



Swindon & Wiltshire Innovation, Infrastructure and Places Subgroup Meeting

Rail Update



Railway update



Timetable changes

- [South Western Railway \(SWR\) Consultation](#)
- Great Western Railway (GWR)



Westbury platform



Devizes Prospectus



There are three key implications for us



SWR: Salisbury to Bristol Temple Meads

Historically served by both SWR and Great Western Railway, with SWR running five of the average 25 daily services in the May 2019 timetable

SWR will withdraw its current three daily services from December 2021 because they're seen as duplication

Great Western Railway will continue its services for London bound via Salisbury, Bath and Westbury



SWR: Reading to Salisbury

Three trains per day in the evening after the PM peak (Mon-Thu), in each direction, replacing London Waterloo to Salisbury services

This is to maintain crew competency over this route which can be used to divert services to Reading



GWR: Southampton to Westbury

Withdrawing 4 trains, 2 in each direction



Swindon and Wiltshire Strategy Priorities

1

Bristol – Oxford and extension to East-West Rail when commissioned

2

Southampton – TransWilts – Oxford, Birmingham and restructured TransWilts Corridor

3

New GWML stations – Corsham, Swindon West, Swindon East

4

Paddington-Westbury-Trowbridge-Bristol services plus Devizes Parkway

5

New West of England stations and Salisbury-Waterloo journey time reductions



West of England Line: Waterloo-Salisbury-Exeter

1

Salisbury-Waterloo journey time improvements
GVA £5.93m

2

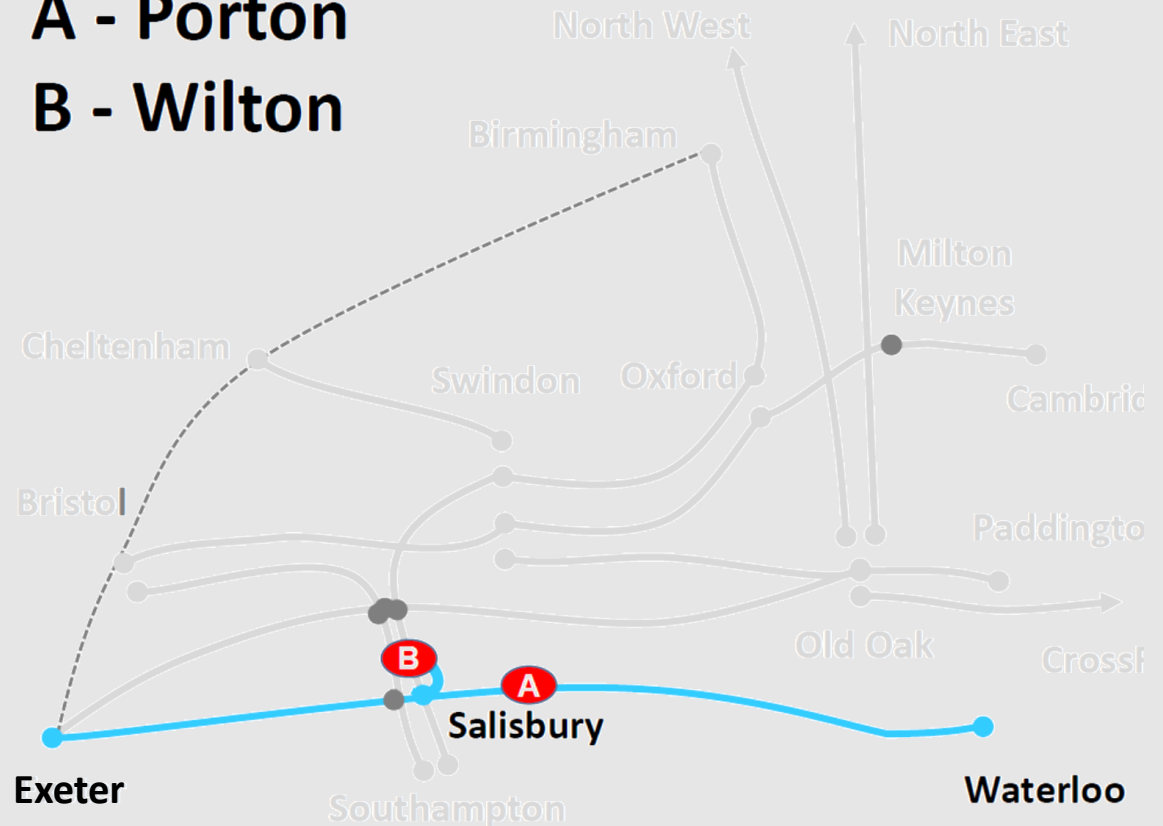
Porton new station GVA
£5.37m

3

Wilton new station (subject to results of study on Porton) GVA
£3.56m

Reduction in journey times to London through a combination of measures, the opening of a new station at Porton and consideration of the opening of a station at Wilton

A - Porton
B - Wilton



Western Gateway response to SWR consultation includes

Disappointment at the withdrawal of the London Waterloo to Bristol Temple Meads via Salisbury, Westbury and Bath Spa direct service

Highlights the loss of connectivity (in some cases direct route) to London and the South East for stations in the Western Gateway area, including Bradford-on-Avon, Trowbridge and Warminster

Highlight the loss of a high-quality service; GWR service to Portsmouth offers an inferior standard of accommodation and ambience

Calling for services at Salisbury must be improved to make it an attractive alternative (+30 minutes if no changes made)

Asking the DfT to maintain the through trains until Dec 2022, by which time a new timetable for SWR and GWR could be devised to improve the connections

This is expected to be only a temporary loss of service; in the medium / longer term the new Great British Railways and partnerships with the Regional Divisions and Passenger Service Contracts are expected to provide a joined-up approach to delivering services linked to the outputs of Network Rail's strategic corridor studies.

Reference is made to a "separate review" with the DfT for removing the service – will request to see this to fully understand the reasons for the change.



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Westbury platform capacity enhancements

- Planned for 2024/25 by Network Rail
- Wiltshire council asking for funding to properly investigate what is needed, instead of going for a like-for-like update



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