



May 10, 2022 16:42 BST

Tyseley upgrade works: Railway to close for four days in June

West Midlands Railway (WMR) is urging passengers to plan ahead ahead of a four-day railway closure between Birmingham Moor Street and Solihull in June.

Network Rail is investing £3m to overhaul switches and crossings – moving parts of track which allow trains from WMR's Tyseley maintenance depot to get on and off the rail network.

Any issues at the depot during the Commonwealth Games could cause major delays across the region, including risking overcrowding at key stations

serving sports venues.

Replacing the complex equipment now will help train services run smoothly during this summer's Games, which are expected to see more than one million extra passenger journeys across the West Midlands rail network.

The essential upgrades will mean there will be no through train services between Solihull, Birmingham Moor Street and Birmingham Snow Hill between Monday 20 and Thursday 23 June.

Rail replacement buses will be in operation and people are advised to plan ahead at www.nationalrail.co.uk.

It's the first time in a generation this part of the Chiltern main line will be completely shut for large scale work.

Denise Wetton, Network Rail's Central route director, said: "We know there's never an ideal time to close the railway and a mid-week closure for work like this is rare, but post-pandemic passenger numbers show weekdays are now the least disruptive time to close the railway for vital work.

"This programme of upgrades will improve the network not only at Tyseley but across the wider West Midlands, providing passengers with a cleaner, fresher, more reliable railway throughout our major summer of sport. It will also help to reduce the risk of platforms becoming overcrowded as a result of the predicted one million extra passenger journeys during the Commonwealth Games."

Eleni Jordan, commercial & customer strategy director for Chiltern Railways, said: "Network Rail's crucial track replacement work between Monday 20 and Thursday 23 June will ensure that we can continue to provide a safe and reliable service for our customers across what is expected to be a busy summer on the railways in the West Midlands.

"We will be regularly communicating plans for rail replacement transport in and out of Birmingham. We advise that customers travelling during the closure check their journey on the Chiltern website or app before travelling."

Jonny Wiseman, West Midlands Railway customer experience director, said:

“These essential works will make a real, long-term difference to passengers by improving access to Tyseley depot where trains are cared for and refuelled.

“I would like to thank our customers for their patience while this work is carried out and I urge passengers travelling during this period to plan their journeys carefully as revised timetables and rail replacement buses will be in operation.”

Engineers and planners will make the most of the four-day railway closure to carry out a host of work, including:

- Installing new rails, sleepers and ballast (railway foundation stone)
- Stressing rails to cope better with hot weather
- Removing overgrown plants and graffiti
- Carrying out a deep clean of Birmingham Moor Street station

Doing this work further reduces future disruption to passengers and provides a more reliable rail network not only during the Games but for many years to come.

It will also save millions of pounds of taxpayers' money as doing this work outside of a full railway closure would normally take place over multiple weekends over an entire summer.

Passengers are being advised to check before they travel at www.nationalrail.co.uk.

About West Midlands Trains

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- **London Northwestern Railway** services operate between Liverpool and Birmingham, and on the West Coast Main Line to and from London Euston.
- **West Midlands Railway** services operate to destinations across the West Midlands via Birmingham New Street and Birmingham Snow Hill.

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