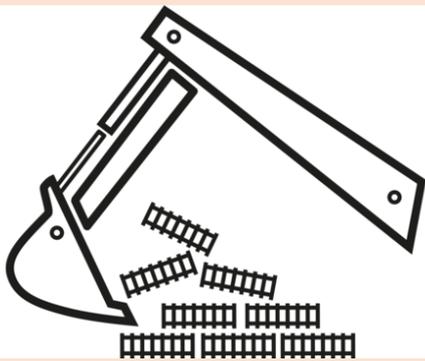


Devon rail upgrades

21 - 29 March 2026



Overview

From Saturday 21 until the early hours of Monday 30 March, we will be working at various locations on the railway between Exeter and Barnstaple, as well as on the line to Okehampton.

We appreciate this causes further disruption to passengers and residents following the floods that affected rail services last month. This is essential, scheduled maintenance to ensure that passenger services can continue to run safely in this area.

This work will also partially pave the way for a future increase in the speed trains can travel along the track, helping to reduce journey times at a later date.

We thank you for your patience while this work is completed.

Contact us

If you would like to be informed about work happening in your area by email, sign up to our new digital notification system at <https://www.networkrail.co.uk/sign-up/>

If you have any questions, there are several ways to contact us, by calling our dedicated 24-hour National Helpline on **03457 11 41 41** or by visiting www.networkrail.co.uk/contactus

Track renewals



Over an eight-day period, from Saturday 21 March until the early hours of Monday 30 March, we will be working night and day along the railway line between Exeter and Barnstaple, replacing track and completing other maintenance tasks.

We will be working on two track renewals in the area, at Chenson and between Barnstaple and Taw.

During the eight days our engineers will install:

- 2.7 kilometres of track
- 3,000 tonnes of ballast (track stone)
- 4,236 sleepers

Up to 80 people will be working on track at these two locations, supported by engineering trains, Road Rail Vehicles (specialist diggers) and a tamping train to compact the new stone.

Access arrangements

Our workers will access the railway at various access points in the area.

Road Rail vehicles and larger equipment will use access points at Barnstaple station, Eggesford station and Morchard Road yard, with teams also accessing the railway on foot at Court Farm, Nymet Road bridge and our access point in Chenson.

Other essential maintenance

Making best use of the opportunity while the railway is closed for the track renewal work, we are also carrying out a range of other essential maintenance tasks in the area.

These include:

- minor track adjustments
- drainage checks and clearance
- inspections on bridges, viaducts, retaining walls and signals
- minor lineside vegetation management

This additional maintenance work will be taking place between Cowley Bridge and Copplesone/Chapleton, Copplesone and Barnstaple, Penstone and Okehampton and between the former Coleford Junction and Okehampton.

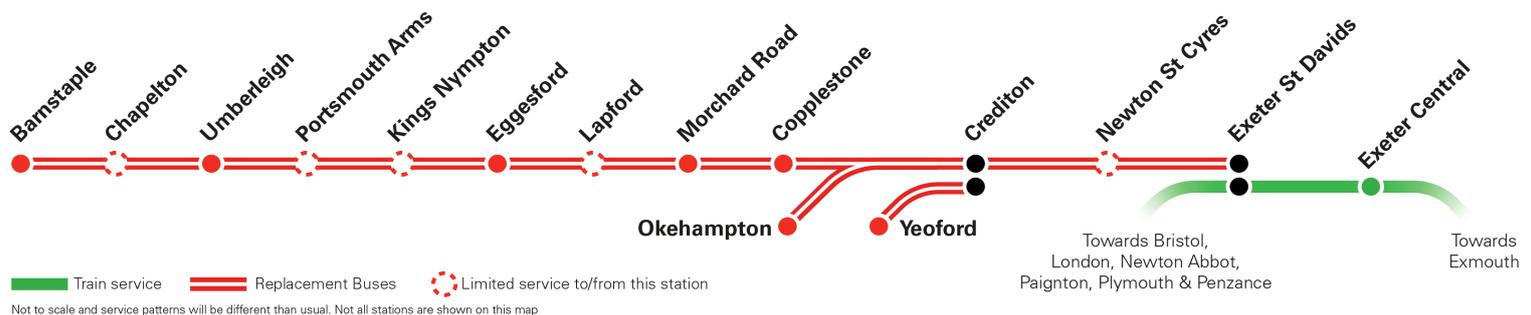
Access points at Barnstaple station, Eggesford station, Morchard Road yard, Court Farm, Nymet Road bridge and Chenson will be used.



Devon rail upgrades

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Travel information: Saturday 21 – Sunday 29 March 2026



Buses will replace all trains that would normally operate via Crediton from Saturday 21 to Sunday 29 March.

As an alternative, valid rail tickets can also be used to travel on the number 5, 5A, 5B and 5C Stagecoach services or the number 66 Dartline service.

Other train services will still be operating on the main line at Exeter St Davids, including a reduced service between Exeter St Davids and Exeter Central.

However, on Sunday 29 March, track maintenance work will also mean buses replace trains between Exeter St Davids and Tiverton Parkway before midday.

Please allow extra time for your journey and check before you travel at nationalrail.co.uk or GWR.com/upgrade

Exeter Station lifts

The lifts at Exeter St Davids station will be out of use until April. Customers with reduced mobility are asked to consider travelling from an alternative station if possible. There is an alternative step free route that can be used, but only with staff assistance. Please speak with staff if you need help or alternatively contact Great Western Railway here: <https://www.gwr.com/travel-information/passenger-assist>

