

This Easter Network Rail will continue work to deliver investment for a bigger, better railway in the East. Network Rail's orange army will be working from Friday 14 to Monday 17 April to carry out Crossrail construction work at Shenfield and at stations on the TfL Rail line, and to continue to replace the overhead wires at Seven Kings as part of our Railway Upgrade Plan.

Over the four day period, nearly 7km of new, more durable, heat-resistant wires that will not sag in hot weather will be installed at Seven Kings, where engineers have been working to install structures that carry the wires over the last 10 weekends. When complete, heat-related speed restrictions can be lifted meaning fewer delays for passengers all the way up to Norwich.

With new walk-through, air-conditioned trains soon to be introduced to the TfL Rail line, the new signalling equipment installed at Shenfield as part of the Crossrail programme will be tested and improvement work will continue at stations between Shenfield and Stratford. More than 180 metres of track will be renewed at Pudding Mill Lane, between Stratford and London Liverpool Street, in preparation for its connection to the Elizabeth Line tunnel entrance.

The half way mark was recently reached in 10 consecutive weekends of important railway upgrade work, in which engineers spent 4,782 hours replacing 1,300 sleepers, 6,420 tonnes of ballast and 200 tonnes of rail at Romford to make journeys more reliable. Crossrail construction work also took place to install over 200 new CCTV cameras between Maryland and Brentwood and to modify platforms between London Liverpool Street and Shenfield to ensure passengers can board and alight safely and comfortably.

The work we are carrying out over Easter as part of our Railway Upgrade Plan is absolutely crucial to improve reliability and support the growing number of passengers travelling between Norwich and London. While I appreciate this does impact those travelling over the bank holiday, we have planned this work when fewer people travel. I'd like to thank passengers for their patience and urge those planning to travel over the Easter period to check ahead to see how their journey may be affected.

Train operators Greater Anglia and TfL Rail will provide rail replacement services over the Easter weekend to make sure that passengers can continue their journeys. Passengers can check their journeys before they travel at www.nationalrail.co.uk or with their train operator. I have included an overview of changes to services at the bottom of this email.

Service information over Easter 2017

TfL Rail

London Liverpool Street to Shenfield

Friday 14 April to Monday 17 April

There will be no TfL Rail service between London Liverpool Street and Shenfield. Rail replacement bus services will run every 15 minutes calling at all stops (except Liverpool Street and Maryland) as well as Newbury Park for the Central Line

Greater Anglia - Great Eastern Main Line

London Liverpool Street to Shenfield, Chelmsford, Colchester, Ipswich and Norwich and connecting routes/London to Southend Victoria

Friday 14 April to Monday 17 April (excluding Sunday 16 April)

Rail replacement buses will run for all journeys between Ingatestone/Billericay and London Liverpool Street via Newbury Park, where Greater Anglia tickets will be accepted on the Central Line between Newbury Park and Liverpool Street. So for journeys from Chelmsford and north thereof, it will be a train to Ingatestone, bus to Newbury Park and tube forward. From Southend it will be a train to Billericay, then bus to Newbury Park and tube forward. Please note that a rail replacement bus service will also run between Wickford and Southminster.

Sunday 16 April

Rail replacement buses will run for journeys between Ingatestone/Southend Victoria and London Liverpool Street via Newbury Park where Greater Anglia tickets will be accepted on the Central Line between Newbury Park and Liverpool Street. So for journeys from Chelmsford and north thereof, it will be train to Ingatestone, bus to Newbury Park and tube forward. From Southend it will be a bus to Newbury Park and tube forward (although it's worth noting that c2c train services from Southend are running normally). Please note that a rail replacement bus service will also run between Wickford and Southminster.