

## [News story: Some of our services are temporarily unavailable](#)

The services affected are:

- MapSearch
- Online Owner Verification
- INSPIRE View
- Extract Polygon
- Flood Risk Indicator

We cannot say when the services will be available again, but there will be further messages about this as soon as an update can be given.

We apologise for the inconvenience caused.

The services became available again after 12 noon.

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## [Press release: Powick weir public drop-in event](#)

The drop-in session will be held on Monday 18 September 2017, 2pm to 6:30pm at:

Callow End Village Hall  
Upton Road  
Callow End  
Worcester  
WR2 4TA

The Environment Agency is a partner in a major project – Unlocking the Severn – which aims to significantly increase populations of fish on the rivers Severn and Teme by removing barriers and enabling fish to migrate upstream to their historic breeding grounds. Through work at a number of key sites on both rivers, including Powick weir, the project will reopen 250km of river habitat for all fish species and secure the UK breeding population of the rare twaite shad.

As owners of Powick weir, the Environment Agency investigated options which would maintain and improve fish stocks in the River Teme. When assessing options to improve fish passage, each weir is considered carefully from

environmental, navigational, operational and flood risk perspectives. The Environment Agency has fully considered the options available for fish passage and is confident that partial weir removal is the best solution for this location as it will achieve the best long term environmental benefit for the River Teme.

David Clarke, Project Executive from the Environment Agency said:

Weirs are physical barriers to fish migration and great progress has been made in enabling fish to access the upper reaches of rivers again in recent years.

Over the last year we have carried out detailed assessments, habitat and aerial surveys, and modelling work to plan the best solution for the Powick weir site – for improved fish passage and to assist the natural recovery of the river. The upcoming drop-in event is an opportunity to provide an update to interested parties on our plans, ahead of work starting in June 2018.

There will be information displays and representatives from the Environment Agency available at the session to answer questions and to discuss the scheme in greater detail.

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## **[News story: Near miss at Magdalen Road level crossing, Watlington](#)**

Near miss between passenger train and car at Magdalen Road level crossing, Watlington, Norfolk, 9 August 2017.

At around 08.51 hrs on 9 August 2017, a passenger train travelling at low speed when departing from platform 1 at Watlington station, passed over Magdalen Road level crossing with the barriers in the raised position and narrowly missed a moving car.

We have undertaken a [preliminary examination](#) into the circumstances surrounding this incident. Having assessed the evidence which has been gathered to date, we have decided to publish a [safety digest](#).

The safety digest will shortly be made available on our website.

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## [News story: Skills Minister John Hayes brings together transport and further and higher education experts in new advisory group](#)

Skills Minister John Hayes brought together a team of experts today (6 September 2017) to plot a course to build more transport skills than ever before.

The minister invited specialists in further and higher education to join transport chiefs to explore how best to equip young people to build a successful career in transport.

The Department for Transport works closely with industry to champion vocational skills and training – encouraging young people to gain the skills and experience they need for the challenge of a career in the sector.

Skills Minister John Hayes, who is leading the government's work to develop infrastructure skills, believes that more needs to be done to work effectively with the higher and further education sectors, and so has invited experts to the Education Advisory Group to work collaboratively.

Minister Hayes said:

As people know, I have been a champion of vocational skills for many years and so I know the importance of engaging young people as early as possible so they can seize every opportunity to craft a career in transport.

We need to look at the role of schools, further education and higher education institutions in inspiring the next generation, and my new Education Advisory Group will, over the coming months, chart how we can work more effectively together.

The group will advise on best practice in promoting transport through education, working closely with the Strategic Transport Apprenticeship Taskforce (STAT), which aims to get more talented young people into transport apprenticeships.

Mike Brown, Commissioner of Transport for London and Chair of STAT said:

John Hayes has been the leading champion in government of vocational skills, and I warmly welcome his latest initiative to

put his vision into practice.

Valerie Todd CBE, Crossrail Talent and Resources Director said:

With the ever increasing number of passengers using our railways and roads, and the unprecedented number of infrastructure projects on the horizon, there are more career opportunities for young people in the transport sector than ever before. By bringing together the transport industry and the education sector we can help the next generation build exciting, meaningful and rewarding careers in transport.

Young people will also be at the centre of the Year of Engineering 2018, which is a year-long, cross-government campaign. The campaign aims to raise the profile of engineering amongst 7 to 16 year-olds and widen the pool of young people that consider engineering as a career, through working in collaboration with a range of partners to give young people direct and inspiring experiences of engineering.

The Education Advisory Group is made up of Deirdre Hughes OBE, Principal Research Fellow at Warwick University, Prof Mohammed Abdel-Has, Director of Finance at Bolton University, Yvonne Baker, Chief Executive of STEM Learning, Nick Chambers, Chief Executive Education and Employment/Inspiring the Future, Prof John Perkins CBE who is the author of The Perkins Review of Engineering, and Valerie Todd CBE, Talent and Resources Director at Crossrail and member of the Strategic Transport Apprenticeship Taskforce (STAT).

## **Related reports**

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## **[News story: Back to school for thousands of pupils as new free schools open](#)**

Thousands of children will start the term in 52 new schools as the next wave of free schools open their doors for the new academic year.

Free schools are popular with parents, deliver choice, innovation and higher standards with 29% of those inspected rated outstanding by Ofsted.

The new schools open just a few weeks after several existing free schools across the country reported exceptional results in GCSE and A levels.

The 52 new openers take the total number of free schools opened since 2011 to

over 500, meaning more than four in five of local authorities now have at least one free school in their area.

The newly-opened schools include primary, secondary and all-through schools, and sixth form colleges – with some tailored specifically to technical education, including new UTCs, and a number of schools for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the School System Lord Nash, said:

We need schools that offer every child the best possible education, and free schools have shown that they can provide that across the country. They were among the top-performing schools in recent GCSE and A level results and almost a third are rated outstanding by Ofsted – the most successful category of non-selective state schools.

These 52 new schools will provide much-needed places and encourage innovation, driving up standards and ensuring even more parents have the choice of a good school place for their child.

Mark Emmerson, Chief Executive of the City of London Academies Trust said:

Opening a brand new school is very exciting as it allows us to establish our ambition from day one. We aim to provide the very best educational experiences in the country ensuring a high expectation culture driven by a broad but rigorous curriculum, exceptional teaching and a nurturing environment.

Mark Wardle, principal of Callywith College said:

Callywith College has been built for North and East Cornwall and the reactions of students, their families and the local community have been overwhelmingly positive. Our open day in August was a massive success and we look forward to delivering outstanding teaching and learning for our students when they join us.

New Schools Network Director, Toby Young, said:

It was fantastic to see so many free schools doing well in this year's GCSE and A level results and I am confident that many of the new schools opening this year will also be among the country's top performers in due course.

Notable new schools include:

- The City of London Primary Academy, Islington, a 420-place – at capacity – primary school with an age range of 2-11 plus a 38-place nursery. The City of London Academies trust will run the school.
- The Bobby Moore Academy, an all-through school offering primary places in Newham and secondary places in Tower Hamlets – offering places in areas of basic need. The 4-19 school is on the site of the former Olympic Park – offering pupils access to facilities plus links to West Ham United Football Club. It will have 1,500 places at full capacity and is part of the David Ross Education Trust.
- XP East, an 11-19 secondary school and sixth form in Doncaster – the second school in the multi-academy trust following the success of XP School, which is also in Doncaster. XP East welcomes its first 50 pupils in September and will reach 450 pupils by 2023. The school will follow the national curriculum, but plans to adopt a project based curriculum based on those used in Expeditionary Learning and High Tech High schools in the U.S.
- Callywith College, a 16-19 mixed faith sixth-form college in Cornwall. It will open with 350 students and grow to its full capacity of 1,280 by 2021. The college offers an extensive curriculum with a wide choice of A levels; a range of level 2 and level 3 technical education courses; as well as GCSE maths and English for students who do not have a C grade.
- Scott Medical and Healthcare College, Plymouth, a 375-place studio school specialising in healthcare occupations – working with employers including Plymouth NHS Trust, Age Concern UK, Peninsula School of Medicine and Dentistry and Plymouth University.

## Further Information

Of those inspected by Ofsted, 29 per cent of free schools are rated Outstanding.

124 out of 152 local authorities now have at least one open free school.

Regional breakdown of places created at schools opening:

- 9 schools in the East of England, creating 6,090 places
- 4 schools in the East Midlands, creating 1,554 places
- 5 schools in Yorkshire and the Humber, creating 3,530 places
- 5 schools in the North West, creating 3,280 places
- 9 schools in the South West, creating 3,865 places
- 2 schools in the West Midlands, creating 290 places
- 7 schools in the South East, creating 5,330 places
- 11 schools in London, creating over 9,400 places