

# Grayling confirmed as Rail Live headline speaker



BRITAIN'S Secretary of State for Transport Chris Grayling is to speak at Rail Live. The Conservative cabinet minister will launch the second day's seminars, and heads a high-profile attendance list that already includes Network Rail Chief Executive Andrew Haines, who is to speak on day one.

The only exhibition to bring together the entire rail industry, Rail Live is to be held at the Quinton Rail Technology Centre, Long Marston, on June 19/20.



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Subjects to be discussed at the event's exclusive seminars include the opportunities offered to the supply chain, including through Network Rail, the Rail Sector Deal and through using data. Innovate UK will explain how it is supporting the rail supply chain through funding, while the Birmingham

Centre for Railway Research and Education and the Rail Alliance will discuss the acceleration of innovation.

Alternative power sources are to be represented by both Britain's first hydrogen-powered train, the HydroFLEX, and Vivarail's battery

Class 230 (RAIL 875).

Rail Live will also include displays of a variety of 'yellow plant', with Balfour Beatty, Vp plc and SRS among the companies expected to attend. Also now confirmed for the event are the British Transport Police and the Rail Accident

Investigation Branch, as well as Network Rail's survey helicopter.

It is also expected that delegates will be able to arrive at Long Marston directly by train, as Great Western Railway plans a dedicated charter from Paddington into the site. Further details of the train are



Rail Live offers a great opportunity to see plant up close. CHRIS LOWNDES/RAIL.

Secretary of State for Transport Chris Grayling at Rail Live 2018. Grayling is to open day two of the 2019 event. CHRIS LOWNDES/RAIL.



Demonstrations are a key part of the Rail Live experience. Railcare's Railvac OTM Ballast Vacuum Extraction System was at the 2018 show. CHRIS LOWNDES/RAIL.

still to be announced.

Now in its second year, since being relaunched by RAIL Magazine publisher Bauer Media in conjunction with the Rail Alliance, Rail Live 2019 is expected to attract 6,000-plus people and 250 or more exhibitors.

In addition to Chris Grayling and Andrew Haines, speakers will include: Shamit Gaiger, Deputy Director Industrial Strategy at the Department for Transport; Susan Cooklin, NR's Managing Director of Route Services; and Rob Morton, NR's Director of Supply Chain Operations, Route Services. Note that Grayling's attendance is subject to Parliamentary business.

Rail Live is a trade show for individuals working in the rail industry. You will need to register with a verified industry email address to attend. The event, at the QRTC in Long Marston, is on June 19/20. The agenda can be downloaded from [www.raillive.org.uk](http://www.raillive.org.uk)

## For more information...

Regular updates and more information on attending Rail Live is available at [www.raillive.org.uk](http://www.raillive.org.uk)

For more information on visiting the show, contact Katie Gordon-Hill at [raillive@bauermedia.co.uk](mailto:raillive@bauermedia.co.uk)

To enquire about exhibiting or for information about sponsorship opportunities, contact Julie Howard ([julie.howard@bauermedia.co.uk](mailto:julie.howard@bauermedia.co.uk))

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## BTP figures on hate-crimes

The British Transport Police closed 37% of hate-crime investigations without identifying a suspect, according to figures from the Home Office.

Hate crime offences include racially or religiously aggravated assault, harassment and criminal damage. The figures relate to offences from September 2017-September 2018.

Greater Manchester Police fared worst, closing 46% of cases without identifying a suspect, followed by West Midlands Police (44%) and then the BTP.

## NR completes £57m Highland Main Line upgrade

The £57 million upgrade of the Highland Main Line between Perth and Inverness was completed on March 26, Network Rail has announced.

The project started in summer 2018 and focused on the section between Aviemore and Pitlochry.

It involved extension of the passing loop north of Aviemore, with associated track and accommodation and resignalling works. At Pitlochry, Platforms 1 and 2 were extended, including removal of the wooden platforms to the south of the station and of the engineering siding. Three level crossings at Dundarach, East Cottages and Prospect Place were

also upgraded.

The work allows High Speed Trains being introduced by ScotRail to pass each other more efficiently at both stations. Allied with timetabling improvements and the better performance of the HSTs, journey times on the route are expected to be cut by ten minutes.

NR Route Delivery Director Matthew Spence said: "Unavoidably, we had to close the line for periods to deliver these enhancements. However, we hope that the longer-term benefits that the work enables - more services with journey time improvements - will prove to be worthwhile."

Transport Scotland Director of

Rail Bill Reeve added: "Passengers will welcome the news that this work has been completed on time and well within budget. The original budget for this programme was £117m and current anticipated costs are less than half that at £5m. Network Rail is to be congratulated for this efficiency."

"This will allow the rollout of improved Scot Rail Inter7city services as the re-engineered High Speed Trains are delivered. We continue to press the rolling stock overhauler Wabtec to deliver these much-needed trains, so the value of this investment can be realised at the earliest possible opportunity and for many years to come."

## WSP to consider Oxford work

East West Rail has appointed engineering consultancy WSP to look at the infrastructure required for an increase in traffic at Oxford.

The consultancy will examine the infrastructure required to allow four trains per hour to run to and from Oxford, in addition to the two Chiltern trains per hour which currently run into Oxford from London Marylebone.

The capacity study will recommend ways in which the infrastructure could support these new services, with

recommendations to be made "later this year".

"Oxford station is set to become an even more important destination with the launch of new services to Milton Keynes and Cambridge," said Edward O'Loughlin, Head of Rail Strategy and Planning at WSP.

"We are delighted to be working with the East West Railway Company to define an optimum operational and infrastructure plan for Oxford station to support the reliable introduction of these new services."

## Lottery grant to restore viaduct

The Severn Valley Railway has been awarded an £853,800 grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to help restore the Falling Sands Viaduct.

The lottery funding comes after the heritage railway raised £397,000 towards the cost of restoring the bridge, which is located just outside the railway's headquarters at Kidderminster.

According to the SVR, as well as ensuring the long-term viability of the viaduct itself, the project "will engage a wider audience for the railway, encouraging an appreciation and understanding of local heritage and the fascinating world of structural engineering".

Shelagh Paterson, of the SVR Charitable Trust, said: "Our iconic structure has suffered badly over the years, with water seeping deep inside, causing cracks and erosion to the brickwork."

"Now, thanks to the support of National Lottery players and our many generous donors, we can get it back into shape."

"When the work is completed, we'll be able to lift the current speed restriction on our heritage trains, and look forward to at least another century of service from the viaduct."

"Restoring Falling Sands Viaduct will help safeguard the SVR's future."