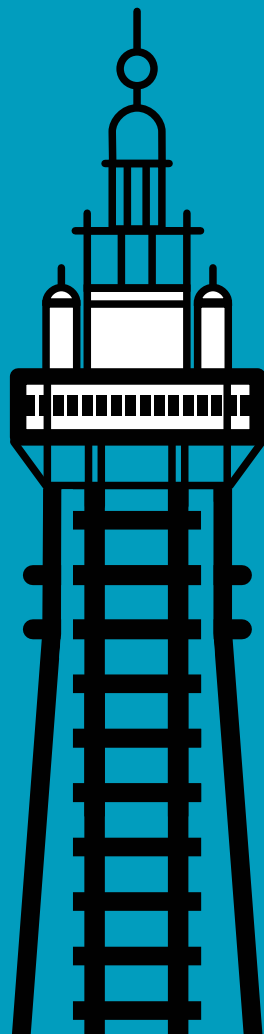


**THE GREAT
NORTH RAIL
PROJECT**

**PRESTON TO
BLACKPOOL
UPGRADE**

Breathing new life into your railway

More reliable journeys between
Blackpool and Preston from May 2018



Delivered for you by:



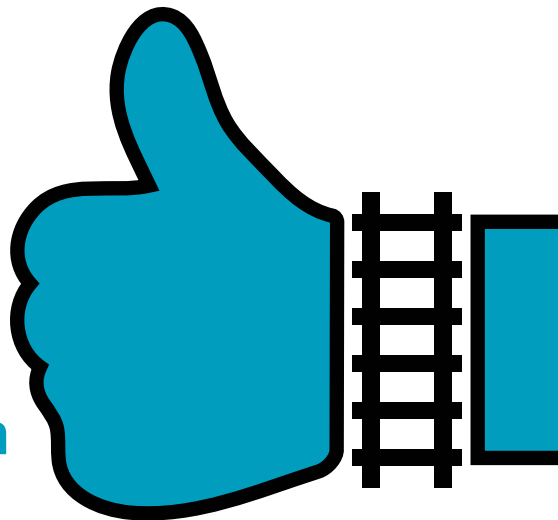
The Great North Rail Project isn't just about rail

We are working to deliver modern, faster, more frequent and more comfortable train services across one of the largest rail networks in the country.

When the work is complete, we'll have done more for the North than just laying tracks. We'll be creating new jobs, and connecting more people to more jobs. We're closing the gaps between major cities. Making not only travel, but also trade, easier throughout the North. The work we're doing will make the region more desirable. For investment. For business. For everyone.

This leaflet goes through what's happening near you and how it affects your journey.

Always check before you travel at nationalrail.co.uk



Better journeys from 2018

As part of our rail upgrade plan, we're closing the Blackpool to Preston line for improvement from 11 November 2017 until early 2018. We're building a better, more reliable railway and introducing electric trains for quieter journeys.

Here's what that means for you:



During the upgrade

- To keep the railway as safe as possible, most improvement work takes place at night or during closures of the railway when trains aren't running.
- **11 November 2017 – 28 January 2018: Preston to Blackpool North and South closed.**
29 January 2018 – 25 March 2018: Route to Blackpool South reopens – Preston to Blackpool North remains closed.
- While the railway is closed, replacement buses will run between Blackpool and Preston. Check before you travel and allow extra time for your journey. Visit nationalrail.co.uk
- Network Rail is working closely with Northern and Virgin Trains to make sure you're kept up-to-date about any changes to train services.

When the work's done

- **Reliable services**
Improvements to the track and signalling reduces delays of trains running in and out of Blackpool.
- **More seats**
The modern trains will be more spacious than the current ones. So, there's more seating space available for passengers on each service.
- **Smoother journeys**
Modern trains running on an improved railway makes journeys smoother and quieter. So, your journey will be more comfortable.
- **Greener trains**
The modern trains will create lower carbon emissions in comparison to the current trains. This helps to improve air quality in pollution hot spots and makes it cleaner and quieter for people living near the railway.



Breathing new life into your railway

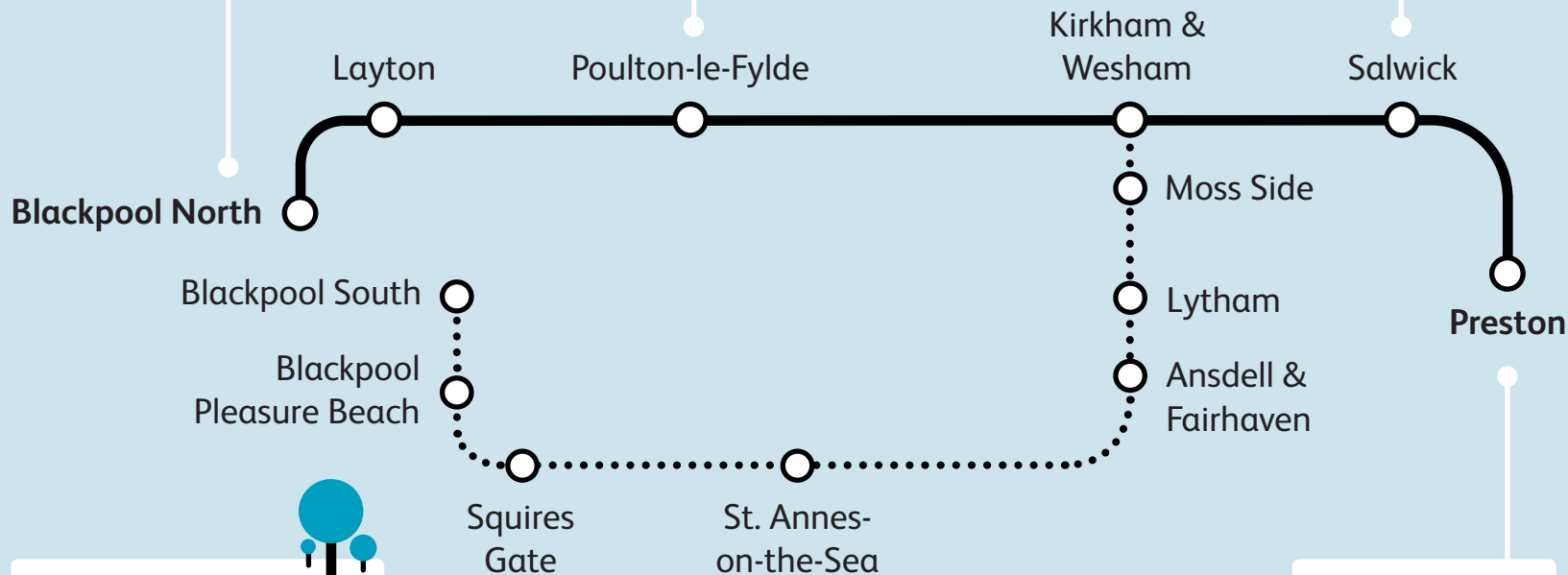
We're upgrading the train depot at **Blackpool North** to house and maintain electric trains.

We're remodelling the platforms at **Blackpool North** station to create a simpler track layout. This helps trains to arrive and depart from the station more efficiently.

All stations on the route will see enhancement work, including new LED lighting and CCTV.

We're simplifying the track layout in **Poulton-le-Fylde** and **Salwick**. This helps to reduce delays and improve performance.

We're remodelling **Kirkham & Wesham** station and building a new platform to better manage trains running to Blackpool North and South stations. The new platform will be linked to the station via a new footbridge and lifts, creating step-free access at Kirkham & Wesham.



We're removing vegetation in some locations to make way for an electrified railway.

Improving connections between key towns and cities across the north.



We've **constructed 11 bridges** along the route to make space for electric trains.



Over **11km of track** will be replaced as part of our upgrade.



We're installing **1,000+ new structures** to support over **200km of electric cables** that will power electric trains between Preston and Blackpool North.



We're **modernising signalling equipment** between Preston and both Blackpool stations. This includes removing five signal boxes and installing 84 new signals.

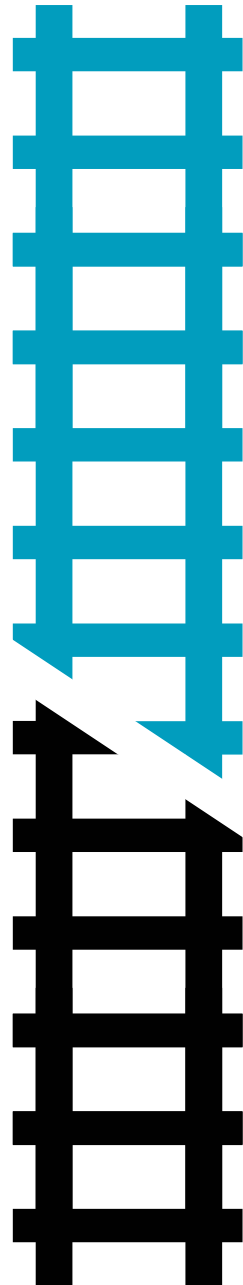
Why we're upgrading

From May 2018 modern, greener, cleaner and quieter trains will run between Blackpool and Preston. The upgrade tackles overcrowding and reduces running costs, as well as providing a reliable and sustainable railway for generations to come.

To upgrade the railway, we have to carry out the following engineering work:

- Upgrading bridges and structures.
- Strengthening railway embankments.
- Assessing level crossings.
- Clearing overgrown vegetation.
- Installing masts and wires.
- Install a new modern signalling system.
- Improving the track layout at several locations
- Upgrading key sections of the railway track.

We're carrying out ecological surveys and environmental impact assessments to minimise impact on the natural environment. Any protected species or nesting birds are relocated where necessary.



Being good neighbours

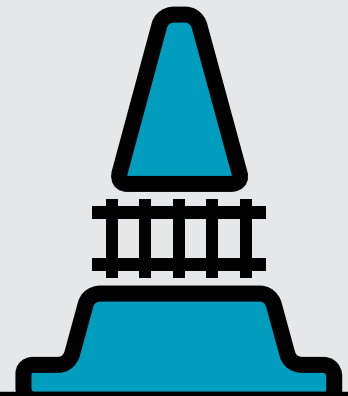
To keep the railway moving, we try to cause the least disruption to train services. And for safety reasons, we do most of the improvement work over night, or during carefully planned closures of the railway.

Plus, we want to minimise the impact our work has on our neighbours. If we're planning work close to your property we will write to you to let you know.

Disruptions may include:

- Noise from engineering trains and railway vehicles.
- Temporary flood lighting and head torches.
- Safety alarm sounds to indicate reversing vehicles.
- Engineering work including digging, moving railway stone and other heavy materials.
- Noise from installing piled foundations, for the masts and gantries that will carry electrified wires along the railway.

The appearance of the railway and surrounding area changes with this upgrade too. Steel masts run along the railway to support the overhead power lines. We try to put these in places that cause the least visual impact to our neighbours.



If you have any questions about our Great North Rail Project please contact our 24-hour helpline on **03457 11 41 41**, or visit bit.ly/electrifylde to find out more about the electrification work.

Get in touch

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Or visit **networkrail.co.uk/blackpool**
Your journey may be affected by our improvement work. Please check before you travel at **nationalrail.co.uk**

Follow us on Twitter

 **@networkrailNP**



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