

Bristol railway work update

February 2021



Overview

We have a huge programme of work underway in the Bristol area – this newsletter aims to keep you updated.

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 our planned projects to comply with social distancing and other essential measures.

Transformation begins at Temple Meads

A brighter future for passengers using Bristol Temple Meads is edging closer. Over the Christmas period, we kicked off our work to install scaffolding under the main train shed roof, to support our huge restoration project at Bristol Temple Meads.

Between Christmas Day and 11 January, we erected 16 full scaffolding towers and completed an additional 24 sets of foundations which will become full height towers in due course. In total, there will be 60 full height scaffolding towers on Platforms 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Installing these towers is a crucial part of preparations for the work ahead as they will support a huge safety screen which will protect passengers and staff while renovations take place overhead, keeping the station in use.

Signalling work was also completed at the station over Christmas, relocating signals to make way for planned scaffolding towers, and to ensure a clear line of sight where scaffolding towers might otherwise obscure train drivers.

Keeping our junction work on track

Our teams rounded off 2020 with further preparatory work ahead of our huge track layout change at Bristol East Junction this summer.

Building on multiple weekends earlier in the year, they worked from Christmas Eve through to 27 December, to install five new sets of points and the main boom for our new signalling gantry next to Dings park in St Phillips.

Installation of the 20-tonne boom was completed with the help of a track mounted Kirow crane and is a significant milestone for the project.

The new gantry, which can be seen from platform 3 at Bristol Temple Meads, will be brought into use this summer when construction of the new junction is completed and the old gantry is removed.



Full steam ahead for 2021

Bristol East Junction

Our track team moves inside Temple Meads from February to May, replacing track at platform 13, and the coping stones along the platform edge. It'll make it accessible to any train, improving flexibility which is a key aim of the wider junction work taking place this summer.

At nearby Bedminster Station we're temporarily increasing the operational length of platforms so longer trains can call, making it a suitable southern terminus during the full track layout change this summer; bringing passengers closer to the city and reducing the length of replacement bus and coach journeys.

The eight-week track layout change at Bristol East Junction will run Saturday 10 July until Friday 3 September.

Bristol Temple Meads roof renovation

Following on from our work at Christmas we will be installing more scaffolding for our roof project, from Saturday 6 until Friday 26 March. When completed, it will support a safety screen to protect passengers and staff while we restore the roof above.

Platforms 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be closed, so please leave a little extra time to catch your train from an alternative platform.

On an ongoing basis we are also repairing and repainting the platform canopies, and those on the station forecourt.

The roof restoration is due for completion in summer 2023, providing a cleaner and brighter experience for passengers, as well as preserving the Grade I listed structure for future generations.



Station rewire

We'll soon be announcing our winning contractor for the rewire of Bristol Temple Meads. Work is due to get underway in March, with site set up and detailed plans being developed.

The project will improve the overall reliability and efficiency of the station's electrics, and allow for potential future expansion of retail.

Separate power supplies are being created and back-up systems improved.

Heating, cooling and ventilation systems will also be replaced, and all lighting upgraded to energy efficient LEDs. The project is due for completion in 2023.

Rolling out free WiFi

We've started work to install a new WiFi network at Bristol Temple Meads, offering fast, free and reliable internet access within the station. Working carefully alongside our roof renovations and rewire teams, we aim to have it up and running in April.

Travel advice

Only travel if essential. Passengers must wear a face covering in stations and on all forms of public transport, including rail replacement buses and coaches.

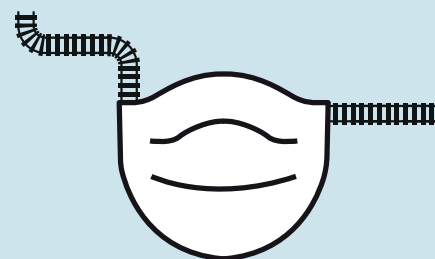
Saturday 20 & Sunday 21 February

Track work means buses replace trains between Bristol Temple Meads and Bath Spa and some services between Bristol and London Paddington, and Cardiff Central and Portsmouth Harbour, are affected.

Saturday 6 to Friday 26 March

Scaffolding installations mean platforms 3 to 6 will not be in use. Please allow a little extra time to get to the right platform for your train.

While this work is taking place, we'll make sure you can still get wherever you're going. Please keep checking: nationalrail.co.uk or GWR.com/Bristol



Contact us

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

For more information:
networkrail.co.uk/bristolrailregen
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