

21 November 2024

Station Footfall Figures - April 2023 to March 2024



The Office of Road and Rail (ORR) has published the latest set of annual estimates of station usage figures covering the period from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. The figures for Stourbridge line stations are tabulated below.

Station Code	Station Name	Entries and Exits 2023-2024	Entries and Exits 2022-2023	Entries and Exits 2019-2020	Interchanges 2023-2024	% Change vs 2022/2023	% Change vs 2019-2020
JEQ	Jewellery Quarter	399,186	320,584	539,132		24.52	-25.96
THW	The Hawthorns	284,344	266,310	509,308		6.77	-44.17
SGB	Smethwick Galton Bridge	705,284	659,756	869,208	428,394	6.9	-18.86
LGG	Langley Green	151,264	121,330	223,422		24.67	-32.3
ROW	Rowley Regis	885,624	762,624	1,234,274		16.13	-28.25
OHL	Old Hill	135,318	108,354	211,326		24.89	-35.97
CRA	Cradley Heath	626,676	539,490	871,666		16.16	-28.11
LYE	Lye	73,912	62,188	102,500		18.85	-27.89
SBT	Stourbridge Town	346,018	295,084	559,422		17.26	-38.15
SBJ	Stourbridge Junction	1,261,822	1,092,624	1,631,452	304,372	15.49	-22.66
HAG	Hagley	440,434	361,810	492,262		21.73	-10.53
BKD	Blakedown	88,008	72,972	99,500		20.61	-11.55
KID	Kidderminster	1,128,558	915,886	1,529,896		23.22	-26.23
HBV	Hartlebury	50,794	44,184	54,064		14.96	-6.05
DTW	Droitwich Spa	463,582	397,054	520,328	48,167	16.76	-10.91
WOS	Worcester Shrub Hill	526,970	477,310	660,638	97,090	10.4	-20.23
WOF	Worcester Foregate Street	1,747,674	1,582,976	2,190,982	133,588	10.4	-20.23
	TOTAL	9,315,468	8,080,536	12,299,380		15.28	-24.26

These figures show that, on average, the line has seen patronage increase by over 15% compared with the previous year. However, it is still 24% below the pre-Covid level, due to a decrease in rush hour usage because of the change in working practices with many people working from home.

Once again, Stourbridge Junction is the busiest station on the Stourbridge line itself with over 1¼ million passengers and is the 7th busiest station on the West Midlands Railway network. However, it is good to see that Kidderminster station has climbed above the 1 million mark for the first time since Covid.

Six stations have seen passenger numbers increase by over 20% with Old Hill showing the highest percentage increase of 24.89%. Despite being our smallest station, Hartlebury has seen figures which equate to nearly 94% of pre-Covid levels - the highest percentage on the line.

12 September 2024

Stourbridge Line Closed from 27 to 31 October 2024



Essential engineering works will be taking place between Langley Green and Stourbridge Junction from Sunday 27th October until Thursday 31st October. This means that no trains will be able to run along this section of line.

On all days, a normal service will operate on the Stourbridge Town branch and between Birmingham Snow Hill and Stratford-upon-Avon via Dorridge or Whitlocks End. However, west of Birmingham Snow Hill, the following special service will operate.

Sunday 27th October

- Two rail replacement buses per hour will be in operation between Stourbridge Junction and Birmingham Snow Hill, with one of these serving Lye, Old Hill and Langley Green,
- A limited train service, running approximately every hour, will operate between Smethwick Galton Bridge and Birmingham Snow Hill with most services operating to/from Stratford-upon-Avon via Shirley.
- A train service, running approximately every hour, will operate between Stourbridge Junction and Worcester.

Monday 28th October to Thursday 31st October

- Four rail replacement buses per hour will be in operation between Stourbridge Junction and Birmingham Snow Hill, with two of these serving Lye, Old Hill and Langley Green,
- A limited train service, running approximately every 30 minutes, will operate between Smethwick Galton Bridge and Birmingham Snow Hill during peak hours only (0700-0900 and 1630-1830) with services continuing to/from Dorridge or Stratford-upon-Avon via Dorridge.
- A train service, running every 30 minutes, will operate between Stourbridge Junction and Worcester with one serving Hartlebury and one operating via Shrub Hill. Most services will terminate at Foregate Street.

As a guide for Stourbridge line passengers, SLUG has put together timetables for the period when the line is closed. Bus replacement services are shown in blue italics. A few times are shown in red italics to indicate that the stop is to set down passengers only.

This information is accurate as at 11 September 2024 but we can take no responsibility for any changes made between now and 27 October. We suggest that you consult a journey planner before you travel to confirm the timings.

27 July 2024

SLUG Newsletter and Website Receive National Awards



At a National Awards Ceremony in Edinburgh, the SLUG newsletters (Platform, Platform 2 and Platform 3) received a Silver award in the Best National Rail User Group Newsletter category, while the SLUG website jointly received a Silver award in the Best National Rail User Group Website category.

The voting panel consisted of four leading figures in the rail industry :-

- Ian Brown CBE - Former Managing Director of London Rail
- Roger Ford - Industry and Technology Editor of Modern Railways
- Chris Green - Former Managing Director of Scotrail, Network South East and InterCity and Former Chief Executive of Virgin Trains
- Stewart Palmer - Former Managing Director of South West Trains

A certificate was presented to SLUG Chairman Roger Davis for each category by Railfuture Vice-President Paul McLennan MSP.

Among the accolades from the judges were comments on our website such as "“very high quality website with scrolling news, pictures etc”, "has a good mix of local, regional and national news, plenty of good quality coverage of issues with pictures" and "the current news on the website is of good quality with several recent postings and plenty of good quality pictures". Comments on the newsletter included "there is a good mix of local, regional and national coverage of issues and some ‘fun’ items which hopefully engaged a wider audience".

We were very proud when we heard that we had been nominated for an award, but to receive awards for both our Newsletter and our Website was far more than we expected. Everybody here at SLUG is thrilled to receive these accolades.

It is not the first time, we have been recognised nationally as our previous website won the Gold Award for the best National Rail User Group Website in 2017, while our Newsletter won the Gold Award for the best National Rail User Group Newsletter last year.

26 April 2024

Labour Party Launches Plan To Fix Britain's Railways



Louise Haigh MP, the Shadow Secretary of State for Transport, has launched the Labour Party's document titled "Getting Britain Moving : Labour's Plan to Fix Britain's Railways."

The plan effectively intends to fully implement the recommendations proposed by Sir Keith Williams in his rail review completed in 2019, and published in May 2021. This would create an independent body, Great British Railways, to take over day-to-day control of the rail industry from the Department for Transport. This proposal has ostensibly been supported by the Conservative Party since its publication but, despite three successive parliamentary sessions when a bill to create Great British Railways could have been introduced, the only progress has been a last minute Draft Bill which will not become law before the General Election.

In the past couple of days, Sir Keith Williams has lent his backing to these plans.

The other major proposal in the document is to transfer the current rail companies to public ownership as each contract comes up for renewal. At present, London North Eastern Railway, Northern Rail, Southeastern, and TransPennine Express are currently publicly operated by the Operator of Last Resort after the private operators' contracts were terminated. In fact, at present, many observers feel that the same fate should have befallen Avanti Trains West Coast and CrossCountry Trains after poor recent performance.

For political balance, if the Conservative Party issues a document on its vision for the future of the rail industry, we will update this page to show both documents.

27 April 2024

Stourbridge Line User Group Annual Public Meeting and AGM



The SLUG Public Meeting and Annual General Meeting will be held in the Refreshment Rooms at Kidderminster Town station (Severn Valley Railway) on Tuesday 14th May starting at 7.15 p.m. Entry to the room is through the King and Castle Bar.

The meeting will be split into two sessions as follows :-

A Public Meeting, open to both SLUG members and non-members, will commence at 7.15 p.m. The following guest speakers, who are all senior rail managers, have been arranged :-

- Mal Drury-Rose (Executive Director at West Midlands Rail Executive)
- Charlotte Ritchie (Head of External Communications and Engagement at West Midlands Trains)
- Either Zach Bailey (Regional Growth Manager at Chiltern Railways) or Misbaar Akhbar (Stakeholder Executive at Chiltern Railways)

The presentations will be followed by a question and answer session.

Afterwards, the SLUG AGM will start at about 8.45 p.m. and will be open to SLUG members only.

We hope you can attend on the 14th. It should be an interesting meeting.

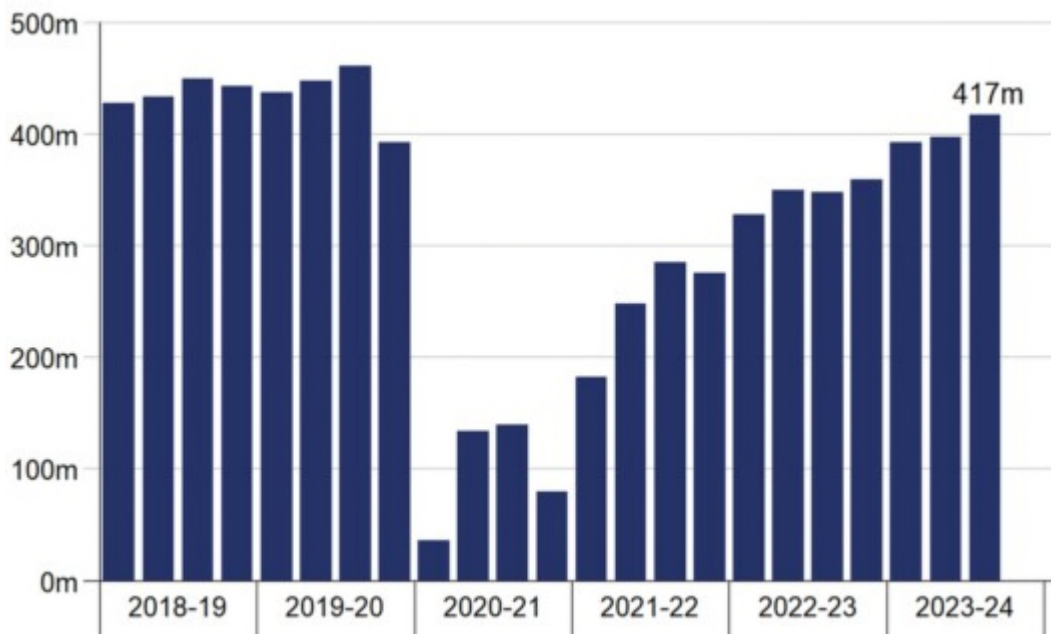
21 March 2024

Passenger Rail Usage from October to December 2023



The Office for Road and Rail has published figures for passenger rail usage over the final quarter of 2023. A total of 417 million journeys were made by rail passengers in Great Britain, a 20% increase on the 348 million journeys in the same quarter in the previous year. The annual figures for 2023 showed a total of 1,570 million journeys, a 20% increase on the 1,300 million journeys made in 2022.

A graph showing totals since 2018/2019 shows that passenger figures have recovered to about 90% of pre-Covid levels.



The percentage increase varies by train operating company with the Elizabeth Line showing the greatest increase at 40% and C2C showing the smallest increase at only 6%. West Midlands Trains showed an increase in line with the national average at 20% while Chiltern Railways showed a percentage increase of 16%.

Figures for the last quarter of the 2023/2024 should be published in about three months' time, which makes it very strange that the official figures for station usage for 2023/2024 will not be published until about six months afterwards.

23 February 2024

Timetable Changes from 2 June 2024



Some major changes will be made to Stourbridge line timetables from 2 June 2024. Some of the changes (highlighted in green) were instigated by Stourbridge Line User Group and accepted by West Midlands Railway.

Changes to Stopping Patterns

- Services that terminate at, and start from, Kidderminster will stop at Langley Green, Old Hill and Lye but will no longer stop at Hagley and Blakedown.
- Services that terminate at, and start from, Worcester will stop at Hagley and Blakedown but will no longer stop at Langley Green, Old Hill and Lye.

Other Changes to Stourbridge Line Services

- The 0625 service from Stourbridge Junction to Leamington Spa will not run between Stourbridge Junction and Birmingham Snow Hill but will now start at Birmingham Snow Hill at 0700.
- The 2116 service from Birmingham Snow Hill to Worcester Shrub Hill on Saturday evenings will be withdrawn.
- A new service will be introduced at 2203 from Dorridge to Worcester Shrub Hill on Saturday evenings. This service will depart from Birmingham Snow Hill at 2231, meaning that a half hourly service will operate on Saturdays between Birmingham Snow Hill and Worcester with departures at 2101, 2131, 2201, 2231 and 2300.

Changes to Connecting Services at Smethwick Galton Bridge

- Services to Shrewsbury will depart four minutes earlier at xx59 rather than xx03 and will only stop at Wolverhampton, Shifnal, Telford Central and Wellington. This will reduce journey times from Smethwick Galton Bridge to Shrewsbury from 62 minutes to 54 minutes.
- Services from Shrewsbury will depart nineteen minutes later at xx59 rather than xx40 and will only stop at Wellington, Telford Central, Shifnal and Wolverhampton. This will reduce journey times from Shrewsbury to Smethwick Galton Bridge from 64 minutes to 54 minutes. Departure times from Smethwick Galton Bridge towards Birmingham New Street will be at xx53 rather than xx44.
- Passengers for Bilbrook, Codsall, Albrighton, Cosford and Oakengates will need to change at Wolverhampton.

Stourbridge Town Services

- Services on the Stourbridge Town branch will be retimed to provide better connections with services on the main line.
- Departures from Stourbridge Junction will be at 00, 10, 20, 30, 40 and 50 minutes past each hour.
- Departures from Stourbridge Town will be at 05, 15, 25, 35, 45 and 55 minutes past each hour.

Chiltern Railways

- At present, there are no details of any changes to Chiltern Railways services from June. This page will be updated when details of the new Chiltern Railways timetable are known.

5 January 2024

SLUG Christmas Quiz – Answers



1. Victoria



2. All Creatures Great and Small



3. Minder



4. Downton Abbey



5. Life On Mars



6. Doc Martin



7. Peaky Blinders



8. The Return Of Sherlock Holmes



9. The Saint



10. Gangsters



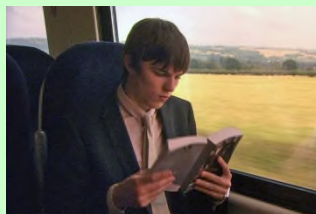
11. Brideshead Revisited



12. Cold Feet



13. Alias Smith and Jones



14. Skins



15. Big Deal



16. The Avengers



17. Happy Valley



18. Danger Man

4 January 2024

Footfall Estimates for 2022-2023

The Office of Rail and Road has published the annual estimates of railway station entries/exits and interchanges for the year from April 2022 to March 2023.

In this issue, the figures for 2022/2023, 2021/2022 and 2019/2020 have been published to additionally show the percentage difference in footfall compared with pre-Covid 19 figures.



The figures for all stations along the Stourbridge line are shown below.

Station Code	Station Name	Entries and Exits 2022-2023	Entries and Exits 2021-2022	Entries and Exits 2019-2020	Interchanges 2022-2023	% Change vs 2021-2022	% Change vs 2019-2020
JEQ	Jewellery Quarter	320,584	284,488	539,132		12.68	-40.53
THW	The Hawthorns	266,310	225,200	509,308		18.25	-47.71
SGB	Smethwick Galton Bridge	659,756	499,810	869,208	387,565	32.00	-24.09
LGG	Langley Green	121,330	108,058	223,422		12.28	-45.69
ROW	Rowley Regis	762,624	649,478	1,234,274		17.42	-38.21
OHL	Old Hill	108,354	97,864	211,326		10.71	-51.27
CRA	Cradley Heath	539,490	467,744	871,666		15.33	-38.10
LYE	Lye (West Midlands)	62,188	49,792	102,500		24.89	-39.32
SBT	Stourbridge Town	295,084	263,548	559,422		11.96	-47.25
SBJ	Stourbridge Junction	1,092,624	900,346	1,631,452	238,472	21.25	-33.02
HAG	Hagley	361,810	300,246	492,262		20.50	-26.50
BKD	Blakedown	72,972	60,810	99,500		20.00	-26.66
KID	Kidderminster	915,886	799,082	1,529,896		14.61	-40.13
HBV	Hartlebury	44,184	38,002	54,064		16.26	-18.27
DTW	Droitwich Spa	397,054	325,718	520,328	34,666	21.90	-23.69
WOS	Worcester Shrub Hill	477,310	409,540	660,638	143,413	16.54	-27.75
WOF	Worcester Foregate Street	1,582,976	1,358,222	2,190,982	459,965	16.54	-27.75