

# Newbury is going electric

**NetworkRail**



We're undertaking the largest modernisation of our railway since Victorian times. By electrifying the railway line between Newbury and Reading, we are enabling Great Western Railway to introduce the biggest train fleet upgrade in a generation. These brand new trains are better for passengers, lineside neighbours and the environment.

## Key dates

We will be closing the railway on the following dates to allow the work to be completed:

- Monday 12 March to Friday 16 March
- Monday 23 April to Friday 27 April
- Monday 14 May to Friday 18 May
- Monday 4 June to Friday 8 June

Further are be required and will be communicated at a later date.

## Benefits of electric trains

The new fleet will be faster, quieter and more beneficial to the environment than diesel trains. The new fleet will have more seats and better connections with previously hard-to-reach areas which will improve access to jobs and services, and open up new business opportunities.

## Preparing for electrification

Before we can install the overhead lines

needed to power electric trains, we have been and are continuing to make significant changes to the rail network in your area.

Bridges and tunnels might need to be rebuilt if they are too low for the overhead lines to fit under. The standard height for overhead wires is 4.7 metres. Bridges also need to be made safer. The side walls of a bridge, known as the parapets, need to be made higher so a person cannot touch the overhead lines and get electrocuted.

Lineside vegetation will need to be cleared so that it doesn't come into contact with overhead lines and cause a short circuit. Platforms often need to be lengthened at stations alongside electrified lines to accommodate the longer, higher capacity electric trains.

Deep foundations need to be driven into the ground (piling) to support the electrification equipment.

## Installing the infrastructure

When the preparation works have taken place, we can install the overhead line equipment.

Most types of overhead lines have overhead conductors suspended from the trackside steel masts, which are spaced 40m to 70m along the track. A copper contact wire is suspended from the conductor to power the train.

## Would you like to find out more?

You can find out more information by contacting our helpline and registering you enquiry on 03457 11 41 41 or email us at [CRWest@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:CRWest@networkrail.co.uk)

You can also visit our website which has more detailed information on electrification:

[networkrail.co.uk/electrification](http://networkrail.co.uk/electrification)

Or if you would like more specific information regarding the work in your area you can visit:

[networkrail.co.uk/west-berkshire](http://networkrail.co.uk/west-berkshire)