



Western Region

Great British Railways
DfT Action 2021

Withdrawal of through Railway Passenger Services

The Secretary of State for Transport has given his consent to his own department's proposals to discontinue through passenger train services from London to the following stations:

TROWBRIDGE

BRADFORD-ON-AVON

OLDFIELD PARK

KEYNSHAM

These services will be withdrawn from 12 December 2021

The terms of the Minister's decisions and can be read at

<http://www.passenger.chat/25503>



Want to help us challenge this? Public meeting:

Trowbridge, 20th October 2021 at 19:00

Bethesda Baptist Church, BA14 0AA

Missed the meeting? Still use the URL!



railfuture



West Wiltshire Rail Users Group



"The Waterloos" – the background

* **South Western Railway have been running up to five trains a day on their Bristol - Bath - Salisbury - London (Waterloo) route. They provide** a much loved and well used service from Bristol Temple Meads and Bath Spa to SouthLondon - Clapham Junction (busiest UK junction) and Waterloo (most passengers of any UK Station). **They provide** the only through services from London to Trowbridge, Bradford-on-Avon and Oldfield Park, and all but one services (which leave Paddington before 06:30 in the morning) to Keynsham. **They provide** the only direct trains from Woking, Basignstoke and Andover to West Wiltshire, Bath and Bristol.

* **In spite of the clear strong love of these trains, and their heavy use in a growing rail leisure market, we have learned that they are to be withdrawn from 12th December 2021.**

* **These services are busy.** On days when they are cancelled, other trains on the same line can overcrowd to squash levels. To make the same journeys "across" Salisbury without these trains means a wait of 50 minutes in one direction, and 59 minutes in the other direction. **There are no alternatives that connect. They are not "duplicate" trains. They do not provide excess capacity.**

* There was no consultation on this. Even with the Department for Transport's own "**Transport Focus**". **They write "We believe you should carefully consider deferring this proposal to December 2022, to give time for proper consideration of passenger feedback and how needs can be met in future."**

* A Freedom of Information request to learn how the decision came about has told us that **data is being withheld** for a further period while a "complex public interest test" is applied - the effect of which will be that the data is not available **until conveniently too late to do anything about it.**

These are not little local services - they are long distance trains that provide key connectivity. **Rail User Groups from along the route are coming together to raise awareness of the big difference these services make. We ask for them to be retained for 2022 at prePandemic levels, with a view to providing a well tuned and appropriate service in future years.** Please do not kill a successful service and loose passengers and goodwill for a year in which the rail leisure use is growing.

Railfuture (Severnside Branch)
The Two Tunnels Project
Great Western Coffee Shop Forum
West Wilts Rail User Group
Friends of Suburban Bristol Railways
TravelWatch SouthWest

<https://www.railfuture.org.uk/Severnside+Branch>
<http://www.twotunnels.org.uk/waterloo/index.html>
<http://www.passenger.chat/25503>
<http://www.wrug.org.uk>
<https://fosbr.org.uk>
<http://travelwatchesouthwest.org>

Trains to and from the meeting, 20th October 2021

	Out	Back
	GWR	SWR
Bristol Temple Meads	18:05	22:06
Keynsham	18:12	21:59
Oldfield Park	18:19	21q54
Bath Spa	18:23	21:51
Bradford-on-Avon	18:39	21:37
Trowbridge	18:45	21:31

q - Special stop requested; back at 22:20 if not granted

	Out	Back
	SWR	SWR
London (Waterloo)	16:20	23e56
Clapham Junction	16:27	23e47
Woking	16:46	23e27
Basingstoke	17:07	23m07
Andover	17:30	22l44
Salisbury	17:50	22:25
	thru	
	train	GWR
Salisbury	18:01	21:33
Warminster	18:21	21:13
Westbury	18:29	21:05
Trowbridge	18:35	20:56

e - earlier arrival available with multiple changes
l - extra local train, 22:08 into Andover
m - extra local train, 22:33 into Basingstoke