

# More reliable journeys arriving in May 2018

## Our Great North Rail Project between Preston and Blackpool

March 2017

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### *Keeping you informed*

Welcome to the first edition of a new regular update on Network Rail's improvement work between Preston and Blackpool which forms part of our £1bn+ Great North Rail Project.

By 2022 the Great North Rail Project (GNRP), part of Britain's Railway Upgrade Plan, will have delivered more than £1bn of improvements for customers across the north of England.

GNRP is a vast programme of improvements to transform train travel for customers in the North.

It will enable hundreds more trains to run each day: more trains with more seats, running more quickly and more reliably. Train customers are the immediate beneficiaries of improved transport links (or connectivity) between towns and cities in the North.

As new opportunities, including jobs, are created and businesses get access to a greater pool of talent, local communities and the wider regional economy will feel the knock-on benefits of GNRP. This will boost growth regionally and nationally.

This e-bulletin will provide you with all the latest project news, along with details of upcoming meetings and events.

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### *Weekend work on track*

We are currently carrying out extensive improvements to the tracks and railway drainage systems in the Salwick and Poulton-le-Fylde station areas. In Poulton alone, we are installing over 1500 metres of new drainage which is vital to our upgrade and electrification work.

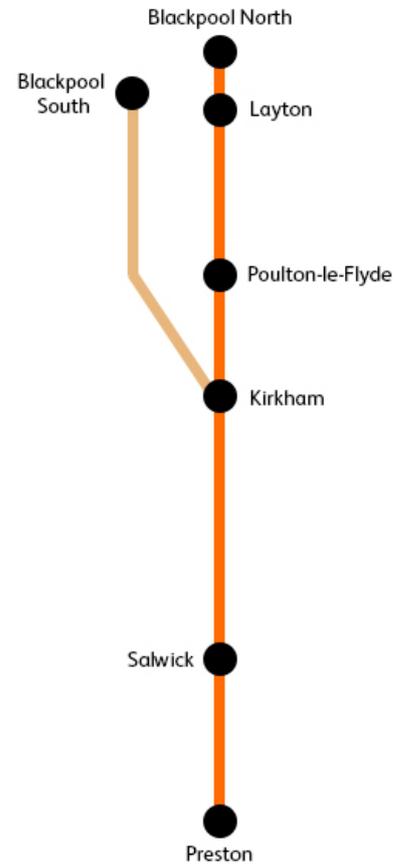
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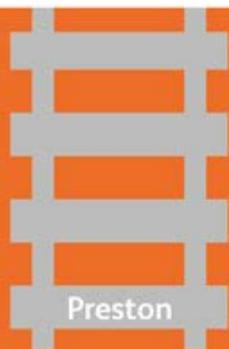
The track layout in Salwick has been simplified by removing a disused siding which means that trains will be able to run more quickly through this area in the future. This piece of work will help to reduce delays between Preston and Blackpool, allowing more trains to run on time.



**More reliable journeys  
arriving in May 2018**



**Click to watch our video**



## Changes to train services

Weekends 21 January - 2 April 2017

We are upgrading the railway between  
Preston and Blackpool  
to enable better journeys from May 2018

Find out more at [networkrail.co.uk/blackpool](http://networkrail.co.uk/blackpool)  
Please check before you travel at [nationalrail.co.uk](http://nationalrail.co.uk)

\*Updated times will be in systems no later than 10 weeks before each weekend



*Working for you*

Our weekend work will continue until Sunday 2 April and we are working closely with Northern to encourage passengers to check before they travel at [nationalrail.co.uk](http://nationalrail.co.uk)

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## ***First foundations in the ground***

In February, piling work began near Salwick to install foundations for new overhead line equipment which will power electric trains between Preston and



Blackpool North from May 2018. An important milestone for the project, the work means passengers are one step closer to better journeys.

Contractors VolkerRail and Murphys are delivering the work on behalf of Network Rail and are currently focusing on sections of railway in the Preston and Salwick areas.

The team managing the installation of the overhead line equipment has split the railway line between Preston and Blackpool North into eight sections and over the coming months the team will move over to other sections of the route.

Piling is generally a noisy activity and we are keeping our railway neighbours

informed about what to expect and when we will be working near to properties.

Once the foundations are installed, a team will return later in the year to begin erecting the steel masts which will carry the electric wires. To date, over 100 foundations have been installed.



The photographs show some of the first piled foundations being installed on Sunday 12 February. Work will

continue during midweek and weekend night shifts, as well as daytime during the weekend closures running up until 2 April.

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## ***Praise for progress in Poulton***

On Friday 3 March, we met Ben Wallace, MP for Wyre & Preston North and Alf Clempson from Lancashire County Councillor to show them how work is progressing through Poulton-le-Fylde station.

Over the course of ten weekend closures on the railway, work is underway to

replace and realign the tracks in Poulton so that new overhead line equipment can be installed to electrify the line.



While on site, Ben said: "I'm delighted to meet Network Rail to talk about how great the progress is to make sure that by 2018 we're going to have electrification all the way from Blackpool into Preston, making more services possible. I think it's a great investment into the area and a great opportunity for my constituents to be able to travel all over the north west and further afield."

Work has begun to lower the railway beneath Garstang Road East which is situated south of the station. Over the course of the remaining weekend closures, the tracks will also be lowered beneath Breck Road to get the space needed to accommodate an electrified railway.

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## ***Being a considerate neighbour***

We know that our work can be disruptive at times, particularly for those living closest to the railway. The tools and equipment we use can be noisy and some of our work will change the appearance of the railway.



We are holding regular information events at key locations along the Preston to Blackpool route. The events provide an opportunity for our neighbours to meet the project team carrying out the work. Having the right technical expertise in the room is invaluable and means we can directly address issues and answer questions.

This week, we have been speaking to residents living near to Blackpool North station and the train depot as we prepare to set up new work sites on Talbot Road, Bank Street and Wall Street. We spent Thursday afternoon at the station talking to residents and passengers about the upcoming work.

Details of upcoming events:

**Monday 20 March 16.00-19.00**

Kirkham Community Centre, Mill Street, PR4 2AN

**Monday 27 March 16.00-19.00**

Poulton Civic Centre, Breck Road, FY6 7PU

**Thursday 20 April 16.00-19.00**

Ashton Methodist Church, Preston, PR2 1DG

These events are open to all and details can be found at

[www.networkrail.co.uk/blackpool](http://www.networkrail.co.uk/blackpool)

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## **Community safety**

In addition to our engagement with residents living near to the railway, we also carry out a lot of work with schools, local youth teams, community groups and local council community safety teams.

This year, Janet Clark, our community safety manager will offer to visit all schools within 4000m of the track to talk to students about railway safety.



On Wednesday Janet and her team spent a day at Aspire Academy in Blackpool talking to their Year 8 students.

Janet said: "As the Community Safety Manager for Network Rail's Great North Rail Project between Preston and Blackpool, it is my role to make the wider community aware of the dangers and consequences of trespassing on or near the railway. Therefore informing them in addition to the danger of faster and quieter trains the overhead lines will carry 25,000 volts of electricity and the electricity remains switched on at all times."

For more information about our community safety work, please contact Janet directly at [janet.clark@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:janet.clark@networkrail.co.uk)

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## ***Stay in touch***

If you have any questions about our Great North Rail Project in the north west, feedback on the newsletter, or do not wish to receive these updates, please respond to [Jonathan Cooke](#).

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