



CAMPAIGN DOCUMENT

WORCESTER CONNECTIONS

SLUG is campaigning for better connections at Worcester stations between Stourbridge line services and onward services towards Oxford and the West Country. It is particularly concerned that Stourbridge line passengers wishing to travel to the West Country have to go via Birmingham because the two-hourly service from Worcester to Cheltenham Spa is so poor. SLUG believes that this can be achieved in a number of ways.

- an hourly direct service to Gloucester via Cheltenham Spa by extending a West Midlands Railway Stourbridge line service from Worcester.
- an hourly direct service to Bristol and beyond by extending all Great Western Railway Westbury to Gloucester services hourly to Worcester, Kidderminster and Stourbridge Junction.
- an hourly direct Great Western Railway service from Stourbridge Junction to London Paddington. The Worcestershire based North Cotswold Line Task Force is proposing an hourly service from Kidderminster to London Paddington but SLUG feels that the West Midlands Rail Executive should make representations to ensure that trains serve Stourbridge Junction from the start given that it is now the most used station on the line.
- an hourly circular service Birmingham Snow Hill – Stourbridge Junction – Worcester Shrub Hill – Evesham – Stratford-upon-Avon – Shirley – Birmingham Snow Hill (and vice versa) via a reopened line between Honeybourne and Stratford-upon-Avon

SLUG believes that priority should be given to reinstating Rainbow Hill Junction with full double track on all tracks within Worcester City Centre. This would allow Stourbridge line trains to operate to Worcester Foregate Street for the City Centre, and reverse to continue to Worcester Shrub Hill and beyond.