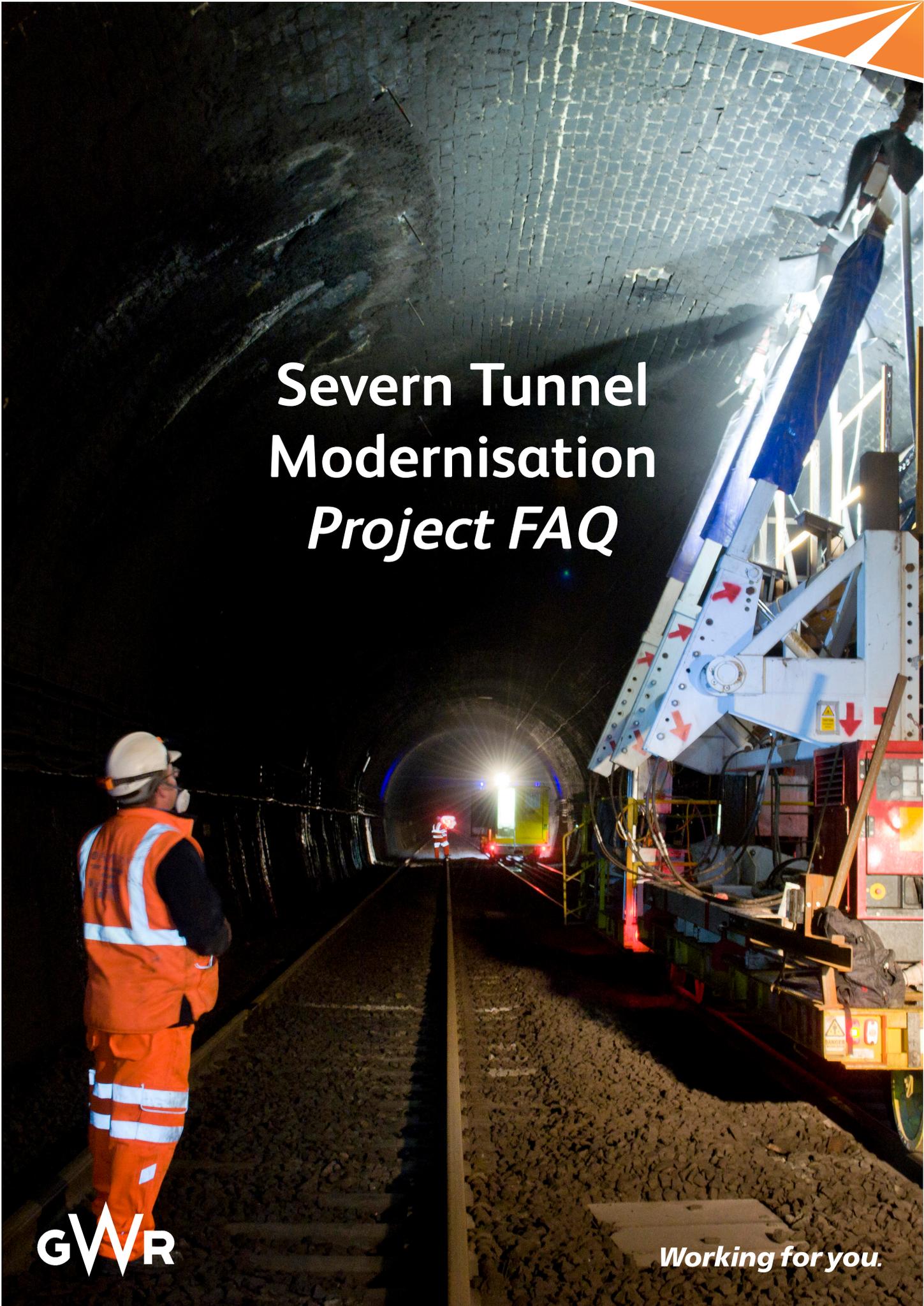


# Severn Tunnel Modernisation *Project FAQ*



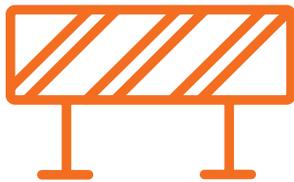
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## When will the tunnel be closed?

The Severn Tunnel will be closed for six weeks from 12th Sep – 21st October 2016. This will enable electrification infrastructure to be installed in the tunnel.



12TH SEPTEMBER –  
21ST OCTOBER 2016



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## How will my journey be affected?

All Great Western Railway (GWR) services that run through the Severn Tunnel will be affected. This includes those between:



SOUTH WALES  
AND LONDON PADDINGTON



DIVERTED VIA GLOUCESTER WITH  
EXTENDED JOURNEY TIMES AND  
REDUCED SERVICE FREQUENCY



CARDIFF CENTRAL AND THE SOUTH  
WEST (TAUNTON & PLYMOUTH  
VIA BRISTOL TEMPLE MEADS)



RAIL REPLACEMENT BUSES  
WILL BE IN OPERATION



CARDIFF CENTRAL AND  
PORTSMOUTH HARBOUR  
(VIA BRISTOL TEMPLE MEADS)



RAIL REPLACEMENT BUSES  
WILL BE IN OPERATION

Rail replacement buses will be in operation for all other services.

Passengers are advised to check specific journey plans on train operators' websites or by visiting [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)

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## Why do you need to close the tunnel for an extended period?

During the six week closure engineers will work around the clock preparing the Severn Tunnel for electrification.

A solid conductor rail system will be installed - hung from brackets in the crown of the tunnel - which will provide the power for trains to pass through once the line is electrified.

Four miles of solid conductor rail will be erected above each track, as well as a length of cable throughout to provide back-up electricity.

The volume of work being undertaken in the Severn Tunnel means that it would take up to 5 years to complete the work if we worked to a weekend closure programme as an alternative.

This would not only disrupt services over a far longer period, but would also delay electrification to Cardiff until at least 2021.

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## Will journeys be disrupted prior to the autumn closure?

We are already undertaking an extensive amount of work during night times to avoid disrupting train services.

As the tunnel is 130-years old, we must make sure it is capable of supporting the equipment needed for electrification.

130  
Years Old

4.5t  
of soot  
removed

7000  
holes drilled

In late 2015, we drilled 7000 holes in the roof of the tunnel, which will hold the anchors to support the cable.

In 2016 we will be working every Saturday night until September, continuing preparation work. This will include removing 4 and half tonnes of soot from the tunnel, ensuring the existing brickwork is secure and installing anchors for the solid conductor rail.

By autumn, we will be in a position to install the solid conductor rail system and cable.

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## What are the benefits of electrifying the line between South Wales and London?

Electrification will transform the railway between South Wales and London to make journeys faster, more reliable, greener and quieter for passengers.

Electrification will also help support economic growth in towns and cities across South Wales by improving the connection between South Wales and London. Reduced journey times and improved reliability between the two capital cities will make Cardiff a more attractive location for inward investors and for those looking to relocate outside of London.

Electric trains are better for the environment as they emit less carbon than diesel trains. They are also quieter for both those on-board the train and those living close to the railway. Furthermore, journey time savings can be made thanks to superior braking and acceleration.



FASTER



QUIETER



RELIABLE



GREENER



MORE SEATS

Electric trains also have more seats than diesel trains of the same length and provide smoother and more comfortable journeys for passengers. They are also cheaper to operate than diesels, have lower energy costs and are lighter, thus causing less damage to the track.

The construction industry will receive a welcome boost during project delivery, through the installation of the wires and other associated building and civil engineering work. As well as construction jobs, thousands more opportunities will be created in UK manufacturing and service supply chains.

We are also developing our skills base, through our apprentice programme, in order to provide the workforce needed to maintain the overhead wires when installed.

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## When will electrification be delivered to Newport and Cardiff?

Completion of electrification between London Paddington to Cardiff is planned to be completed within Control Period 5 (2014-2019)



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## What are you doing to inform passengers and businesses?

Network Rail is working with GWR to keep passengers informed. GWR issues regular updates to its season ticket holders and other regular travellers by e-bulletin.

We will be undertaking an extensive awareness campaign ahead of the disruption to ensure passengers can make informed travel choices during the temporary closure.

Information is now available at [www.GWR.com/severntunnel2016](http://www.GWR.com/severntunnel2016). Information will be updated with more precise travel information, available 12 weeks before the date of travel.

