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West Midlands Railway thanks passengers after West Coast main line track upgrade

Major work on the West Coast main line to keep trains running at full speed between Coventry and Birmingham International is now complete.

The railway reopened yesterday (Monday 10 October) after a £1.4m investment to make future journeys between Birmingham and London more reliable for passengers and freight.

During the two-day closure near Berkswell, 650 metres of railway has been

replaced through Beechwood tunnel.

This involved replacing rails, sleepers (the slabs on which the rails sit) and railway stone – known as ballast – to ensure trains can continue to travel through the tunnel at the full line speed of 110mph.

Network Rail and West Midlands Railway have thanked passengers for their patience during the essential investment.

Neil Gaskin, route programme director for Network Rail's Central route, said:

“We know this work has meant longer journeys for passengers travelling over the weekend, so I'd like to thank everyone impacted for bearing with us while we carried out this essential work.

“We worked closely with train operators to keep people on the move despite ongoing industrial action, and now work is complete this vital section of the West Coast main line will continue to deliver safe, reliable journeys for passenger and freight services.”

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

“I would like to thank our customers for their patience while these important upgrades were carried out.

“This section of railway between Birmingham and Coventry is one of the busiest in the West Midlands which makes it all the more important that the tracks are kept in good order.”

With work now complete a normal timetable resumed from the start of service on Monday 10 October.

Passengers are encouraged to always plan their journeys and check before travelling at www.nationalrail.co.uk.

About West Midlands Trains

For further information on this release, email press.office@wmtrains.co.uk

West Midlands Trains operates both West Midlands Railway and London Northwestern Railway services.

- **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.

For more information on these services visit westmidlandsrailway.co.uk or londonnorthwesternrailway.co.uk

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Press Office - Media Use Only

Press Contact

press.office@wmtrains.co.uk

03300 955150