

About the Severn Tunnel

The Severn Tunnel is a main part of the railway between England and South Wales, with around 200 trains a day passing through it.

The tunnel, which is 7km long, was built by the Great Western Railway between 1873 and 1886. It was the longest mainline railway tunnel in the UK until 2007, only to be superseded by the opening of a new section of line between the Channel Tunnel and London St Pancras International.

With the Severn Estuary above, ground water is continuously drained between the tracks before being pumped to the surface. Around 50 million litres of fresh spring water is pumped every day from the tunnel and released back into the estuary - equal to 20 Olympic size swimming pools.

New trains are on the way

From summer 2017 our new Super Express Trains will start to be introduced to the Great Western network. These trains, which can use both electric and diesel power, will have up to 10 carriages, vastly improving the capacity between London Paddington and South Wales - up to a 27% increase in standard seats per train.



Upgrading the Severn Tunnel

**Monday 12 September to
Friday 21 October 2016**



From Monday 12 September to Friday 21 October 2016 the Severn Tunnel will be closed. This will result in no trains between Patchway and Severn Tunnel Junction, with London services diverted and buses replacing trains between Newport and Bristol.

This is for Network Rail to electrify the Severn Tunnel, and the Patchway Tunnels.

More information can be found at
GWR.com/SevernTunnel2016



Map showing routes affected

This map shows the routes for weekday services only

RAILWAY LINE CLOSED

Rail Replacement Buses are indicated by a dotted line.

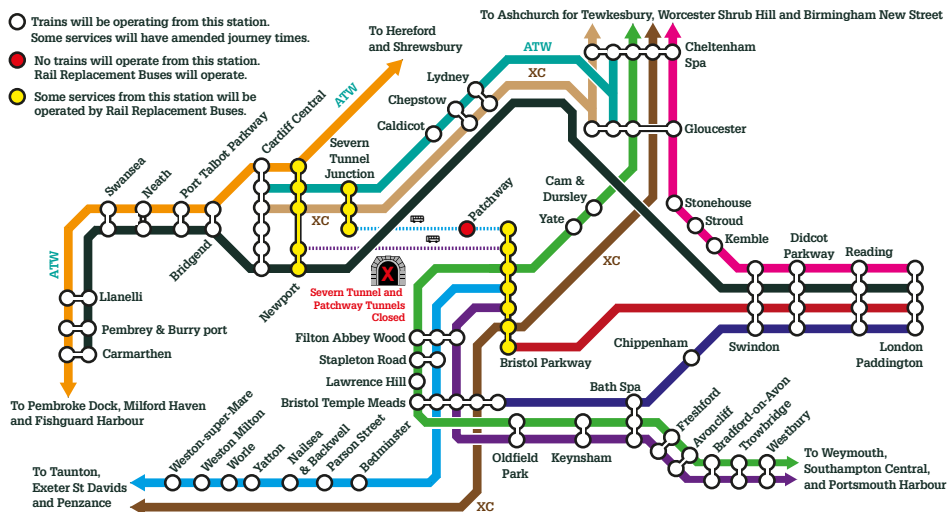
RAILWAY LINE OPEN

Train services are indicated by a solid line.

This map shows Great Western Railway routes unless shown otherwise:

XC = CrossCountry

ATW = Arriva Trains Wales



How will train services be affected?

Weekdays

Trains between London Paddington and South Wales

High Speed Services from London Paddington to South Wales will be diverted between Swindon and Newport. This will add approximately 30 minutes to the journey time. Train services will also run between London Paddington and Bristol Parkway.

Trains between Cardiff Central and Portsmouth Harbour

These services will run between Bristol Parkway and Portsmouth Harbour.

Trains between Cardiff Central and Taunton

These services will run between Bristol Parkway and Taunton.

Rail replacement services

Buses or coaches will run between Severn Tunnel Junction and Bristol Parkway, and between Bristol Parkway and Newport. Any additional routes will be confirmed nearer to the time.

Weekends of 17/18 September and 14/15 October

The line from Bristol Parkway through to Cardiff Central will be closed. Rail replacement buses will be in operation.

Weekends of 24/25 September, 31 September/ 1 October and 7/8 October

The railway will also be closed between Swindon and Bristol Parkway. This will not further impact on South Wales services as they are being diverted away from this section of line anyway. Buses will replace trains between Swindon and Bristol Parkway.

Further electrification preparation works affecting services into South Wales at weekends

■ 3/4 and 10/11 September

Trains will be diverted between Cardiff Central and Bridgend increasing journey times by approximately 30 minutes.

■ Sunday 11 September

The line between Bath Spa and Westbury will be closed on this date. Trains between Cardiff Central and Portsmouth Harbour will be diverted via Swindon. This will increase journey times by 35 minutes. Alternatively customers may wish to travel by a rail replacement bus between Westbury and Bath Spa.

■ 22/23 and 29/30 October, 5/6 and 12/13 November

The railway between Didcot Parkway and Swindon will be closed all weekend (extending to Bristol Parkway on Sundays). Trains to South Wales will be diverted increasing journey times by approximately 45 minutes.