

## Carstairs Upgrade

Between March and June, Network Rail will be modernising Carstairs Junction in Scotland. This very significant project will upgrade a key section of the West Coast Main Line, which links Glasgow and Edinburgh to London. The work includes re-configuring and renewing the existing track, along with associated signals and overhead lines. Once complete, track, signalling and overhead electrification equipment will be more reliable, and easier to operate and maintain. More information can be found here:

<https://scotlandsrailway.com/projects/carstairs-modernisation>

We have worked hard with Network Rail and other industry partners to minimise the impact on passengers and minimise the use of replacement bus services by using diversionary routes as we know this is a customer priority. However, there will inevitably be disruption from such a significant project and this bulletin details how services will be impacted as sections of the route are closed. There will also be changes to some services between Euston and North Wales as diesel Voyager trains are utilised in Scotland on the non-electrified Glasgow and South Western route. As a result a handful of 10 car services will be swapped for 5 car services.

We would be grateful if you could support us by sharing the customer information below and help us in our advice to passengers to plan their journeys. Further customer information can be found at: <https://www.avantiwestcoast.co.uk/travel-information/plan-your-journey/planned-engineering-works/carstairs-modernisation-project>. Further details on the project can be found at: <https://scotlandsrailway.com/projects/carstairs-modernisation>.

### Impact on journeys

From Saturday 4 March the West Coast Main Line will be closed at Carstairs (Scotland) as Network Rail carry out major upgrade work. As a result, there'll be no direct trains to or from Glasgow and Edinburgh between Saturday 4 – Sunday 19 March. There'll also be changes to our services to and from Glasgow and Edinburgh on weekdays between Monday 20 March

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until Friday 21 April, as well as all weekends up to and including Sunday 4 June. During this time journeys will take longer, and some may involve a change or rail replacement service.

On 4, 5 and 12 March, the West Coast Main Line will also be closed at Preston. Journeys between Wigan and Lancaster will involve a rail replacement service, with rail connections between Lancaster and Carlisle provided by TransPennine Express.

The major upgrade work will be completed in three phases between Saturday 4 March and Sunday 4 June and during this time we'll be operating an amended timetable.

- Phase 1 – Saturday 4 – Sunday 19 March
- Phase 2 – Monday 20 March – Friday 21 April
- Phase 3 – Saturday 22 April – Sunday 4 June

We're working hard to confirm our timetable for each of the phases. You can check our Timetables page for the expected publication of the timetable on your travel date.

We strongly recommend you plan ahead, make a reservation, leave extra time for your journey and check before you travel.

## What engineering work is there and when?

Between Saturday 4 March and Sunday 4 June, Network Rail is completing major track renewals and overhead line installation work near Carstairs, remodelling the track layout to provide a better performing, more robust and easier to maintain infrastructure asset.

## How will my journey be affected?

### Weekdays and weekends between Saturday 4 – Sunday 19 March

During Phase 1 (Saturday 4 – Sunday 19 March), the West Coast Main Line will be closed near Carstairs – with no direct trains to or from Glasgow and Edinburgh. Avanti West Coast services will operate between London and Carlisle, where onward connections will be available.

A limited rail service will operate between Carlisle and Glasgow via Dumfries. Rail replacement services will also operate between Carlisle and Glasgow.

Avanti West Coast will not serve Edinburgh Haymarket or Edinburgh Waverley. Journeys to and from Edinburgh will involve a change at Carlisle, with extended journey times. Rail replacement services will operate between Carlisle and Edinburgh.

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A handful of services between Euston and North Wales will be formed of 5 cars rather than our normal 10 cars, and the weekday 09:20 between Chester and Euston will not run during this period.

On 4, 5 and 12 March, the West Coast Main Line will also be closed at Preston. Journeys between Wigan and Lancaster will involve a rail replacement service, with rail connections between Lancaster and Carlisle provided by TransPennine Express.

### **Weekdays between Monday 20 March – Friday 21 April**

On weekdays during Phase 2 (Monday 20 March – Friday 21 April), Avanti West Coast will operate an hourly service to and from Glasgow diverted via Midcalder & Shotts (between Carlisle and Glasgow), extending journey times.

Avanti West Coast will not serve Edinburgh Haymarket or Edinburgh Waverley. Journeys to and from Edinburgh will involve a change at Carlisle, where connections into TransPennine Express services will be available.

Between Friday 7 April and Monday 10 April, Network Rail will be carrying out engineering and railway improvement work on some sections of the West Coast Main Line. As a result, there'll be further changes to our services on these dates, so we strongly recommend you check our website once the timetable is confirmed. You can check our [Timetables page](#) for the expected publication of the timetable on your travel date.

### **Weekdays between Monday 24 April – Friday 2 June**

On weekdays during Phase 3 (Monday 24 April – Friday 2 June), we'll operate our normal timetable on our Glasgow and Edinburgh routes.

On Monday 1 May there'll be changes to our services as Network Rail carry out engineering and railway improvement work on sections of the West Coast Main Line.

### **Weekends from Saturday 25 March until Sunday 4 June**

On weekends through Phases 1, 2 and 3, (Saturday 4 March – Sunday 4 June), the West Coast Main Line will be closed near Carstairs. As a result, there'll be no direct trains to and from Glasgow and Edinburgh.

On most weekend dates, Avanti West Coast services will operate between London and Carlisle only, where onward connections will be available.

Rail replacement services will operate between Carlisle and Glasgow on all dates. A limited rail service will operate between Carlisle and Glasgow via Dumfries (except on Sundays between 9 April and 21 May, when engineering work north of Carlisle prevents this).

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Avanti West Coast will not serve Edinburgh Haymarket or Edinburgh Waverley. Journeys to and from Edinburgh will involve a change at Carlisle, with extended journey times. Rail replacement services will operate between Carlisle and Edinburgh.

On Sunday 9 April and Sunday 30 April, there'll be further changes to our services as Network Rail carry out engineering and railway improvement work on sections of the West Coast Main Line.

We strongly recommend customers plan ahead, make a reservation, leave extra time for your journey and check the Avanti West Coast and National Rail Enquiries websites before travelling.