

More reliable journeys arriving in May 2018

Our Great North Rail Project between Preston and Blackpool

October 2017

Passengers urged to plan ahead as countdown to Blackpool's railway revolution begins

With just one month to go, passengers are being reminded to plan their journeys as the region counts down to the 19 week transformation of the railway between Blackpool and Preston.

More reliable journeys
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[Click to watch our video](#)



- Nineteen weeks of work to upgrade Blackpool's railway from 11 November
- Buses replacing trains during railway closures
- Network Rail and Northern working together to deliver the Great North Rail Project

The work will make the railway bigger and better to carry the ever-increasing number of people who are travelling by train across the north of England.

From 11 November the Great North Rail Project, part of Britain's Railway

Upgrade Plan, will see 19 weeks of work which will affect travel to and from the seaside town.

[Read more.](#)

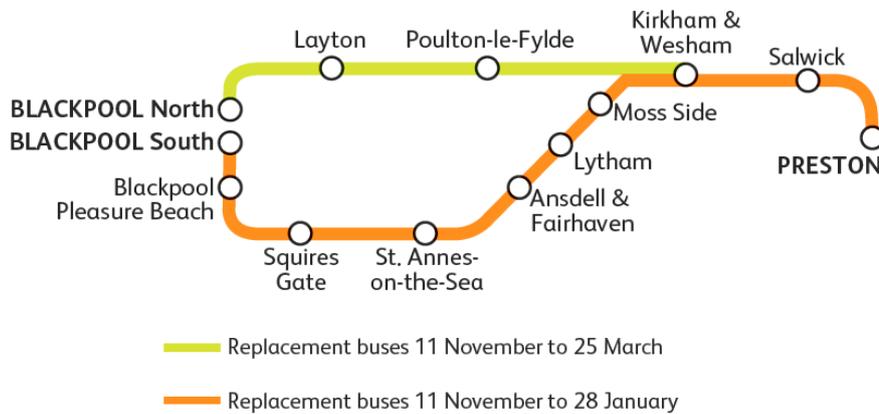
Keeping passengers moving

To complete our major upgrade work, the railway will need to close to train services:

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.

Buses will replace trains so we are urging passengers to check before they travel and allow extra time for your journey. For further information visit nationalrail.co.uk



We are holding further information sessions this week at key stations on the route to remind passengers about the closure and to help them to plan their journeys.



Photo: Network Rail and Northern colleagues at Kirkham & Wesham

Replacement bus timetables will be available at stations from next week.

Follow us on [Twitter](#) for the latest updates.

Kirkham's moving to the next level

Foundations are being installed at Kirkham & Wesham station for a new platform, footbridge and lifts. During the closure, we will also be remodelling the railway through Kirkham and together with the addition of a new platform, this will allow for better management of train services running to Blackpool North and South stations.



Photo: sheet piling on platform 2 at Kirkham & Wesham station

When complete, the upgrade means the station will be step-free for the first time.

Signalling systems a go

As part of the route upgrade, Siemens Rail Automation has started the removal of the old semaphore signalling system, some of which dates back to the 19th century. To complete the project, half a million metres of new cables and telecommunications systems will be installed. Modern LED

signals that operate seamlessly with the new overhead electrified railway will replace the old infrastructure.



Photo: installation of an under track crossing chamber.

The new signalling system will be more robust, efficient and reliable, meaning better journeys for passengers.

Tracks renewed through Poulton

Over the weekend, 150 metres of new track was installed through Poulton-le-Fylde station. The work was completed during a closure of the railway on Sunday with a second Sunday shift planned this coming weekend.



Photo: track renewal works at Poulton-le-Fylde station

The work forms part of over 11km of track upgrades that will deliver smoother and more reliable journeys from May next year.

Longer platforms at Blackpool North

We're currently installing concrete foundations and new riser walls at Blackpool North station as our work continues to rebuild platforms 1 & 2. The new platforms will be longer and straighter, meaning that trains with more carriages can travel into Blackpool.



Photo: reconstructing platforms 1 & 2 at Blackpool North station

During the closure, we'll be rebuilding platforms 3 – 6, upgrading the tracks and simplifying the layout at Blackpool North station. Once the tracks and platforms have been realigned, work will take place to install foundations, steelwork and wiring so that greener, quieter and more spacious trains can operate.

Being a considerate neighbour

There's a huge amount of work to deliver on the Preston to Blackpool route

and a relatively short space of time to do it in. For this reason, our engineers carry out a lot of work during overnight shifts when trains aren't running. From November, during the extended closure of the railway, work will shift to 24 hours in some areas.



We have a large number of neighbours who we strive to keep up to date with our programme of work. This year, we have sent out thousands of postcards on the route to let residents know what's happening near to them. We've also produced a video to explain the electrification process and help to manage expectations around the noise and disruption caused by this type of work.

You can view the video [here](#).

We are continuing to hold regular information events in Blackpool, Poulton-le-Fylde, Kirkham and Preston to give residents the opportunity to talk to us about the project.

Details of upcoming events:

Tuesday 24 October 16.00-19.00

St Walburges Church Hall, Weston Street, Preston PR2 2QE

Monday 30 October 14.00-18.00

Blackpool North station, Talbot Road, Blackpool, FY1 2AB

These events are open to all and details can be found at www.networkrail.co.uk/blackpool

When carrying out work that is particularly disruptive, we go out and knock on doors to speak to residents directly about what to expect. We have used this approach in the Preston, Kirkham, Poulton-le-Fylde and Blackpool North areas.

Stay in touch

If you have any questions about our Great North Rail Project, feedback on the newsletter, or do not wish to receive these updates, please respond to [Jonathan Cooke](#).

**THE GREAT
NORTH RAIL
PROJECT**

PRESTON TO
BLACKPOOL
UPGRADE

