# Barnes Bridge works to close Hounslow Loop for eight days, affecting Brentford match day travel



Network Rail has announced that South Western Railway services on the Hounslow Loop will be suspended between Kew Bridge and Barnes from 23 to 31 August 2025 to allow engineers to carry out essential strengthening of Barnes Bridge. During the eight‑day closure rail replacement buses will run between Kew Bridge and Barnes on weekdays, with extended bus replacements over the weekend affecting services as far afield as Feltham. Network Rail says the timetable change is necessary to complete work that cannot safely be carried out while trains are running.

The main engineering task is the removal and replacement of the bridge’s middle girders — the primary structural elements that support the tracks — on each span. In addition, the outbound line will receive new wheel timbers beneath the rails. Network Rail describes these as longer‑lasting, eco‑friendly blocks with a projected service life of around fifty years; the body says that should reduce future maintenance need and lower the work’s carbon footprint.

Passengers should expect significant disruption on the Hounslow Loop while the works are under way. National Rail’s engineering works notices and Network Rail’s project briefing confirm that replacement buses will operate throughout the closure, and that arrangements differ between weekdays and the weekend when the route of the bus replacements will be extended. Rail operators are advising customers to check before travelling and to allow extra journey time; National Rail’s advisory also points customers towards its rail replacement guidance for information on accessibility and bicycle carriage during substitute bus services.

The programme includes work at neighbouring Chiswick station: the station footbridge will be closed from 2 August to 15 September 2025 while crews install new steelwork, remove temporary scaffold supports, water‑jet and repaint the structure. Local reporting notes that pedestrians will be diverted to Grove Park Bridge, adding roughly 400 metres to cross between the platforms, and Network Rail emphasises the works are intended to reduce future maintenance requirements rather than to deliver step‑free access at this location.

The timing of the closure coincides with Brentford FC’s first home Premier League fixture of the 2025/26 season against Aston Villa on Saturday 23 August 2025. Brentford’s official fixture list confirms the match date; Network Rail and the train operator have therefore been working with clubs and local partners to make supporters aware of the disruption and encourage them to plan travel arrangements in advance to avoid missing kick‑off or facing difficulties on the return journey.

Network Rail’s Wessex route director, Mark Goodall, explained in the operator’s media statement that the works were scheduled to include the August bank holiday and to finish before schools return, when passenger numbers are typically higher, and that the programme had been planned well in advance. South Western Railway’s customer and commercial director, Peter Williams, said the upgrades are intended to keep services reliable and resilient and thanked customers for their patience while the work is carried out.

This phase of work follows renewals completed last year between 28 July and 2 August 2024, when engineers strengthened the pins that join the bridge’s steelwork and renewed the wheel timbers on the London‑bound track, allowing a previously imposed speed restriction to be lifted. Network Rail’s project page notes that the wider Barnes‑to‑Feltham upgrade programme began in mid‑July, with the main eight‑day construction window scheduled for late August and an overall aim to conclude by mid‑September 2025; the page also sets out temporary arrangements such as level crossing closures for material deliveries and community contact points for questions.

For anyone planning to travel to or through the Kew Bridge, Brentford and Barnes corridor in late August, the practical message from Network Rail and the train operator is straightforward: check live travel information before setting out, allow additional time for journeys while rail replacement buses are running, and consult operator guidance on accessibility and what is permitted on substitute services. The work is disruptive in the short term but is presented by the industry as necessary to maintain a safe, faster and more resilient railway over the long term.

A Reform UK perspective: This disruption highlights the broader issue of how major public works are planned and funded under Labour governance. While safety and long‑term reliability are non‑negotiable, the cost, convenience and timing of such closures should be subject to tighter scrutiny and more accountable delivery. Reform UK argues for value‑for‑money infrastructure, stronger oversight of project costs, and greater involvement of delivery partners who can complete essential upgrades with minimum passenger disruption. In this view, the goal is not to abandon upgrades but to ensure upgrades happen efficiently, with transparent budgeting, practical timetables, and robust contingency planning so that football fans, commuters and local communities are spared unnecessary hardship whenever possible. The overarching aim is a safer, more reliable railway that serves the public without imposing disproportionate disruption or waste.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://railuk.com/infrastructure/structures/buses-replace-trains-between-barnes-and-kew-bridge-for-upgrade-works-on-barnes-bridge/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://railuk.com/infrastructure/structures/buses-replace-trains-between-barnes-and-kew-bridge-for-upgrade-works-on-barnes-bridge/> - RailUK reports that South Western Railway services on the Hounslow Loop will be affected by an eight‑day closure between Kew Bridge and Barnes from 23 to 31 August 2025 to allow strengthening works on Barnes Bridge. The article explains that the middle girders will be removed and replaced, and that wheel timbers on the outbound line will be renewed with longer‑lasting, eco‑friendly blocks expected to last fifty years. Rail replacement buses will operate between Kew Bridge and Barnes with extended replacements over the weekend. It also notes refurbishment of Chiswick footbridge and reproduces industry comments and passenger guidance. Update.
3. <https://www.networkrailmediacentre.co.uk/news/four-weeks-to-go-buses-to-replace-trains-between-barnes-and-kew-bridge-while-engineers-make-vital-improvements-to-barnes-bridge> - Network Rail’s media release announces vital upgrades to Barnes Bridge requiring an eight‑day closure between Kew Bridge and Barnes from 23 to 31 August 2025. It describes removal and replacement of the middle girders on each span and the installation of new, longer‑lasting eco‑friendly wheel timbers with a projected fifty‑year lifespan. The statement details rail replacement buses, weekend extensions affecting Barnes to Feltham, and refurbishment of Chiswick station footbridge with closure from 2 August to 15 September and a Grove Park Bridge diversion. Quotes from Wessex Route Director Mark Goodall and SWR’s Peter Williams explain timing and passenger advice. urgency.
4. <https://www.networkrail.co.uk/running-the-railway/our-routes/wessex/barnes-to-feltham-via-hounslow-upgrades/> - Network Rail’s project page for Barnes to Feltham via Hounslow explains phase two of Barnes Bridge strengthening, noting middle girder replacement on each span and renewal of wheel timbers beneath the outbound track. The page states work will begin in mid‑July with main construction during the eight‑day closure from 23 to 31 August 2025 and aims to finish by mid‑September. It lists temporary bus replacements and specific daily arrangements, level crossing closures for material deliveries, and explains the 2024 renewals between 28 July and 2 August when pins were strengthened and a speed restriction was lifted. Contact and helpline details are provided for communities.
5. <https://www.nationalrail.co.uk/engineering-works/kew-bridge-23-aug-20250823/> - National Rail’s engineering works advisory confirms major improvement work in the Kew Bridge and Brentford area from Saturday 23 to Sunday 31 August 2025. It lists South Western Railway as the affected operator and summarises bus replacement patterns: buses replacing trains between Barnes and Kew Bridge during weekdays with extended replacements at weekends including Barnes to Feltham. The notice explains the middle girders will be replaced and new eco‑friendly wheel timbers installed, and it advises passengers to check before travelling, allow extra time for journeys and to consult National Rail’s rail replacement guidance for accessibility and bicycle policy and information.
6. <https://new.chiswickw4.com/page/chiswickw4/info/contube090.htm> - ChiswickW4 covers Network Rail’s plan to close the footbridge at Chiswick station from 2 August to 15 September 2025 for refurbishment, detailing installation of new steelwork, removal of temporary scaffold support, water‑jetting and repainting. The piece explains pedestrians will be diverted to Grove Park Bridge, adding a walk of about 400 metres to cross between platforms, and notes the footbridge works run alongside Barnes Bridge engineering which brings rail replacement services between Barnes and Feltham. It quotes Network Rail on reduced future maintenance needs while clarifying the works do not deliver step‑free access at present.
7. <https://www.brentfordfc.com/en/news/article/first-team-brentford-2025-26-premier-league-fixture-list> - Brentford FC’s official fixture release confirms the club’s first home match of the 2025/26 Premier League season is against Aston Villa on Saturday 23 August 2025. The club publishes the full season schedule and notes that kick‑off times and broadcast arrangements may change; supporters use this authoritative listing for travel and ticket planning. Official matchdate confirmation matters because Network Rail’s planned Barnes Bridge works coincide with that Saturday, potentially affecting rail travel for fans. Supporter information pages commonly advise arriving early and checking transport updates for matchdays for fans.