

# West Coast Main Line to close between Warrington and Preston, 13 – 21 July

*We're undertaking a major project of work to improve the West Coast Main Line (WCML) for nine days, between 13 and 21 July, trains will not be able to run between Warrington Bank Quay and Preston, mainly impacting services to and from Scotland and North West England.*

*This essential work to upgrade the railway will increase speeds, allow more trains to run and keep services running smoothly in the future. We're working hard to reduce disruption and alternative travel will be provided for passengers.*

## What are we doing

During these nine days we'll replace:

- 3 miles of track
- 4 major junctions (including 27 sets of points)
- 6,600 sleepers
- 21,500 tonnes of ballast

To achieve this:

- 18 miles of track will be shut
- 61 engineering trains will be used
- 865 engineering wagons will be used
- Over 600 men and women will work night and day

## Is it really necessary?

Absolutely. The WCML is Britain's busiest mixed use rail artery and it takes a pounding from thousands of passenger and freight trains every day. The track and junctions at this location are old and have become unreliable.

This job is a complex one and has required over a year of planning. We could have done the task in 21 days disrupting many bank holidays and weekends but the rail industry felt that, overall, this approach would cause less disruption.

## What are the benefits?

Not doing the work would result in speed restrictions having to be put in place because of the condition of the infrastructure at this location. Therefore, the most immediate benefit of the project work will be to help keep trains running on time through this area.

We'll also be making some improvements to the track layout making it easier for our people to access to maintain it and new kit means more reliable kit. We'll also be increasing the speed limits through the junctions themselves.

[networkrail.co.uk/wcml](http://networkrail.co.uk/wcml)

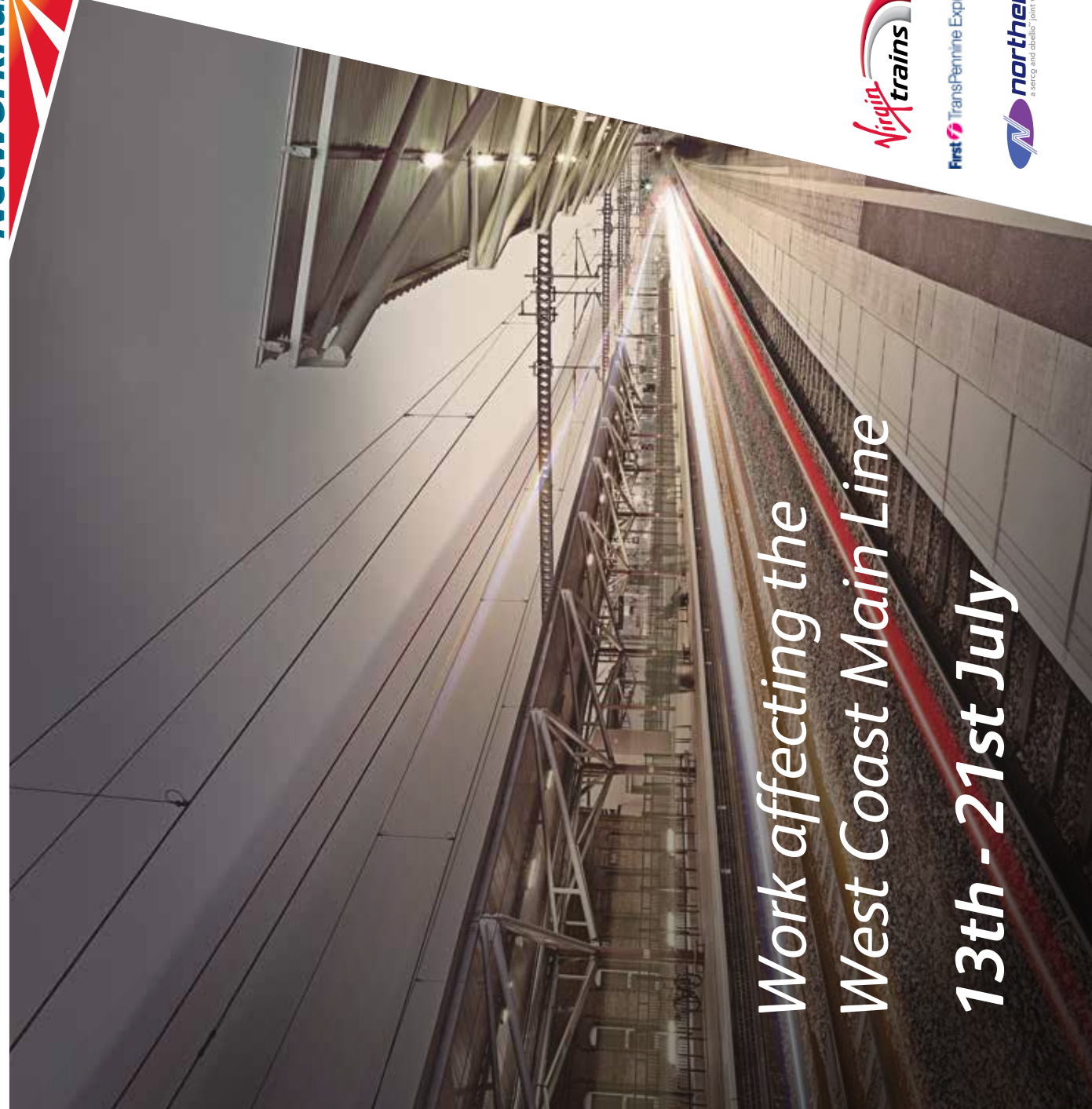
**Please check before you travel**

Work is taking place for nine days between the 13 and 21 July. During this time the West Coast Main Line will be closed between Warrington Bank Quay and Preston.

Train services through this area will be affected. Please check before you travel.

We apologise in advance for the disruption this will cause.

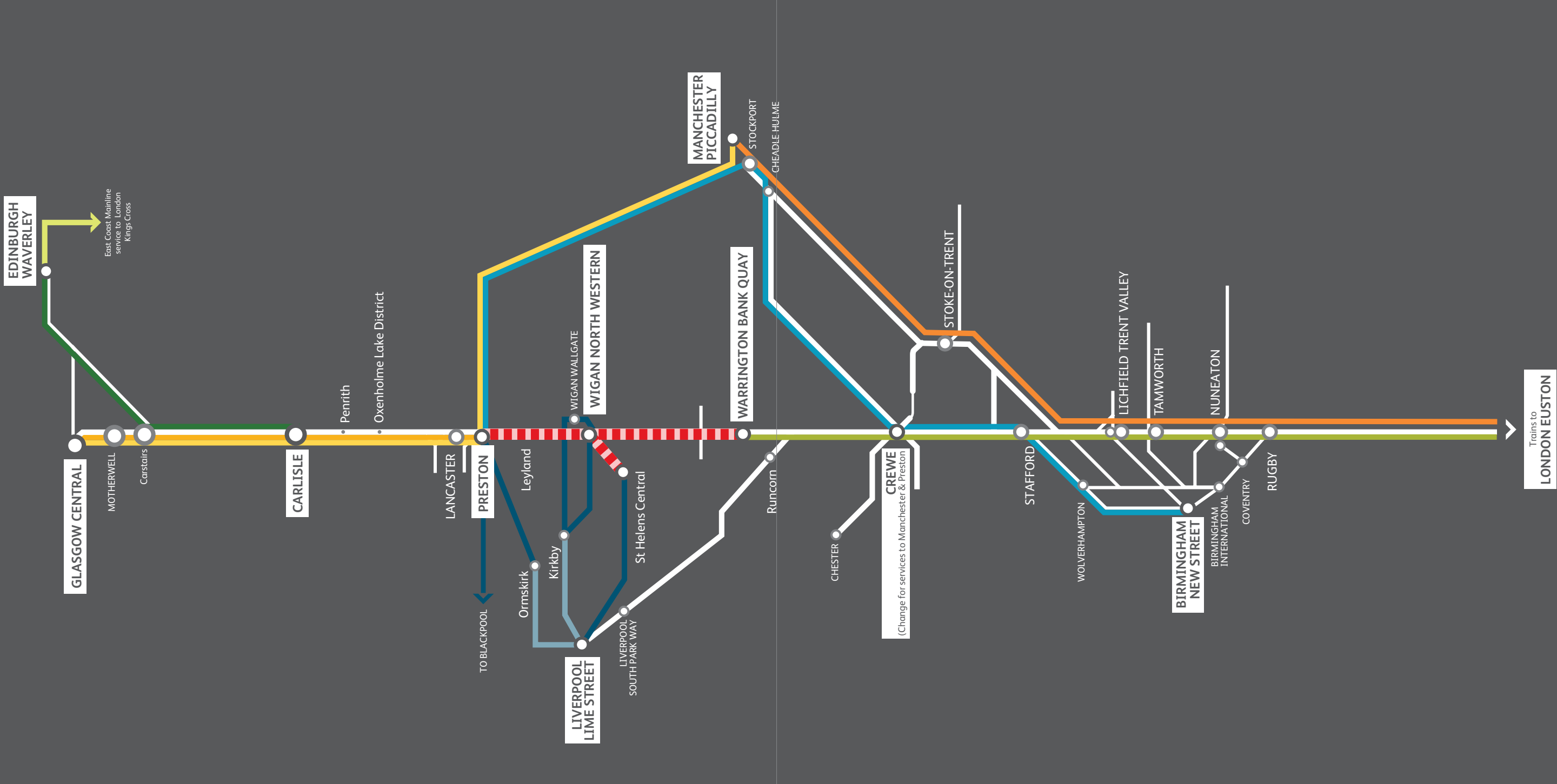
Find out more on how these plans could affect your journey at



**Work affecting the  
West Coast Main Line  
13th - 21st July**







**CLOSED SECTION OF RAILWAY (bus replacement service)**

**VIRGIN TRAINS**

**Customers travelling from Scotland, Cumbria and Lancashire**

- Edinburgh to Carlisle: every two hours
- Glasgow to Preston: every hour
- Preston to Birmingham New Street (diverted via an alternative route): every hour - passengers for London Euston must change trains at Stockport
- Warrington to London Euston: every hour
- Stockport to London Euston

**Customers travelling from London Euston**

- Euston to Warrington (via Crewe): every hour – passengers must change trains at Crewe for Preston, north west England and Scotland.
- Birmingham New Street to Preston (diverted via an alternative route): every hour
- Preston to Glasgow Central: every hour
- Carlisle to Edinburgh: every two hours

**NORTHERN RAIL**

Services from Liverpool Lime Street to Blackpool North will terminate at St. Helens Central. A replacement bus service will operate between St. Helens Central - Wigan - Preston where train connections will be available to Blackpool North.

Liverpool Lime Street to Ormskirk and Kirkby are provided by Merserail

**FIRST TRANSPENNINE EXPRESS**

Services will not be directly affected, however they are expected to be extremely busy from Glasgow and Edinburgh to Manchester.

East Coast Trains, while not directly affected, are expecting an increase in passengers travelling on the East Coast Main Line from Edinburgh to London King's Cross who would normally travel by Virgin Trains.