

## Corporate Newsletter



# Stakeholder Newsletter

31 October 2025



### Train named after rugby league legend and MND campaigner Rob Burrow is unveiled

We've named one of our Class 195 trains after Rob Burrow, the inspirational rugby league icon and tireless campaigner for motor neurone disease (MND). The train, unveiled at Castleford station on Rob's birthday, features artwork across two carriages and a timeline of his incredible achievements.

Working closely with Rob's family and the MND Association, we created a moving tribute that celebrates his life and raises awareness of MND, a condition affecting over 5,000 people in the UK.

Rob's wife Lindsey, their children Maya and Jackson and his parents Geoff and Irene joined us for the unveiling. Lindsey shared how honoured they were, saying Rob's legacy of courage, love, and advocacy continues to inspire.

Rob, who passed away in June 2024 at age 41, won countless titles with Leeds Rhinos and spent his final years raising millions for MND research alongside friend Kevin Sinfield. This tribute was driven by our colleagues, Wakefield Council, and West Yorkshire Mayor Tracy Brabin, who all recognised Rob's impact. As Tanya Curry from the MND Association said, this train is a powerful way to remember Rob's sporting achievements and his support for the MND community.

We've also partnered with the MND Association, and our teams are committed to raising thousands for research and care.

**Changes to train services**  
All routes serving York station

Sat 25 Oct	Sun 26 Oct	Sat 01 Nov	Sun 02 Nov	Sat 08 Nov	Sun 09 Nov	Sat 15 Nov	Sun 16 Nov	Sat 22 Nov	Sun 23 Nov
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**Due to the closure of the railway at York,  
buses replace all trains through York.**

CrossCountry, LNER, TransPennine Express, Grand Central & Lumo services will also be impacted.

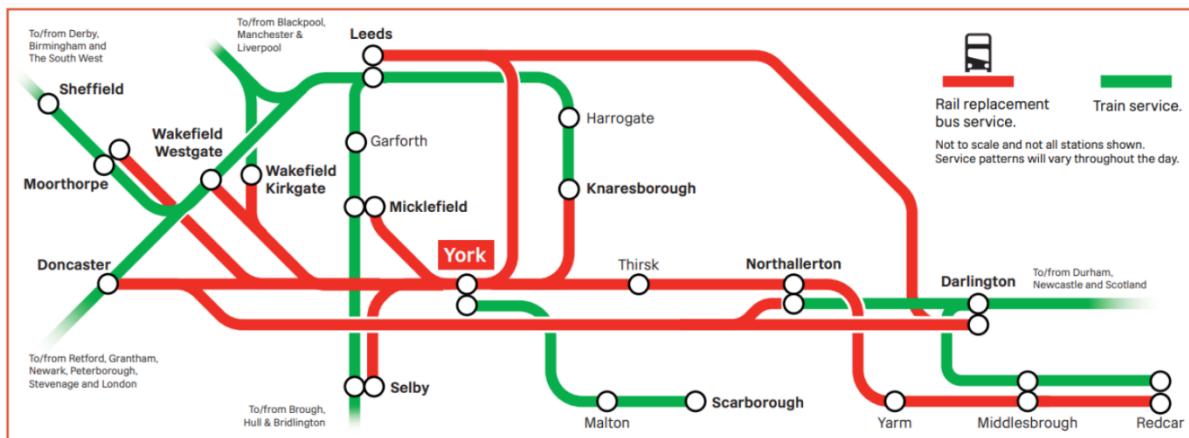
Allow extra time and check before you travel at [nationalrail.co.uk](http://nationalrail.co.uk) or [northernrailway.co.uk/engineering/yorkstation2025](http://northernrailway.co.uk/engineering/yorkstation2025)

## Planned Closure of York Station Ahead of Engineering Works

Services will run on an amended timetable through York between 25<sup>th</sup> October and 23<sup>rd</sup> November as Network Rail carries out major engineering works. The work involves updating and renewing tracks, improving drainage and resurfacing crossings, and is necessary to further improve our services for customers.

The station closure on each of the weekends between the 25th of October and 23<sup>rd</sup> November means rail replacement buses will run between York and Leeds, Darlington, Redcar, Selby, Doncaster and Wakefield.

There will also be no Cross Country, LNER or TransPennine Express services stopping in York on the above dates, with the exception of a reduced TransPennine service between York and Scarborough.



# Get involved!



## Talented artists have posters displayed at stations after winning Railway 200 competition

We have unveiled artwork from the winners of its poster competition, celebrating destinations and landscapes across the North of England. Inspired by classic British Railways posters, the contest was part of the nationwide Railway 200 celebration.

Three winners were selected:

- Callum Hoy (10) – Under 12s winner, with a drawing of a Northern train at Alderley Edge station.
- Arlo Crossfield (14) – Young persons winner, showcasing the countryside near Chapel-en-le-Frith.
- James Wilkinson (28) – Adult winner, whose bold designs were inspired by vintage railway posters and painted using Gouache.

Their posters are now displayed at stations across the network. Bradley Hayes praised the creativity and quality of all entries, saying the winning designs “deserve to be enjoyed by customers.”

## We'd love to hear from you

Please take a few moments to complete our short feedback survey to help us shape future editions of this newsletter.



## REVEALED: Top 10 destinations in Northern's three-day Flash Sale

Northern's latest Flash Sale was a great success, with hundreds of thousands of cut-price tickets snapped up by eager passengers across the North.

The sale launched on Tuesday 30 September and ran until Thursday 2 October. We put three million tickets up for grabs at a price of just £2 for adults, and £1 for children.

The ten most popular destinations where the most bargain tickets have been snapped up are:

- Leeds
- Manchester
- Blackpool
- Preston
- York
- Hull
- Carlisle
- Sheffield
- Liverpool
- Newcastle

Tickets purchased in our Flash Sale are valid for travel between Monday, 6 October and Friday, 24 October 2025.

[Read more here](#)



## New £46 million facility built to keep trains running for passengers opens in Yorkshire

A £46.5 million light maintenance depot has opened at Hillhouse Sidings in Huddersfield, part of the Transpennine Route Upgrade (TRU). The site, now operated by us, will maintain, repair, and clean trains, mostly overnight, to ensure smooth service for passengers.

The 24-hour facility includes five lines and can accommodate up to 24 carriages. Initially, engineers will work on diesel trains, with electric and bi-mode services to follow.

Northern's Rob Warnes called the depot "vital" for reliable services, while TRU's Paul Sumner highlighted its role in supporting a greener, more dependable railway.

The TRU is upgrading the 76-mile route between Manchester, Huddersfield, Leeds, and York. Huddersfield station has also reopened with extended platforms, with further upgrades continuing until early 2027.

[Read more here](#)



## **'Transformative' station in Northumberland defies the odds to win World Cup of Stations**

We've won the World Cup! Ashington station has been crowned the winner of this year's World Cup of Stations, voted the most life-changing in the UK. We secured 28.3% of the final vote, beating out major stations like London Waterloo and York, thanks to incredible support from our community, Northern staff, Northumberland County Council and local cricket hero Mark Wood.

Ashington, one of the country's newest stations, reopened last December after 60 years, reconnecting our town via the Northumberland Line. It's already transforming lives; giving us better access to jobs, education, and leisure, and helping drive regeneration in our former mining town.

We're thrilled to see Ashington recognised nationally and we're just getting started.

[Read more here](#)