

VT2005/ (DE)

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Rail engineering work to affect Virgin Trains during Easter holiday

During the Easter holiday from Good Friday **25 March** until **Tuesday 29 March** Network Rail will be continuing its major investment to upgrade the West Coast Main Line for extension of Virgin Trains' high speed tilting Pendolino train services to Liverpool, Preston and Glasgow. Coach shuttle services will replace West Coast and CrossCountry trains for parts of their journeys in some areas, and some trains will be diverted. Although journey times will be unavoidably increased, every effort will be made to minimise inconvenience to customers.

Also, engineering work will close the East Coast Main Line between York and Newcastle on **Saturday 26** and **Sunday 27 March**, preventing through Virgin CrossCountry trains from running to and from Scotland via the East Coast. Trains will instead start from and terminate at York and Newcastle with coaches linking York, Darlington, Durham and Newcastle. During the closure period, some CrossCountry trains will run through to Glasgow Central and Edinburgh via Carlisle and Carlisle. Passengers travelling between Scotland and London who wish to avoid a coach journey may change at Preston for two-hourly trains to and from London Euston or at Crewe for hourly train services.

On **Good Friday 25 March** all trains to and from London Euston will be diverted via Northampton with hourly services to and from Birmingham New Street and Wolverhampton and also Manchester. Journey times will be extended by around 20 minutes.

Virgin West Coast will run to a special timetable on **Saturday 26** and **Sunday 27 March**. On Saturday, most services will be diverted via the Trent Valley line with some calling additionally at Nuneaton, Tamworth and Lichfield Trent Valley. Journey times will be reduced.

On Sunday, engineering work at Nuneaton will close the route between Rugby and Stafford and all trains will run via the West Midlands. Special coach services will link Nuneaton with Coventry and Tamworth/Lichfield Trent Valley with Birmingham International.

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The line between Crewe and Preston will also be closed and trains will be diverted via Manchester with replacement coach services linking Warrington Bank Quay/Wigan North Western with Crewe and Preston.

Also, engineering work between Preston and Carlisle will mean two-hourly services between Northampton/London Euston and Preston with coaches linking Preston with all stations to Carlisle. Some CrossCountry services will run to and from Glasgow Central using a diversionary route, and will divide at Carstairs to form a shuttle to and from Edinburgh. Also, West Coast services will provide a shuttle between Carlisle and Glasgow Central.

From 12:00 on **Saturday 26 March** and all day on **Sunday 27 March** engineering work will close the route between Crewe and Runcorn and trains to and from Liverpool Lime Street will be diverted via Manchester. Special coach services will run between Crewe and Runcorn.

On **Sunday 27 March** only, engineering work between Macclesfield and Stockport will divert trains via Crewe and Wilmslow and replacement coach services will run between Stockport and Wilmslow.

Until 11:30 on that day, all services will start from and terminate at Northampton with coaches providing a link to and from London Euston. Diversion of all trains via Northampton will add around 20 minutes to journey times.

On **Easter Monday 28 March** a special timetable will apply to West Coast services to and from London Euston. Hourly trains will run to and from the West Midlands calling at Watford Junction, Milton Keynes Central, Coventry, Birmingham International, Birmingham New Street, Sandwell and Dudley and Wolverhampton.

Hourly services to and from Manchester Piccadilly will run via Northampton and the West Midlands with extended journey times. The majority will run fast between Watford Junction/Milton Keynes Central and Stoke-on-Trent. Journey times to and from Stafford and stations to the north will be extended by up to one hour.

Services to and from Liverpool Lime Street will also run at hourly intervals via Northampton and the West Midlands and call at Coventry instead of Nuneaton. Also, hourly services will run to and from Lancaster with the majority running through to Glasgow Central. These will be routed via Northampton and the West Midlands and call additionally at Birmingham International. North Wales services will run only between Crewe and Holyhead, and replacement coaches will serve Nuneaton, Tamworth and Lichfield Trent Valley.

CROSSCOUNTRY IN OTHER AREAS

As well as the West Coast Main Line alterations, engineering work between Reading and Basingstoke will affect CrossCountry services between Birmingham New Street and the South Coast from **Good Friday 25 March** until **Easter Monday 28 March**. Two-hourly trains to and from the north will be diverted from Reading via Guildford to reach stations to Southampton and Bournemouth.

On **Sunday 27 March** until 14:50 trains will start from and terminate at Oxford with coaches serving Didcot Parkway for train connections to Reading. Also, coaches will run between Oxford, Reading, Basingstoke, Winchester and Southampton Airport Parkway.

On **Saturday 26 March** engineering work between Bristol Parkway and Bristol Temple Meads will mean diversion of services between Birmingham New Street and the south-west with journey times extended by some 30 minutes.

From late on Saturday evening until 12:00 on **Sunday 27 March**, through trains will be unable to run between Bristol Temple Meads and Birmingham New Street, and replacement coaches will serve intermediate stations. For the remainder of Sunday, trains will be diverted from Bristol Temple Meads via Bath Spa and not call at Bristol Parkway. During this time coach services will link Bristol Temple Meads, Bristol Parkway and Cheltenham Spa.

Also on **Sunday 27 March**, engineering work between Derby and Chesterfield will mean diversion of services between Birmingham New Street, the north-east and Scotland with journey times extended by one hour.

Most altered train times are now confirmed and trains are open for reservation. Customers are advised to check Easter holiday travel details in advance with National Rail Enquiries on 08457 48 49 50, or at www.nationalrail.co.uk

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