

North West Electrification Q&A

Introduction

As part of plans to improve the railway between Manchester and Preston via Bolton, we are undertaking work to electrify this route. To complete this, a number of structures spanning the railway require reconstruction in order to accommodate the overhead line equipment.

1. When is the work happening?

- **Chorley Road – (skew bridge) full closure from 26 January – 19 June 2015**
- **Rawlinson Lane – full closure from 5 January – 22 May 2015**
- **Grimeford Lane – full closure from 2 March – 12 June 2015**
- **Station Road, Blackrod – full closure from 2 February – 15 May 2015**

2. Why can't you lower the track instead?

Wherever possible we look to lower the track as this is usually the most cost effective solution and causes the least disruption to the local community. However each location is assessed taking into account a number of factors such as the track drainage, condition of the bridge and the nearby track layout/configuration.

3. Why are bridges being closed at the same time?

Each bridge reconstruction requires core works to replace the bridge deck, and this can only be completed during 24/7 working over weekends when the railway is closed. We have a limited number of weekends on which we can close the railway and plan these in blocks to prevent irregular or ongoing disruption to rail passengers.

With only a limited number of weekends when trains services are not in operation and numerous bridges to be rebuilt in neighbouring boroughs, unfortunately we cannot complete 1 bridge in isolation and often have several reconstructions taking place at the same time.

We also need to reconstruct multiple bridges at the same time in order to meet the timescales of December 2016 for when the Manchester – Preston via Bolton line is to be electrified.

4. Will pedestrian access be maintained?

We will provide a temporary footbridge to accommodate pedestrians and cyclists throughout the duration of our work at these bridges.

5. Why does the work take this long?

A considerable amount of the time taken is attributed to the utility service providers who need to excavate and divert their pipes/cables from within the bridge. Once this is complete we remove the road surface and prepare the old bridge deck for removal.

The old bridge deck is removed and a new one installed when the railway is closed (usually over the course of two weekends). Once this core work is completed, the concrete deck is poured, allowed to set and waterproofed. Following this, work commences to reinstate utility services and renew the road surface.

North West Electrification Q&A

6. At what times will the work be carried out?

The majority of our bridge work is carried out during daytime hours on weekdays, however for safety reasons some night working is required. In most instances, night work will be restricted to the two core weekends of 24/7 working at each bridge a small number of additional nights.

Notification will be provided in advance to nearby residents regarding any night working requirements.

7. What are the benefits of electrification?

The £400 million North West Electrification programme will improve travel across the region and improve connections between Manchester - Liverpool, Huyton - Wigan, Preston – Blackpool and Manchester – Stalybridge. Electrification provides the capability for a faster, quieter, more reliable and sustainable railway, with additional trains and more seats for passengers.

- *Electric trains produce less carbon circa (20-35% less and zero at point of use)*
- *Have 20% more seats than diesel trains*
- *Can get up to speed quicker and have superior braking systems*
- *Quieter and cheaper to operate*
- *Lighter than diesel trains so cause less damage to the track*

8. Will train services be affected?

Some train services will be affected by our work at weekends and we recommend passengers to check on National Rail Enquiries <http://www.nationalrail.co.uk> or with their train operator for specific details.

9. Will bus services operate as normal?

All road closures are agreed with the local authority with appropriate diversions approved. For information on timetables and any changes to bus routes please check with the bus operators direct.

10. Where can I find out more information?

More information on electrification is available at: <http://www.networkrail.co.uk/electrification> and before the work starts we notify nearby residents, publish the closure within the local press and erect highway signage/business “open as usual” signs locally.

If you have any further questions or comments regarding the work, please do not hesitate to contact us via our 24 hour National Helpline on 03457 11 41 41. Alternatively you can visit our website www.networkrail.co.uk

Twitter: [@networkrailNP](https://twitter.com/networkrailNP)