

More questions answered...

Will all train services be affected?

Only First Great Western train services will be affected. Arriva Trains Wales and Virgin Cross Country services will operate as normal.

Why do you need to shut the line for nine days?

We want to get this important work done as quickly as possible, in order to minimise disruption for passengers. The work will involve complex engineering practices and a significant amount of specialised machinery will be brought in to do the works as quickly and efficiently as possible.

What impact will this have on people living nearby?

To complete the work as quickly and efficiently as possible, our engineers must bring in specialist equipment and work around the clock.

Work that takes place overnight will be carefully managed and monitored to keep noise and disturbance to the very minimum. It will require lighting but we will use specifically designed, low-level lights to minimise the impact on local people.

We will also make every effort to keep noise to a minimum by using hi-tech silenced equipment where possible.

Is there anything else I need to know?

Following the nine day closure, trains will be travelling at slower speeds in the Wootton Bassett area for a few weeks for the engineering works to be completed. This will temporarily add a few minutes to journeys between Swindon and Bristol.

Where can I find more information?

An amended timetable can be downloaded from www.firstgreatwestern.co.uk. A special timetable booklet is also available from stations. Customers should check information posters displayed at stations and watch out for updates relayed on Customer Information Screens at stations.

Train time details also available from National Rail Enquiries on **08457 484950** or www.nationalrail.co.uk.

If you have any concerns before, during or after the work, please contact Network Rail National Helpline on: **08457 11 41 41**.

Rebuilding the railway near you

Major line closure between Swindon and Bristol
Saturday 26 August to Sunday 3 September 2006



First  **Great Western**

Network Rail




What are we doing?

Network Rail is investing £750 million to improve train performance and make services more reliable between London Paddington and the West Country and South Wales over the next three years. This will include the replacement of hundreds of miles of track.

The junction at Wootton Bassett, where the track splits to Bristol Temple Meads and to Bristol Parkway from Swindon, will be one of the first parts of the route to benefit from the investment.

This important work will require a closure of the line between Swindon and Bristol Temple Meads and between Swindon and Bristol Parkway from Saturday 26 August to Sunday 3 September 2006.



Why are we doing it?

A large percentage of the rail track between Paddington and Bristol/Cardiff dates from the 1960s and 1970s, and must be renewed if we are to deliver the best possible service for passengers.

When are we doing it?

Most work on the route will be carried out overnight or at weekends to minimise the impact on customers. However, the replacement of the junction at Wootton Bassett will require complete closure of the railway in this area for nine days. Engineers will be working round the clock.

What impact will there be on train services?

Network Rail and First Great Western have produced an alternative timetable during the work:

London/Bristol Parkway/South Wales services – An hourly service will run in both directions via Gloucester to Swindon, not calling at Bristol Parkway, but some services will call at Stonehouse, Stroud and Kemble. There will be a limited peak-time direct train service between Bristol Parkway and London Paddington diverted on an alternative route. At other times, a bus link will run between Bristol Parkway and Swindon for train connections to and from London Paddington. A bus service will also run between Bristol Parkway and Filton Abbey Wood for connections to and from South Wales.

London/Bristol Temple Meads services – These services will be diverted from Bath Spa direct to Reading and will not call at Chippenham or Swindon. A limited peak-time train service will run between Chippenham and London Paddington which will operate on an alternative route direct to Reading. At other times, a train shuttle service will run between Bristol Temple Meads and Chippenham calling at Bath Spa with a bus link between Chippenham and Swindon to connect into train services to London Paddington.

London/Cheltenham Spa services – These services will be re-timed to incorporate the diverted South Wales services.

Swindon/Didcot Parkway – These stations will be served by the regular Swindon to London Paddington train service and by diverted South Wales services. There will also be a number of Swindon to London Paddington services.

Swindon/Southampton services – A replacement bus service will run between Westbury and Swindon, calling at Trowbridge, Melksham and Chippenham. Train services will run between Westbury and Southampton.

