

# TRANSPORT

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## Waterloo International hosts first domestic train

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A passenger train has used an international platform at Waterloo station for the first time since the last Eurostar service departed more than five years ago.

The special service from Woking pulled into platform 20 on Monday 29 April to demonstrate that the terminus can and will be used for passenger services by May 2014.

South West Trains ran the service to mark the first anniversary of the Network Rail and South West Trains Alliance and to provide an opportunity to illustrate the alliance's commitment to provide extra capacity into the UK's busiest railway station.

The introduction of the May 2014 timetable will see regular trains operate to and from platform 20. Work is currently underway to make the platform suitable for passengers - so far two out of three access points through walls have been created to allow entrance and exit via platform 19.

Other work required to ensure platform 20 is serviceable has included bringing signalling back into use, re-railing parts of the track, roof repairs, platform work and installing new CCTV, customer information systems and lighting.

Tim Shoveller, managing director of the Network Rail and South West Trains Alliance, said: "The alliance is an industry first which was created to deliver a better railway for passengers using ways of working which have not previously been possible.

"Bringing the Waterloo International terminal into permanent use is an example of what it can help to achieve. It has been made possible by working with many organisations, including the Department for Transport, and is vital for the much-needed development of the railway across the south and south west of England. It has been talked about for many years and we have shown it is possible and remain committed to bringing platform 20 into permanent use by April 2014 at the latest."

Of the five former international platforms at Waterloo, platform 20 is the easiest to convert for domestic use because passenger access can be provided via platform 19. This bypasses the labyrinthine subways, which included passport controls, designed for the international trains which operated to and from Waterloo International until 2007. Tim Shoveller said he expected the remaining platforms to reopen during Control Period 5 (2014-19) with new banks of escalators providing access from the main concourse.

Passenger numbers at Waterloo are expected to increase by 51% over the next 11 years despite the station already operating at maximum capacity during peak hours. The introduction of more than 100 extra carriages, which will start in summer 2013 and use of platform 20 will help to provide capacity for an additional 23,000 daily peak-time passengers by December 2014.

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