

Onibury Level Crossing Upgrade

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why are you temporarily closing Onibury level crossing?

Situated on the A49 - a major trunk road connecting Leominster and Shrewsbury - Onibury level crossing is heavily used with approximately 6,000 vehicles crossing daily. The track layout and the interface between the railway and road mean that vehicles approach the crossing at an angle. This sees additional pressure being placed on the surface of the crossing, causing deterioration of the surface and the formation of pot-holes. We need to close the level crossing to deliver a long-term solution that will address these issues.

2. What are the benefits of carrying out this work?

In the last six months, the surface of Onibury level crossing has failed numerous times resulting in emergency road closures to allow us to deliver remedial work. The temporary closure of the level crossing will allow us to completely renew the crossing and upgrade the track. This essential work will also significantly extend the life of the crossing and help prevent repeated closures in the future. The new level crossing panels that we will be installing will be made of black rubber instead of concrete. This new surface will be far more durable and smoother for vehicles using the crossing.

3. How long will it take for you to carry out this work?

We will be setting up our site compound in the area adjacent to Onibury Village Hall from Tuesday 27 June 2017 and closing the level crossing from Saturday 1 July until Sunday 9 July, inclusive. During this time, the road will be fully closed to vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists to protect the safety of our staff and the general public. Although safety is our number one priority, we are committed to completing these essential works as quickly as possible.

4. What is the diversionary route and why can't the road be kept open?

We are developing a diversionary route (see map below) in conjunction with Highways England, Shropshire Council, Herefordshire Council and Worcestershire Council and the route will be fully signposted throughout the road closure. Due to the nature of our work on the crossing, we are unable to allow traffic, pedestrians or vehicles to use the road at any time. We understand that closing the road for this length of time is inconvenient and we thank the local community and road users for bearing with us during this time. Our advice to road users is to plan ahead and allow additional time for travelling.



5. What does the construction programme involve?

Over the first weekend of the road closure, our work will include removing the existing level crossing and the road surface, excavating the foundations to a depth of approximately one metre and pouring concrete into the foundations. We will also replace the track, sleepers and ballast and carry out a process called 'tamping' which involves compressing the track and ballast using a road-rail vehicle.

In order for the concrete to 'cure', we need to allow plenty of time without any vehicle movements across the crossing. During the second weekend of the closure, we will carry out further tamping to the track, backfill the open excavations, install the level crossing panels, tarmac the road approaches on both sides of the crossing and paint the road markings.

6. Why have you left the crossing to get into this condition before doing anything?

Onibury level crossing is inspected frequently because of its location and high usage. It was identified during an inspection last year that a full replacement of the crossing was needed, however, we can only do work of this nature when we have full access to the railway. There was an opportunity this July to undertake this essential upgrade, and because this work is safety critical, we need to proceed with it this summer.

7. The road closure will affect me, can I receive compensation?

As a company we do not have an obligation to provide compensation for either loss of earnings as a result of works that we are carrying out on our infrastructure (unless the loss results from damage or personal injury), or for inconvenience caused. Additionally, the project has not been funded to provide compensation payments.

In the case of a road closure, we apply for legal road closures through the correct channels.

However, if a business feels that it is entitled to a claim, it can submit this via our Claims Department (via the National Helpline - 03457 11 41 41). All claims would be considered on their own merits. Compensation is a complicated subject and any individual who believes their business is affected is strongly recommended to consult a legal professional and/or consult the citizens advice bureau.

8. Will construction cause disruption to those living close to the railway?

Between 1-2 July and 8-9 July, we will have complete access to the level crossing as trains will not be running and we will be working both during the day and night. During the week (3-7 July), trains will be running during the day so our work will only take place during the night time.

Safety is our number one priority so much of our work must be carried out while trains are not running. Also, under our licence conditions we are contractually obliged to work at times that cause the least disruption to train services - this means carrying out a lot of our improvements during the night and at weekends.

We endeavour to work responsibly in the local community but the equipment we use means some disturbance will be unavoidable. We sincerely apologise for any disruption caused and thank local residents for bearing with us during the work. We use a range of measures to ensure we keep unnecessary noise to a minimum, including requiring our employees and contractors to behave considerately towards people who live and work near the railway, positioning lighting and generators away from homes and using quieter equipment and shielding - where possible - to minimise the impact on our neighbours

9. Will rail passengers be affected by the work?

During the weekend of the 1-2 July and 8-9 July, the railway will be closed to trains between Shrewsbury and Hereford. There will be a rail replacement bus service in operation to transport passengers between the two stations. We advise passengers to check before travelling and allow additional time for their journey.

10. Who can I contact if I have further questions?

For more information, please call our 24-hour national helpline on 03457 11 41 41 or email us at CRWales@networkrail.co.uk.