



Western route

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Running the railway

GSM-R: the railway's mobile communication system

Our regions

Keeping our workforce safe

Long-term planning

Looking after the railway

Our routes

- Anglia route
- East Coast route
- North & East

Our Western route stretches from London Paddington to Penzance, through Bristol and up to the boundaries with Wales, the Cotswolds and Hampshire

route

- East Midlands route
- West Coast South route
- North West route
- Central route
- Kent route
- Sussex route
- Network Rail High Speed
- Scotland route
- Wales route
- Wessex route
- **Western route**
 - South West Rail Resilience Programme
 - Oxfordshire Connect
 - Western track renewals
 - Bristol Rail Regeneration
 - Dartmoor Line
 - Hele flood resilience

We operate, maintain and are renewing more than 2,000 miles of railway, including the historic Great Western Main Line, conceived by Isambard Kingdom Brunel. There are 198 stations on the route, and we manage [London Paddington](#), [Reading](#) and [Bristol Temple Meads](#) stations.

Following a 10 year, multi-billion-pound upgrade programme, we now operate electric services between the west of England and London for the first time. Working with partners, we have exciting plans to continue modernising the railway for the benefit of passengers and freight in every area we represent.

On this page you can find out more about some of our plans and projects, as well as links to the eight passenger train operators on Western route.



- scheme
- MetroWest rail upgrades
- Old Oak Common lineside logistics compound
- Devizes Gateway feasibility study
- Maidenhead station improvements
- HS2 Old Oak Common Station
- Mid Cornwall Metro
- Filton and Beach rail upgrades
- South Gloucestershire track and drainage work

The timetable

Train operating companies

Main railway lines:

- the Great Western Mainline from London Paddington to Bristol and into South Wales.

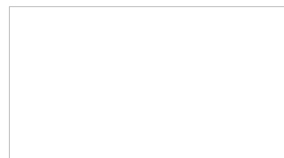
Latest news



Read the latest news from the Western route

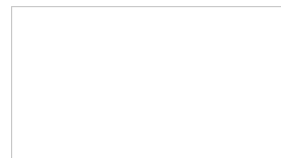


Projects in Western



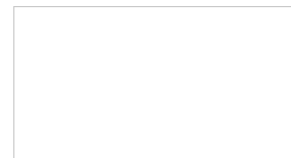
Bristol Rail Regeneration

Building a brighter future for Bristol's railway Steel frame structure complete for the new Eastern Entrance at



Crossrail

The Elizabeth line opened on 24 May 2022 The Elizabeth line is bringing 1.5 million more people within 45 minutes of central London.



East West Rail

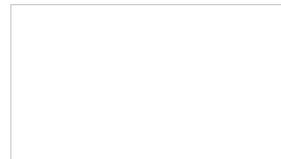
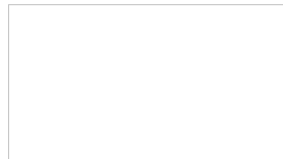
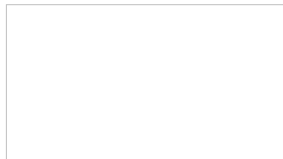
How the East West Rail project will make travel across Britain easier The East West Rail scheme will re-establish a

**Railway Upgrade
Plan
Intelligent
Infrastructure**

Bristol Temple Meads Eastern Entrance structure complete The steel frame structure of the new Eastern Entrance building at...

It links Reading and Heathrow in the west with Shenfield and Abbey...

rail link between Cambridge and Oxford to improve connections between East Anglia and central, southern and...



Hele flood resilience scheme

Plans to reduce flood risk for passengers between Bristol and Exeter We have developed plans to reduce frequent flooding on the railway at Hele, Devon, by replacing two road bridges. Our proposals were approved by...

Oxfordshire Connect

We're expanding Oxford station to enable an increase in train services. The rail infrastructure in the Oxford Station area is close to full capacity and currently wouldn't support the start of East West Rail services....

South West Rail Resilience Programme

We're making the line between Dawlish and Teignmouth more resilient The railway is a vital artery, which connects communities, businesses and visitors in 50 towns and cities in the South West with the rest of the...

Western route





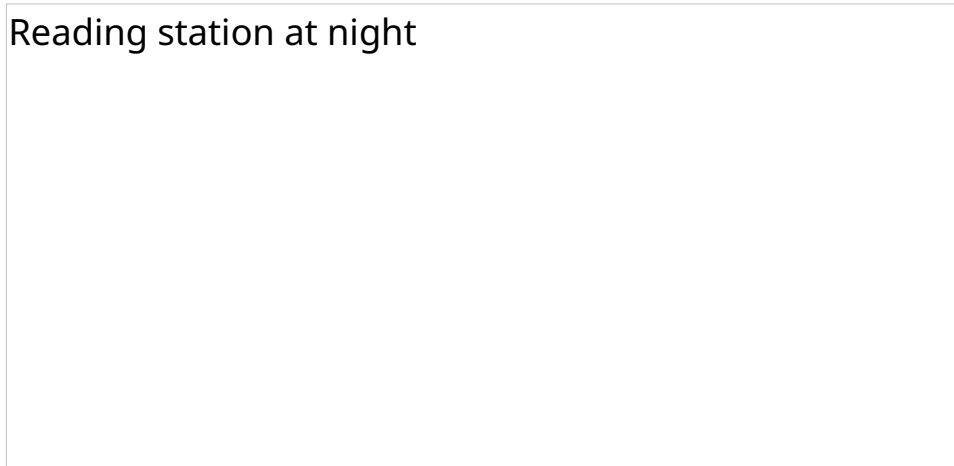
Western track renewals

We will be working throughout 2022 and 2023 to renew and repair the railway tracks across the Western route. In addition to our regular maintenance, we're going to replace old, worn railway track by lifting...



Severn Estuary Resilience Programme

This summer, we are entering the third phase of the multi-million-pound programme plan to improve resilience of the Newport-Gloucester line. A vital rail link for passengers that connects South Wales with the West Country, Midlands and north of...





Reading station

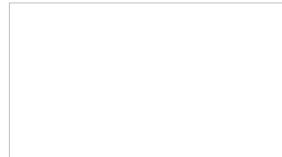
Western Route

- [Chiltern Railways](#)
- [CrossCountry Trains](#)
- [Great Western Railway](#)
- [Heathrow Express](#)
- [London Northwestern Railway](#)
- [South Western Railway](#)
- [Transport for London Rail / Elizabeth line](#)
- [Transport for Wales](#)

Safety

We work closely with local communities to promote safety by the railway. Find out more on our [community safety page](#).

Related pages



Wales & Western region

The Wales & Western region includes more than 2,700 miles of railway with a 5,500-strong workforce. We serve communities and businesses of Wales, the Thames Valley, West of England and the South West Peninsula. We...



Together we can end domestic abuse

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