

## Wigan to Bolton Electrification project update

Issue 3

August 2024

Network Rail is investing over £100m to deliver greener and more reliable rail journeys in the North West. We are upgrading the railway between Wigan and Bolton, which involves electrifying the route and carrying out signalling improvements between Lostock Junction and Wigan North Western station. This project update is designed to give you an overview of upcoming work in the area as we continue to improve the railway between Wigan and Bolton, as part of our electrification scheme.

### Schedule of works

From Saturday 31 August until Sunday 8 September, inclusive, there will be no trains running on the line between Lostock Junction and Wigan North Western.

This is to allow for engineering works to take place, supporting the electrification of the railway line and means there will be no services from Westhoughton and Hindley stations. Ince station remains closed until November. We have provided further details on the final page of this newsletter.

We have provided a forward looking schedule of our upcoming works below. To learn more about the electrification scheme and how rail services are affected, please visit: [www.nationalrail.co.uk/engineering-works/wigan-wallgate-manchester-victoria-20240106/](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/engineering-works/wigan-wallgate-manchester-victoria-20240106/)

### Working hours

- ⌘ Daytime working hours are 7.30am – 5pm
- ⌘ Midweek nighttime working hours are 11.30pm – 6am
- ⌘ Weekend night working hours are 11pm – 8am

Works	Chulsey Gate Lane	M61	Westhoughton Station	Westhoughton Golf Club	Jack's Lane	High Barn	Hindley	Ince	Wigan	
<b>Vegetation management</b> ⌘	Ongoing throughout route as we install Overhead Line Equipment. We completed most of our programme during the day time, however we will now be undertaking work overnight throughout the route to support installation of the Overhead Line Equipment.									
<b>Piling works</b> ⌘	We have now completed our piling work in most areas, enabling us to install the Overhead Line Equipment. We will need to revisit areas such as Ince, once the bridge at Ince Green Lane has been completed.									
<b>Platform works</b> ⌘			Mid-Aug – Autumn				Complete	2 June - Nov		
<b>Traffic management</b>						20 Aug – 3 Oct		22 April - Nov		
<b>Mast installation</b> ⌘	Complete	Complete	Ongoing – 10 August	Complete		Complete	Complete	25 Aug – 2 Sept*	Complete	
<b>Wiring</b> ⌘	<b>Run 1</b>	31 Aug – 1 Sept	2 – 5 Sept	2 – 5 Sept	2 – 5 Sept	2 – 5 Sept	2 – 5 Sept	15 – 18 Sept	23 Nov – 7 Dec	Complete
	<b>Run 2</b>	31 Aug – 10 Sept	11 – 13 Sept	14 – 15 Sept	14 – 15 Sept	22 – 23 Sept	22 – 23 Sept	6 – 7 Oct	3 – 4 Nov	Complete
<b>Energisation</b>	2 Sept	All remaining sections of the railway line will be energised on 1 January 2025.							Complete	

\*Overhead Line Equipment mast installation will largely be complete within the Ince area by 3 September at 6am. However, we will need to revisit the area to install OLE masts near Ince Green Lane bridge, once we have completed the bridge replacement. This work will take place towards the end of October.



All dates detailed are in 2024, indicative of our current programme and are subject to change. We are encouraging all residents to sign up to our digital notification system to get the most up to date information about our works and continue receiving these newsletters. Otherwise, all future newsletter updates will be provided digitally. You can sign up for digital notifications at any time.

Please visit <https://lineside.networkrail.co.uk/boltonToWiganElectrificationSignUp> or scan the QR code to take you to our sign-up page.



If you have any further questions or concerns, you can get in touch with us at [www.networkrail.co.uk/contact](http://www.networkrail.co.uk/contact) or call our 24-hour National Helpline on 03457 11 41 41.



## Working with the community along the railway corridor

### Donation of vegetation material

As part of our vegetation management programme we have worked with local schools and community groups to donate wood chippings. This meant that any material created from the programme could benefit the community. We worked with nine organisations along the railway corridor, from Washacre Primary School to Wigan and Leigh Hospice, donating over 35 tonnes of chippings.

Colin Jones, Site Manager for Washacre Primary School shared his appreciation and the impact the donation had for the children. *'Thank you so much for your kind donation of wood chippings for our forest area! The forest area has been very muddy and useable for the past few weeks. The wood chippings that you provided have enabled me to mark out clear and tidy pathways around the forest, meaning that the children are once again able to use this area for outdoor learning. The forest area is integral to the wellbeing of the children at Washacre Primary School as it provides them with relaxing and therapeutic opportunities, as well as educational ones.'*

### School machinery demonstration and railway line safety assembly

Following our donations the Wigan to Bolton team, including contractors Kier and SPL, visited Washacre Primary School to host a rail safety assembly and machinery demonstration.

During the assembly, we covered the importance of railway line safety and provided the pupils with a close up look at some of the equipment we use to complete the project. All children were made to feel like railway engineers for the day, wearing orange PPE, inspiring them to become the next generation to help us reach Net Zero.

### Ince Christ Church

Since the project began, we have worked closely with Ince Christ Church, hosting community events with Jean and her team. In July, we completed work at the Church to express our appreciation of their support throughout the programme, revitalising the grounds, meaning they could be enjoyed by the whole community.

In the midst of a June heatwave, a dedicated team of three Kier engineers completed the task in two days with outstanding visible results. Their efforts included:

- Trimming overgrown areas: clearing excessive vegetation and overgrown branches to restore the church grounds to an accessible asset for the whole community to enjoy.
- Cutting trees: reducing two tree trunks to ground level, ensuring these are not a hazard to anyone visiting the Church.
- Clearing footpath stones: removing moss and weeds from the stones improving access throughout the site
- General maintenance: spraying weed killer on footpaths and stone walls once clearance had been complete, supporting the church with future maintenance and upkeep.

Jean Davis, Christ Church Warden said "Thank to all at Kier for the voluntary work carried out in the grounds of Christ Church, it is much appreciated and we are thrilled with the outcome and the great improvement. Also the respect shown to the work of church."

## Our team within the community



- 1 Machinery and equipment demonstration by contractors Kier and SPL
- 2 Network Rail railway safety assembly
- 3 Wood Chipping donation plaques at Washacre Primary School
- 4 Kier and Ince Christ Church team



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## The work we will be doing

### Chulsey Gate Lane

We are now nearing completion of our work at Chulsey Gate Lane in Chew Moor. We would like to thank residents for their continued patience throughout our programme.

Our principal contractor, Kier, is now starting to finalise their work and will start returning the area of our compound to its previous use. A small area will remain in use until after Christmas, providing our contractor responsible for installing the Overhead Line Equipment with railway track access.

### Westhoughton Station

In February we started our platform extension works, pausing these in June. We are now preparing to restart our works from in mid-August until Autumn. We will be reinstalling a small site compound within the station car park, reducing car park capacity. We are encouraging passengers to consider this when using the station.

As before, the station will remain open during our works and we will be completing most of our work overnight to reduce the impact on customer of the station and limit the interface of our workforce with the operational railway.

The work we will be doing will include installing new platform edge and tactile paving, installing new fences and lighting columns, as well as tarmacing the platform extensions.

### High Barn bridge

We need to make alterations to High Barn railway bridge to achieve the necessary clearance for the Overhead Line Equipment and associated wiring. The alterations include raising the existing bridge structure, enabling us to electrify the railway.

To carry out this work safely there will be a road closure in place from 20 August until 3 October, for both road users and pedestrians. Whilst the road is closed there will be a fully signed diversion route in place.

Whilst the closure is in place, our team will be working for 24 hours a day, to ensure we can complete all work activities within the closure period and reopen the road as soon as possible.

### Ince

From 31 August until 9 September, there will be no access across the railway line using the existing or temporary bridge. A signed diversion route will be in place for pedestrians, and the existing road closure and diversion remains in place for road users.

During this time we will be demolishing the existing bridge and installing the new pre-fabricated bridge. The road and station will remain closed until November, enabling us to complete road resurfacing, utility and platform extension works.

### Deep Pit bridge

In June, we shared with the community that we will be retaining and raising Deep Pit bridge, with two new ramps being installed. These ramps will make the bridge completely step-free for the first time in its near 150 year life, ensuring it is maintained as a community asset for all.

In order to raise the bridge, providing the necessary clearance of the overhead line equipment and wires, and construction of two new ramps we have closed Public Right of Way (PRoW) 008/03/20 across the footbridge from the end of July for a minimum of six months. During the PRoW closure there will be a signed diversion route in place. Pedestrians will be diverted onto Ladies Lane and Hall Lane, using the road bridge to access across the railway.

The bridge will be raised, using a jacking method, between Friday 27 until Sunday 29 September. The new ramps will be installed following completion of the bridge jacking.

### Overhead Line Equipment (OLE) and wire installation

To install the Overhead Line Equipment, we routinely work overnight, whilst the railway is not operational, as on-track plant and machinery are required to lift the heavy materials. We have been installing the OLE for the past few months and our programme is ongoing until November. We have provided our upcoming programme on page one. If you wish to speak to Network Rail about the specific locations of the OLE, you can contact us using the details at the bottom of this page.

To complete our work we typically use Mobile Elevating Work Platforms (MEWPs) and Road Rail Vehicles. This plant, along with the materials we use, can cause noise and disruption. To find out more about the Overhead Line Equipment please visit: [www.networkrail.co.uk/communities/living-by-the-railway/electrification/overhead-line-equipment/](http://www.networkrail.co.uk/communities/living-by-the-railway/electrification/overhead-line-equipment/)

Once we have installed the OLE, we will be installing wires along the railway corridor, readying the railway for energisation once we have completed our programme of works.

### Energisation of the railway

As part of our ongoing programme to upgrade the line between Wigan and Bolton, the railway from Lostock Junction will soon be electrified. As of 12am, midnight, on Monday 2 September the overheadline equipment (OLE) that is suspended above the track from Lostock Junction to Chew Moor, will be live and energised.

Provided people do not enter onto railway land, and are always nine feet or three metres from overheads lines, there is no risk to your safety. Items such as tools, fishing rods, ladders and hosepipes should be kept well away from the boundary so that they do not encroach. If you want to know more about how energisation works, and how you may be affected then please contact us using the details below.





# Changes to train services

## Buses replace trains between **Wigan & Manchester / Bolton** on the dates shown:

**August 2024**

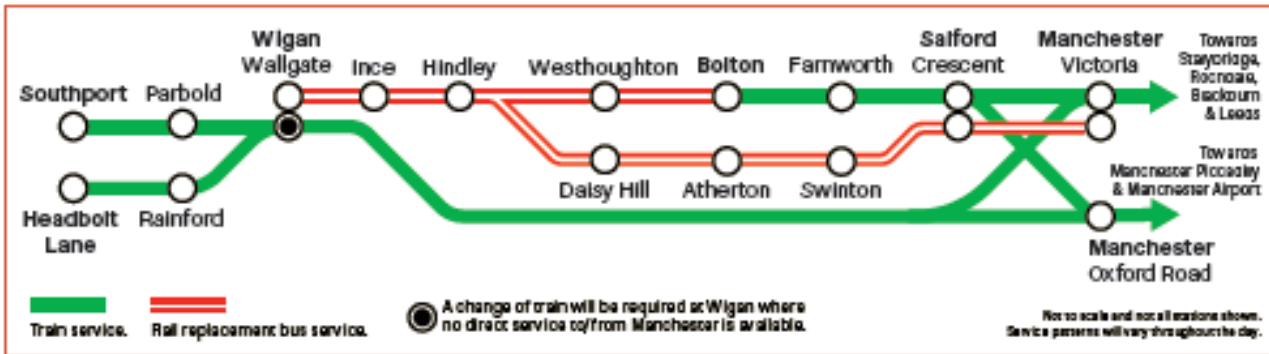
Sat	31
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**September 2024**

Mo	Tu	Wed	Th	Fri	Sat	Sun
30						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

**October 2024**

Mo	Tu	Wed	Th	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



### Rail replacement bus pick-up/set down points

- > Manchester Victoria - the front of the station on Todd St
- > Salford Crescent - the layby outside the station entrance, near to the roundabout on University Rd West
- > Swinton - bus stops outside the station on Station Rd:
  - > Towards Manchester - bus stop A, opposite side of the station
  - > Towards Wigan - bus stop B, on the same side of the station
- > Moorside - on Moorside Rd, near the station entrance:
  - > Towards Manchester - bus stop B, on the same side of the station
  - > Towards Wigan - next to the junction with Reginald St
- > Walkden - bus stop on Walkden Rd, near the station entrance
- > Atherton - on Upton Rd, outside the station entrance:
  - > Towards Manchester - the same side of the ticket office
  - > Towards Wigan - opposite the ticket office
- > Hag Fold - on Spa Rd, under the bridge near the station entrance:
  - > Towards Manchester - bus stop opposite the entrance to platform 2
  - > Towards Wigan - by the entrance to platform 2
- > Daisy Hill - on Leigh Rd, by the car park entrance:
  - > Towards Manchester - by the car park entrance
  - > Towards Wigan - bus stop next to Hunts Bank
- > Bolton - bus stop AA on Newport St, next to the station entrance
- > Westhoughton - bus stops on Church St (B5236), by the shop:
  - > Towards Manchester - bus stop A, opposite the shop
  - > Towards Wigan - bus stop B, adjacent to the shop
- > Hindley - bus stops on Market St, near the mini roundabout:
  - > Towards Manchester - bus stop by the nail & hair salons
  - > Towards Wigan - bus stop outside the estate agents
- > Ince - bus stops on Ince Green Ln, by the shop:
  - > Towards Bolton & Manchester - bus stop A, opposite the shop
  - > Towards Wigan - bus stop B, next to the shop
- > Wigan - bus stop D on Wallgate, opposite Wigan North Western station

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for more information and the latest updates



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