

Dear Member

A full APTU newsletter is being drafted, however I wanted to share updates we have just received from Thameslink on the blockade between St Pancras and St Albans next weekend (Friday 19th June [late], through to Monday 22nd June [very early]).



The last through trains on Friday evening are:

- North: Fast from St Pancras: 23:32 (West Hampstead Thameslink 23:40)
- North: All stations from St Pancras: 23:17 (West Hampstead Thameslink 23:28)
- South: All stations from St Albans 23:21

The first through trains on Monday morning are:

- South: All stations from St Albans 03:55
- North: All stations from St Pancras: 04:19

As regards ticket acceptance etc, the briefing is as follows:

No trains between St Albans City & St Pancras from 23:xx on Friday 19 June until 04:00 on Monday 22 June 2015

Overview

Network Rail will be working on two major projects on the Thameslink North route between 23:15 on Friday 19 June and 04:00 on Monday 22 June. They are:

- The commissioning of the new carriage sidings at the south end of Cricklewood Train Care Depot for the new fleet of Class 700 trains arriving next year
- The demolition of a redundant bridge between Elstree & Borehamwood and Radlett

In addition they will be carrying out work to the signalling systems between Harpenden and St Albans in the early hours of Sunday 21 June and will also be carrying out a number of other upgrades, taking maximum advantage of the possession.

From approximately 23:.. on Friday 19 June until 04:00 on Monday 22 June, there will be no train service between St Albans City and St Pancras. Up to four Thameslink trains per hour will run between Bedford and St Albans City, calling at all intermediate stations, with buses replacing trains between St Albans and St Pancras International.

Up to four Thameslink trains per hour will run between St Pancras International and Brighton.

There will be rail replacement buses between Tulse Hill and Sutton via Mitcham Junction because of further engineering work in that area.

Other alternative travel options

Great Northern route

Thameslink tickets will be valid on Great Northern services to and from King's Cross. Thameslink car park Season Ticket holders can choose to park at GTR-operated car parks provided that their car park permit is clearly displayed in the windscreen. Please note that the car parks at Stevenage and Welwyn Garden City stations are not operated by GTR and Thameslink car park permits will not therefore be valid there.

We will not be providing bus links between the Thameslink and Great Northern routes as we don't want to risk the capacity available on the Great Northern route being overwhelmed by excessive demand.

London Midland / Southern

Thameslink tickets will be valid on London Midland services to and from London Euston, including on the Abbey Flyer service from St Albans Abbey station to Watford Junction and the Marston Vale line from Bedford to Bletchley (which runs Monday – Saturday only). There are connections at Watford Junction station with Southern services from Milton Keynes to Clapham Junction / East Croydon, with onward connections to Gatwick Airport and Brighton.

London Buses / London Underground

Thameslink ticket holders travelling from stations between Elstree & Borehamwood and Kentish Town inclusive to and from Thameslink central London stations may choose to use local bus services to connect with London Underground services, as an alternative to using our Thameslink ‘all stations’ rail replacement buses.

London Underground routes for which ticket acceptance has been given:

- Northern line between Edgware, King’s Cross St Pancras and London Bridge
- Jubilee line between West Hampstead and London Bridge
- Metropolitan line between Finchley Road (cross-platform interchange with the Jubilee line) and King’s Cross St Pancras or Farringdon

Buses between St Albans and St Pancras International

Thameslink rail replacement buses will run between St Albans City station and St Pancras International as follows:

- ‘Fast’ buses running non-stop: up to 4 buses every 15 minutes to coordinate with the arrival of trains from Bedford.
- ‘All stations’ buses: up to 2 buses every 15 minutes to coordinate with the arrival of trains from Bedford

Up to 24 buses an hour – 16 ‘fast’ and 8 ‘all stations’ – will be running between St Albans and St Pancras in each direction.

Buses leaving St Albans will depart from bus stops C and D in the bus interchange immediately outside the station building in Station Way. Buses arriving at St Albans from London will set down customers in Ridgmont Road car park at the entrance to platform 4, from which all trains to Bedford will depart. (Ridgmont Road car park will be closed from approximately 16:00 on Friday 19 June until 06:00 on Monday 22 June and car park users are being advance notice of this.)

At St Pancras, buses will set down customers in Midland Road and will pick up in Pancras Road.

At all other stations (Radlett, Elstree & Borehamwood, Mill Hill Broadway, Hendon, Cricklewood, West Hampstead Thameslink and Kentish Town) rail replacement buses will set down and pick up in the normal designated location for rail replacement buses.

Buses between Harpenden and St Pancras International

From 01:00 until 09:14 on Sunday 21 June trains will run between Bedford and Harpenden only. During these times buses will run between Harpenden and St Albans, connecting with ‘fast’ and ‘all stations’ buses from Harpenden to St Pancras International. At Harpenden station buses will set down and pick up in the west side car park adjacent to the station building.

Coaches between Luton and St Pancras International

Coaches will replace East Midlands Trains (EMT) between Luton and London St Pancras International for the same period. Up to eight coaches per hour will run in each direction, to coordinate with EMT arrivals at and departures from Luton station.

Luton Airport Shuttle Buses

Thameslink will be running the normal timetabled service between Luton Airport Parkway and Luton Airport. However there will be a frequent additional bus service between Luton Airport Parkway and Luton station to connect with all arriving and departing East Midlands Trains services. This will ensure that East Midlands Trains customers arriving at and departing from Luton have a regular, rapid link to Luton Airport.

Alternative Travel from London to Luton Airport

Arriva Greenline will accept Thameslink customers with valid rail tickets to Luton Airport Parkway or Luton Airport on their route 757 coaches from London Victoria to Luton Airport. This will run from 01:01 on Saturday 20 June until 06:32 on Monday 22 June. Thameslink ticket holders can choose to join the service at Victoria Buckingham Palace Road (Stop 6) or at any of the following stops:

Marble Arch Park Lane (Stop 14)
Gloucester Place, Allsop Arms (Stop S)
Finchley Road station (Stop CL)

Please note that ticket acceptance is TO the airport only, to avoid the risk of excessive and unmanageable demand from the airport into London.

Customer benefits

Network Rail will be completing many different upgrades to the Thameslink rail network over the weekend of 20 and 21 June. This will bring real benefits to our passengers, both in improving day to day reliability and in providing an improved network that can run more and faster services in the future.

Key messages

Thameslink rail passengers, in particular those connecting with Luton or Gatwick Airports or Eurostar, should allow up to 75 minutes longer for their journey

Plan ahead by checking the National Rail Enquiries Journey Planner

Buses will replace trains between St Albans City station and St Pancras International from 11.15pm on Friday 19 June until the start of service on Monday 22 June 2015. In addition, on Sunday morning, 21 June, until 9:30am, these buses will be extended to run between St Pancras International and Harpenden.

St Albans Ridgmont Road car park will be closed from approximately 16:00 on Friday 19 June until 06:00 on Monday 22 June. Residents of Ridgmont Road (and adjoining Oswald Road) have already been informed as have local St Albans' councillors.

How much extra time should I allow if I'm travelling to London Luton or London Gatwick Airport or are connecting with Eurostar at St Pancras International? - We advise you to allow up to 75 minutes longer for your journey

I normally park in St Albans Ridgmont Road car park on Saturdays or Sundays – Your nearest alternative Thameslink car park is in Station Way, alongside the main station building and bus interchange. Car park permits for Ridgmont Road car park will be valid if they are clearly displayed in the windscreen.

APTU's observations

1. If travelling on Friday night, make sure you catch the last train - the rail replacement coaches are scheduled to take 1 hour non-stop St Pancras to/from St Albans. From Elstree (stopping service) it is 1 hour 20 minutes to St Pancras and 32 minutes to St Albans.
2. Generally, there are plenty of alternative travel options. As regards getting to Gatwick Airport, on Saturday there are Milton Keynes to/from South Croydon services (stopping in our patch at Berkhamsted, Hemel Hempstead, Watford Junction) running hourly and on Sunday Watford Junction to Clapham Junction trains (also hourly).

Neil

Neil Middleton
10 June 2015

The Committee

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