

Improvements to the Holmes Chapel viaduct as part of the Manchester South railway upgrade plan

I am writing to inform you about a £17 million package of improvement works that will be undertaken on the railway lines between Crewe and Wilmslow, and the freight line running from Sandbach to Northwich, which form part of Network Rail's wider rail upgrade plan.

During an 11-day (13-24 February 2016) closure of the Crewe to Manchester and Sandbach to Northwich railway lines and subject to planning consent, Network Rail will carry out vital refurbishment works to four bridges and two viaducts as part of its Railway Upgrade Plan. Completing these works at the same time has helped save £500,000 of taxpayers' money and minimised the level of disruption as much as possible for passengers and freight services along these routes.

From 13-24 February, services to Manchester from London and South Wales (and vice-versa) will temporarily by-pass Crewe and be diverted via Macclesfield and Stockport. Replacement bus services will be provided for all those passengers who are affected in between Crewe and Wilmslow.

Within your area, we will be investing £7 million to upgrade the Holmes Chapel viaduct, also known locally as the 'Twemlow viaduct'. This iconic Grade II listed asset, which was built in 1841, boasts a 500m long brick and sandstone structure. It also comprises of 23 span semi-circular arches.

Additionally, we will also be investing £3 million to upgrade the Peover viaduct. This historical Grade II listed asset, which was built in 1842, boasts a 500m long brick and sandstone structure. It also comprises of 10 semi-circular arches. Both viaducts carry the electrified line from Crewe to Manchester.

Throughout these 11 days, Network Rail will be carrying out long-term structural improvements works to the viaduct by installing waterproof membrane, as well as carrying out repairs to the brickwork and track. The details of this work will shortly be communicated to nearby local residents and businesses.

As part of the works, enhancements will be made to the interior of the subway at Wilmslow Station. This will involve the walls being waterproofed to make the subway more presentable and welcoming for passengers.

Further information

The key schemes within this package of improvement works that will take place from 13-24 February are as follows:

- Holmes Chapel Viaduct,
- Peover Viaduct (subject to planning consent)
- Hungerford Road bridge, Crewe
- Whatcroft underbridge
- Trent & Mersey Canal bridge
- Shipbrook Road bridge, Rudheath

These works will affect the following networks only:

Weekends

Crewe North Junction – Cheadle Hulme and Northwich (Sandbach North Junction branch line.) All Lines

- 01.05 Sat – 05.45 Mon (13-15 February and 20- 22 February)

Midweek

Sandbach North Junction – Alderley Edge (All lines)

- 05.25 Mon 15 – 00.25 Sat 20 February 2016
- 05.25 Mon 22 – 04.40 Wed 24 February 2016

To ensure that passengers can continue to travel during the 11 day closure in February 2016, the affected train operating companies will be running the following amended services:

Northern Rail:

Monday 15 – Friday 19 February and Monday 22 -Tuesday 23 February

- Train services to operate from Manchester Piccadilly – Alderley Edge via Stockport and via Manchester Airport
- Regular replacement buses to be provided between Wilmslow and Crewe calling at all stations.

Saturday Sunday (13-14 and 20-21 February)

- Train services operate Manchester Piccadilly – Wilmslow via Manchester Airport.
- Train services operate Manchester Piccadilly – Stockport
- Regular replacement buses to be provided between Stockport and Crewe calling at all stations.

Virgin Trains:

Manchester Piccadilly – London Euston via Crewe services are diverted via Stoke and Macclesfield and will not call at Wilmslow.

Arriva Trains Wales

South Wales – Manchester services generally diverted via Warrington to terminate/start at Manchester Oxford Road

CrossCountry

Those services which normally operate via Crewe will be diverted via Stoke and Macclesfield.

Freight

Services to and from Trafford Park that normally operate via Holmes Chapel will be diverted via Stoke and Macclesfield