routes for pedestrians.

We aim to install automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) to monitor and manage traffic flow in and out of the station area.

Dates for additional work are to be confirmed.

Travel advice

Is your journey necessary? During the coronavirus outbreak, please only travel if it is essential.

Weekends of 25 & 26 April and 2 & 3 May:

Coaches replace trains:

- between Bristol Temple Meads and Newport/Cardiff Central (not calling at Bristol Parkway)
- between Bristol Parkway and Newport

Low-floor buses will also run:

- between Bristol Temple Meads and Bristol Parkway
- between Bristol Temple Meads and Clifton Down/Avonmouth/Severn Beach

A taxi will run between Bristol Parkway and Pilning (and back) on the Saturdays at 0805 and 1405.

Check before you travel at:

www.nationalrail.co.uk
www.GWR.com



Contact us

If you have any questions about our work, contact our 24-hour helpline: 03457 11 41 41

For more information about our work:

networkrail.co.uk/city-of-bristol
or Twitter: @NetworkRailWest

