

Engineering Work Alterations

December 2024

Updated 30/11/24

NATIONAL SUMMARY

No trains will run across the network on the 25th or 26th December 2024.

ALL OPERATORS INCLUDING FREIGHTLINER

The reported alterations below focus on corridors which are operated by class 90s for Freightliner but these alterations also apply to other operators who do not use Class 90s.

WCML Crewe Blockade 25th December to 3rd January 2025

The signalling equipment is being renewed in the Crewe area during the above period, which means there will be limited or no access to Basford Hall, the Independent Lines, parts of Crewe station / depots or the route towards Gresty Bridge and Crewe IEMD / Chester / Norton Bridge etc. The blockade is being carried out in four key phases. The blockade is highly complex in terms of what can run and needs diverting with many lines shut or partially open throughout the period, therefore the blockade has been condensed into a high-level summary provided below:

Phase 1:

Late Christmas Eve 24th to 28th December 2024 – no trains will be able to run through the entire Crewe area, which applies to both passenger and freight services. Routes affected includes Basford Hall, The Independent Lines, Crewe Station, Crewe South and Crewe North, Shrewsbury etc.

A limited number of Passenger and Freight trains which normally run via Crewe and Basford Hall will be diverted via alternative routes. This includes Chat Moss, Manchester Piccadilly, Styal, Stockport, Macclesfield, Stoke, Stone, Hixon and Stafford etc. All passenger trains are replaced by buses on the 27/12/24.

It is recommended that you check RTT and/or other real-time data sources to see which trains are running or are replaced by a bus.

Phase 2:

28th December to 31st December – limited access through the entire Crewe area. The lines from Manchester towards Kidsgrove / Stoke and from Crewe to Chester will be open as will be the WCML northwards towards Weaver Junction / Liverpool / Warrington, but Basford Hall, the Independent Lines, the Shrewsbury corridor and Crewe South towards Madeley and Norton Bridge will be shut.

Trains which do stop / pass through Crewe will be diverted via alternative routes where applicable, but a number of other services (freight and passenger) will avoid Crewe altogether and be diverted via Hixon, Stafford, Stone / Macclesfield / Cheadle Hulme / Manchester / Chat Moss etc.

It is recommended that you check RTT and/or other real-time data sources to see which trains are running or are replaced by a bus.

Phase 3:

1st January 2025 - limited access through the entire Crewe area. The lines from Manchester towards Kidsgrove / Stoke and from Crewe to Chester will be open, but Basford Hall, the Independent Lines, the Shrewsbury corridor and Crewe South towards Madeley and Norton Bridge in addition to Crewe North towards Weaver / Liverpool / Warrington will be shut.

Trains which do stop / pass through Crewe will be diverted via alternative routes where applicable, but a number of other services (freight and passenger) will avoid Crewe altogether and be diverted via Hixon, Stafford, Stone / Macclesfield / Cheadle Hulme / Manchester / Chat Moss etc.

It is recommended that you check RTT and/or other real-time data sources to see which trains are running or are replaced by a bus.

Phase 4:

2nd January 2025 - limited access through the entire Crewe area. The lines from Manchester towards Kidsgrove / Stoke and from Crewe to Chester will be open along with the WCML northwards towards Weaver Junction / Liverpool / Warrington and the WCML via Madeley will be open, but Basford Hall, the Independent Lines, and the Shrewsbury corridor will be shut

Trains which do stop / pass through Crewe will be diverted via alternative routes where applicable, but a number of other services (freight and passenger) will avoid Crewe altogether and be diverted via Hixon, Stafford, Stone / Macclesfield / Cheadle Hulme / Manchester / Chat Moss etc.

It is recommended that you check RTT and/or other real-time data sources to see which trains are running or are replaced by a bus.

All routes via Crewe are expected to re-open on Friday 3rd January 2025 assuming the engineering work goes to plan.

WCML / Scotland / Midlands / South / NW England:

Aside from the main Crewe Blockade over Christmas, other parts of the WCML will be shut too for short periods on random days. This includes Rugby to Euston and Crewe towards Liverpool / Warrington on New Years Day.

It is advisable to check RTT and other real-time data sources including National Rail for specific closures during the Christmas and New Year period (there is too much going on to write here).

There were no other known alterations to report on at the time of publication. However, engineering work does take place on various sections of the WCML during the week and at weekends at short notice. It is advisable to check real-time data sources for specific trains on specific days just to be sure that the train you're looking for is a runner or diverted.

East Anglia / GEML:

- Friday 27th and Saturday 28th December – the GEML is partially blocked, which means fewer trains than normal can operate. Diversions via alternative routes such as Ely will apply.

There were no other known alterations to report on at the time of publication. However, engineering work does take place on various sections of the GEML during the week and at weekends at short notice. It is advisable to check real-time data sources for specific trains on specific days just to be sure that the train you're looking for is a runner or diverted.

DB CARGO

WCML / Scotland / Midlands / NW England:

Alterations for DB Cargo are no longer reported for the time being.
