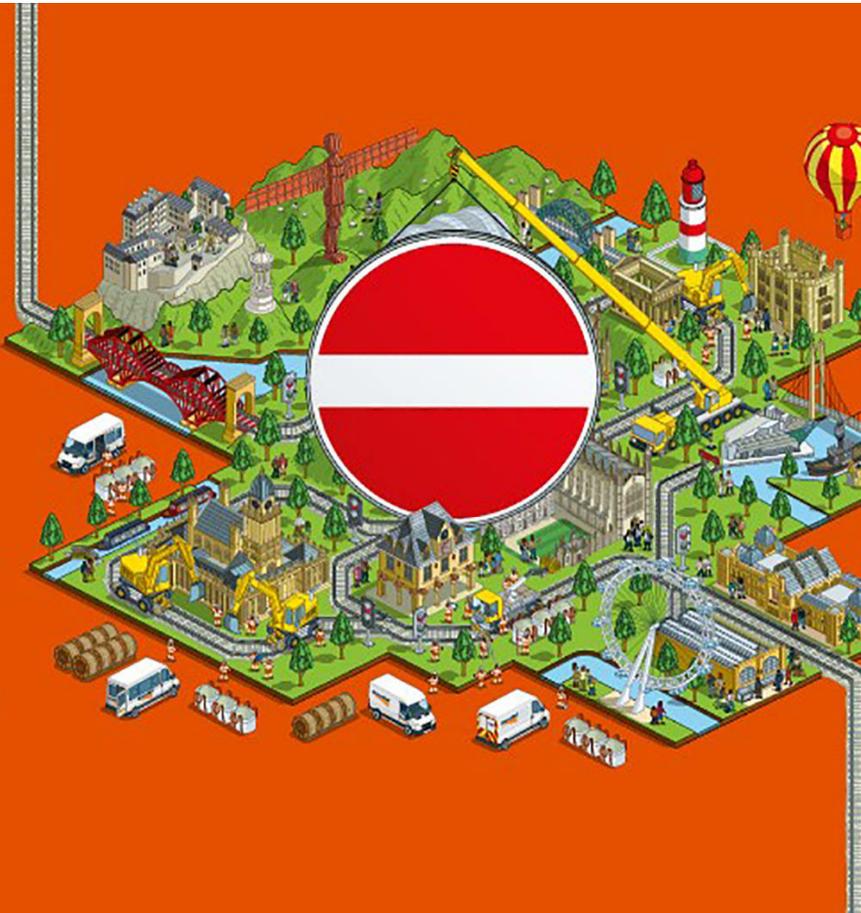


The East Coast Upgrade

Bringing your East Coast closer

Weekend closures. Do not travel.

29<sup>th</sup> February-1<sup>st</sup> March



Feb 12, 2020 10:42 GMT

## £1.2billion investment means no services between Biggleswade or Letchworth Garden City and London later this month - passengers urged not to travel

Network Rail has issued the following press release about work that will affect Thameslink and Great Northern services.

Network Rail and train operators on the East Coast Main Line are reminding passengers that no train services will operate between Biggleswade or Letchworth Garden City and King's Cross, St Pancras International or Moorgate stations on Saturday, 29 February and Sunday, 1 March as vital improvement work continues.

Over the weekend, Network Rail will test signalling equipment at Stevenage station as part of work to build a new platform there. Work will also take place to install new overhead line equipment. To allow this work to take place safely, no services are able to run on these routes.

London North Eastern Railway services will run only as far south as St Neots, while some Hull Trains services will be diverted to run in and out of St Pancras. Great Northern services will still run between Peterborough and Biggleswade, and between King's Lynn and Letchworth Garden City.

All of this work is part of the East Coast Upgrade, which is the biggest investment into the line in a generation. Once complete, it will bring many benefits for the 20 million passengers who travel on the route each year, including faster journeys, more frequent and more reliable services, as well as up to 10,000 extra seats on long distance services per day.

Passengers are urged not to travel to or from London on the East Coast Main Line on these two days as the next stage of work takes place. Instead, passengers are advised to travel on Friday, 28 February or Monday, 2 March instead. These services will be very busy and passengers should book in advance and reserve a seat where possible.

Ed Akers, Principal Programme Sponsor for Network Rail, said: "We know that there have been numerous changes to services to and from London over the past two months and we apologise for any inconvenience which this has caused.

"There's never a good time carry out upgrade work on this scale. The work taking place on Saturday, 29 February and Sunday, 1 March is absolutely vital to keep this scheme progressing well and we would urge passengers not to travel to and from London on the affected routes on these dates.

"This work is the final weekend which this project will impact on services until June and I would like to thank passengers for their continued patience whilst we work on this project, which will bring huge benefits to passengers."

A spokesperson for train operators along the routes, said: "This weekend, to allow significant work by Network Rail, there will be no services on the East Coast Main Line into King's Cross, St Pancras or Moorgate. There will also be

no services between Moorgate and Hertford North.

“We would urge passengers to follow the travel advice issued, which is not to travel to or from London on these dates and to travel on alternative dates instead.

“We would like to thank all passengers for their patience and we look forward to them reaping the improvements when this project completes.”

Further periods of planned engineering work will take place later this year, with the next weekend of no services to or from London King’s Cross on Saturday, 20 and Sunday, 21 June 2020. For more information passengers are advised to visit [www.eastcoastupgrade.co.uk](http://www.eastcoastupgrade.co.uk)

ENDS

Contact Information

<b>Network Rail press office - Amy Brenndorfer</b>
Media Relations Manager
01904383180
07730359569
Amy.Brenndorfer@networkrail.co.uk

---

## **Govia Thameslink Railway**

Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR) operates Thameslink, Great Northern, Southern and Gatwick Express services as follows:

- Thameslink – cross-London services between Bedford/Peterborough/Cambridge and Brighton/Horsham/Littlehampton/East Grinstead, and between

Luton/St Albans and Sutton/Wimbledon/Rainham; plus services between London and Sevenoaks

- Great Northern – services between London and Welwyn, Hertford, Peterborough, Cambridge and King's Lynn
- Southern – services between London and the Sussex coast (Brighton, Worthing, Eastbourne, Bognor Regis, Hastings) and parts of Surrey, Kent and Hampshire (Ashford International, Southampton, Portsmouth)
- Gatwick Express – fast, non-stop direct services between Gatwick Airport and London Victoria

[www.southernrailway.com](http://www.southernrailway.com), [www.thameslinkrailway.com](http://www.thameslinkrailway.com), [www.gatwickexpress.com](http://www.gatwickexpress.com), [www.greatnorthernrail.com](http://www.greatnorthernrail.com)