

UNDERGROUND DIARY

JULY 2023

Saturday 1 July may be summarised thus:

- Old Street station closed 10.05 to 10.50 – fire alarms activated.
- Chalk Farm station closed 11.05 to 13.45 – defect with CCTV.
- Piccadilly Line suspended Acton Town to Heathrow 12.30 to 14.15 – arcing on track at Hounslow West caused by debris short circuiting. One train stalled train approaching Hounslow West was authorised to return to Hounslow Central, arriving at 13.10. 19 trains cancelled in consequence.
- Piccadilly Circus closed 13.50 to 15.55 – prevention of overcrowding.
- Bakerloo Line suspended north of Queen's Park 21.20 to 22.00 – police searching train for a suspect. One train was stalled to the rear for the duration.
- 20-minute delay at Rayners Lane – eastbound train accepted signal for the Metropolitan Line. The train was authorised to return to the platform and try again.
- Stations closed for a lack of staff were Paddington (Suburban – before 05.30) and South Ealing (23.35 to 02.40).

Stations closed for a lack of staff on **Sunday 2 July** were Covent Garden (04.00 to 11.45), Holland Park (06.30 to 15.20), Bond Street (Elizabeth Line from 07.15 to 08.55), Chancery Lane (after 19.25) and Goodge Street (18.05 to 22.55). Stations closed for other reasons were Oval (14.15 to the end of traffic – escalator defects) and Mornington Crescent (after 22.35 – passenger altercation). The operational day began towards the end of Night Tube, with a person under an eastbound train at Wood Green at 05.50, suspending the Piccadilly Line east of Hyde Park Corner until 06.55. A Network Rail signalling issue at Richmond at 10.15 caused four separate 15-minute delays on the District Line until the late afternoon. However, damaged points at Richmond suspended the Richmond branch from 18.50 for the rest of the day, although a limited service did resume as far as Gunnersbury, but not until two stalled trains had returned wrong line to Gunnersbury (and back to the District Line), which was completed by 19.20. Passenger action at Cockfosters suspended the Piccadilly Line east of Oakwood from 17.20 to 20.45. The day ended with a passenger refusing to alight from a train terminating at Rayners Lane, suspending both the Piccadilly and Metropolitan lines from 21.55 to 22.30.

With no Network Rail staff available to complete the repair of damaged points at Richmond, there was no District Line service between there and Gunnersbury throughout **Monday 3 July**. The Central Line had a late start westbound through the central area because of a late finish to overnight engineering at Bethnal Green. The westbound service began at 06.10. A passenger ill at Leyton caused westbound Central Line trains to non-stop from 13.25 to 15.00. A track fire at Finchley Central from 19.40 suspended the Northern Line north of Archway until 21.00. A cable fire at Waterloo caused the Waterloo & City Line to be suspended from 21.35 until the end of traffic.

Stations closed for a lack of staff on **Tuesday 4 July** were Holland Park and Aldgate East (both before 07.10). Later, Holland Park closed from 18.55 to 19.50 because of a fire alarm activation. Operationally, the day began with a track fire at Queen's Park, suspending the service to Elephant & Castle from 06.05 to 06.40. An eastbound District Line train stalled arriving at Earl's Court platform 1 at 07.40, having become non-communicating. Once in the platform, all subsequent eastbound trains ran via platform 2 causing eastbound delays. The offending train reached High Street Kensington at 08.05 but the disruption to train crew stepping back at Edgware Road added a further 25-minute delay. Later in the day, another eastbound train became non-communicating at St. James's Park at 16.45. It reached Embankment at 17.30 where it was reversed east to west. However, it became non-communicating again on the westbound at St. James's Park and eventually arrived at Earl's Court at 19.00. 27 District Line trains were cancelled in consequence. Services were suspended as follows:

- District and inner rail Circle Line, Earl's Court – Tower Hill from 16.45 to 17.30.
- District Line, Whitechapel – Ealing/Richmond and outer rail Circle Line from 17.30 to 19.10.
- Hammersmith & City Line, suspended completely from 18.30 to 19.20.

Earlier in the day, the Northern Line had a non-communicating southbound train at Brent Cross at 09.30, suspending the Edgware branch. Once the train had reached Golders Green Depot, signalling issues followed, preventing service resumption until 11.00. Six trains were stalled between stations throughout. Sloane Square station closed from 13.40 to 14.15 because of passenger action. A track circuit failure

at Ickenham suspended the Piccadilly Line west of Rayners Lane from 14.35 until 19.20. The Metropolitan Line continued to operate under failure conditions.

Wednesday 5 July was operationally incident free. Stratford station closed from 09.50 to 10.25 because of a fire alarm activation with Jubilee Line trains running empty between there and West Ham. Stations closed for a lack of staff were Southgate (07.40 to 08.10), Mansion House (22.40 to 00.05) and Tower Hill (after 23.15).

Services on the Northern Line's Battersea extension were unable to start up until 06.25 on **Thursday 6 July** because of a defective overnight stabling train at the terminus. A person on a bridge between Osterley and Hounslow East perched in a precarious position suspended the Piccadilly Line west of Northfields from 09.15 to 10.15 with one eastbound train stalled approaching Osterley for the duration. A fire alarm activated caused Bond Street station to close from 13.55 to 14.40. The District Line was suspended west of Earl's Court to Ealing and Richmond from 17.45 until 18.20 because of a non-communicating train at Earl's Court. It eventually worked as far as Barons Court and then continued under conventional signalling. Stations closed for a lack of staff were Russell Square (06.20 to 10.00) and Holland Park (after 18.30).

Friday 7 July was as follows:

- Intermittent points failure at Tower Hill from start of traffic – District Line suspended Embankment – West Ham, Hammersmith & City Line suspended east of Moorgate and Circle Line suspended completely, all from 07.30. Services on the District Line resumed at 08.00 and the C&H at 08.25.
- Bakerloo Line suspended in its entirety from 19.25 until 20.35 – points failing at Queen's Park. One southbound train was stalled south of Kensal Green for the duration. A defective Network Rail tripcock tester became defective at 22.25, which then suspended the service north of Queen's Park until the end of traffic (Stonebridge Park was unavailable for reversing because of a points failure in the depot). Ten trains were cancelled in consequence.
- Circle and Hammersmith & City lines suspended Edgware Road – Hammersmith 21.25 to 21.55 – track defect at Royal Oak.
- During Night Tube, Tottenham Court Road station closed from 02.20 to 02.40 because of a fire evacuation exercise.

On **Saturday 8 July**, the inner rail Circle Line was suspended from 07.30 to 08.15 because of passenger action at Aldgate. The rest of the day was uneventful, save for Train Operator cancellations which, on the Central Line, reached 11 on the late shift.

Stations closed for a lack of staff on **Sunday 9 July** were Chancery Lane (after 15.00) and Lancaster Gate (after 18.30). A track fire at Roding Valley caused a 30-minute delay to the Central Line between Hainault and Woodford from 17.50.

Monday 10 July was, in the main, devoted to the Piccadilly and Bakerloo lines. The Piccadilly Line began the day with a 25-minute late start at the east end of the line because of a late finish to work on points at Arnos Grove, which was followed by another 25-minute delay at Barons Court because of passenger action, which also delayed the District Line. Later in the day, a person under an eastbound train at Knightsbridge suspended the service between Acton Town and King's Cross from 14.55 until 16.10 – 16 trains were cancelled as a result. Service recovery was then set back by a further 25 minutes with a person trackside at Ealing Common which also affected the District Line. Returning to the Bakerloo Line, separate Network Rail signal failures at Stonebridge Park from 06.20 and later at Kensal Green from 14.10, caused disruption for much of the day – the latter was an intermittent failure that kept reoccurring through to the end of traffic. The day ended with a person trackside at Morden at 00.15, bringing the southbound Northern Line service to a stand, with all 14 trains (except the incident train) held in platforms. The incident train arrived at Morden at 01.25, which was followed by the others in turn, the last stabling in depot by 02.10.

In contrast, **Tuesday 11 July** was, for the most part, a Northern Line day, beginning at the start of traffic with the Track Recording Train, which was late transferring back to the Piccadilly Line. Until then, no services could run throughout the line, with delayed starts varying between 10 and 30 minutes, the latter on the Battersea extension. Then at 06.00, a person under a southbound train at Belsize Park suspended the service between Golders Green and Camden Town until 07.20. This was followed by a dog on the track between Hampstead and Golders Green, suspending the Edgware branch from 09.00 to 09.55 with one train stalled between stations throughout. Points failing at Tooting Broadway from 11.00 then suspended the service south of Stockwell until 11.35, which was followed by a signal failure

at Edgware at 14.40, suspending the service north of Colindale. One train became stalled departing Edgware and its passengers were detrained via the rear car still in the platform, while another stalled (northbound) train was authorised to return to Burnt Oak, arriving at 14.55. Services resumed at 16.55. Holland Park station closed from 18.35 until the end of traffic because of no staff.

Wednesday 12 July was as follows:

- Heathrow Terminal 4 station closed from 06.30 until 09.50 because of an ingress of sewage.
- Track fire and subsequent points failure at Morden from 18.10. Service suspended south of Stockwell until 18.40.
- Passenger ill on an eastbound District Line train at 20.50 at Monument. 25-minute delay.
- Northwick Park station closed at 22.50 because of a local power failure, while Upney closed at 23.10 for police investigative work close by the station, both until the end of traffic
- Person trackside at Earl's Court (District Line) at 23.40. Although the incident was resolved within a few minutes, the CBTC signalling protection meant that the last of the trains stalled didn't reach platforms until 00.10.

Thursday 13 July began with a late finish to overnight engineering work on the Metropolitan and Jubilee lines at Neasden, with services beginning at 05.25. Network Rail points failing at Richmond from 06.30 suspended the Richmond branch until 08.50. Service recovery was hampered by a non-communicating westbound District Line train at Becontree at 08.15, which caused a further 25-minute delay. Marble Arch station closed from 06.20 to 07.55 because of escalator defects, while Angel closed from 09.55 to 11.15 because of water ingress affecting the escalators. A person trackside at Hounslow West at 14.20 suspended the Piccadilly Line west of Northfields until 15.25, with one train stalled approaching Hounslow West authorised to return to Hounslow Central by 15.10. Points failing at North Greenwich at 16.15 suspended the Jubilee Line east of Canary Wharf until 17.45. One westbound train was stalled approaching North Greenwich until 17.00. A track fire at Edgware Road at 16.25 brought the entire Circle and Hammersmith & City lines to a stand, the District Line east of High Street Kensington and the Metropolitan Line south of Wembley Park, all until 17.25. The whole Victoria Line was brought to a stand from 18.50 to 19.25 because of a defective southbound train at Highbury & Islington until 19.25 – four trains were stalled between stations for the duration. Ten trains were cancelled in consequence. A points failure at Whitechapel from the start of traffic kicked off proceedings on **Friday 14 July**, suspending the District and Hammersmith & City lines through the area, along with the Circle Line (via the District Line), all three lines until 08.10. 13 C&H and 36 District Line trains were cancelled as a result. A person ill on a northbound Victoria Line train at Seven Sisters caused a 20-minute delay from 10.10. The train was a depot stabling train and thus subsequent service and stabling trains were queued up in consequence. A fire alarm activated at Tottenham Court Road caused all lines to non-stop from 11.05 to 11.50. Russell Square station closed at 22.55 and Bermondsey from 23.30, both through Night Tube and both because of a lack of staff.

Bermondsey and Russell Square stations remained closed throughout Night Tube on **Saturday 15 July**, reopening for business at 07.00 and 07.15 respectively. Other stations closed for a lack of staff were Chancery Lane (16.35 to 00.05), Stepney Green (20.35 to 21.35) and Bow Road (after 20.40). The Piccadilly Line's Night Tube was brought to a stand from 03.50 until 04.30 because of work needed on points east of Acton Town from a previous failure. Early northbound Northern Line services were delayed for 25 minutes from 05.35 because of a signalling problem at Kennington. There were three instances of obstructions on tracks caused by high winds. First was at Buckhurst Hill (suspended east of Woodford 11.45 to 12.10), followed by West Finchley (Barnet branch (!) suspended 17.05 to 18.05), both because of fallen trees, and finally Bromley-by-Bow at 17.25, where part of the station canopy had come adrift and was blocking the track. This one caused the suspension of the District Line between Tower Hill and Barking, the Circle Line between Edgware Road and Moorgate (via the District Line) and the Hammersmith & City Line east of Moorgate. Services resumed at 19.05, 19.15 and 19.30 respectively. All three lines had previously been affected by a suspect being chased by police, which spilled over onto the track at Monument at 14.55 with the service suspensions as noted above, except for the District Line which was Embankment – West Ham. Services resumed at 16.00 with two trains stalled between stations for the duration. 13 C&H and 18 District Line trains were cancelled following both incidents.

There were two incidents during Night Tube hours early on **Sunday 16 July**. The first was continuing points problems east of Acton Town, which suspended the Piccadilly Line through the area from 03.20 until 04.25. With the east sidings unavailable, Acton Town reversers (early morning and late at night)

were extended to Hammersmith to reverse. The second was the closure of Tottenham Court Road station from 05.50 until 06.20 because of a fire alarm activation. At 07.55, a northbound Bakerloo Line train stalled approaching Wembley Central, suspending the service north of Queen's Park. Two passengers were detrained to the track and led out through a side gate into Station Road. Once movement had been obtained, the train was authorised to return wrong line to Stonebridge Park at 09.35. However, on entering Stonebridge Park Depot at 09.45, the train became stalled off current, keeping services suspended. Once rail jumper leads had been deployed, the train reached the depot at 10.25 with services resuming at 10.50.

Other than the northbound platform at Mornington Crescent being closed because of loose ceiling tiles from 20.25 until the end of traffic, there was nothing out of the ordinary to note for **Monday 17 July!**

Tuesday 18 July continued in a similar manner, with no notable operational incidents. Of course, cancellations for a lack of Train Operators continues, along with defective stock, the Jubilee Line having eight on the reduced timetable for the latter, meaning 44 trains in service. A defect with the fire doors at Blackfriars (LU) station necessitated its closure from 07.10 until 11.20, while Turnpike Lane station closed from 16.30 to 17.05 while the police dealt with a firearms incident.

The Metropolitan Line had a 50-minute late start south of Wembley Park on **Wednesday 19 July** because of an engineer's train that went defective southbound at Finchley Road. It was subsequently moved to Swiss Cottage disused station where it reversed south to north and back to depot. An eastbound District Line train became non-communicating at Upney at 17.35, causing a 30-minute delay while it was worked back into Barking Sidings. A person ill on a westbound train at Green Park suspended the Piccadilly Line between King's Cross and Hammersmith from 20.55 until 21.30. Fulham Broadway station remained closed until 05.40 and Arsenal station closed at 22.25 until the end of traffic, both because of staff shortage.

Stations closed on **Thursday 20 July** were Arsenal (before 07.00 – lack of staff), Regent's Park (16.40 to 17.10 – lift defects) and Marylebone (after 23.50 – Network Rail strike). Operationally, the day began with a tree across the eastbound track east of Upney, preventing the eastbound District Line service from starting up east of Barking. For safety reasons, the westbound service was suspended between Upminster and Barking from 07.00 with both lines resuming at 07.55 with 16 trains cancelled. At the opposite end of the line, the overnight stabler at Richmond forming the first eastbound train at 05.30 was badly vandalised by graffiti, and the second train went defective, which meant that the first passenger train from Richmond was at 06.03. A SPAD by a southbound train approaching Harrow-on-the-Hill at 18.25 suspended the Uxbridge branch of the Metropolitan Line and the Piccadilly Line west of South Harrow, both lines until 19.15. A passenger aboard a northbound Victoria Line train at Green Park was alleged to be carrying a firearm and in consequence the whole Victoria Line was brought to a stand at 22.25 with other lines non-stopping Green Park. Services resumed at 23.00 with one train stalled approaching Stockwell throughout. However, because of Train Operators being over their driving hours, the service was then suspended south of Warren Street until 00.35. A person under a northbound train at Bond Street at 23.00 suspended the Jubilee Line between Waterloo and Finchley Road until 23.55, with one train stalled approaching Bond Street for the duration.

Friday 21 July offered the following:

- Piccadilly Line suspended Oakwood – Cockfosters 05.20 until 05.55 – train gapped off current entering service from the east end of Cockfosters Depot.
- Because of the Network Rail strike, District Line trains ran empty west of Wimbledon Park until Wimbledon opened at 06.40.
- Holloway Road station closed from 12.30 to 13.25 – lift defects.
- Stations closed for a lack of staff were Caledonian Road (06.30 to 10.35) and Finchley Road (19.55 to 21.05).

The only operational problem on **Saturday 22 July** was an aggressive passenger on a terminating train at Heathrow T5, which suspended the Piccadilly Line west of Heathrow T2&3 from 05.10 until 06.15. Staffing issues continue, with the Jubilee Line reaching 13 cancelled trains on the late shift. Stations closed for a lack of staff were Holland Park (17.35 until 23.25) and South Ealing (after 22.45 and into Night Tube until 04.20 Sunday). Escalator defects and a lack of District Line service caused South Kensington station to close a number of times during the day to prevent overcrowding.

All was quiet on **Sunday 23 July** until 13.05, when a radio failure in the Russell Square area necessitated a reduction of services through the affected area until fixed at 15.00 – effectively, this

meant just one train at a time in the section between King's Cross and Holborn in each direction. 14 trains were cancelled in consequence. Angel station went into exit only mode from 13.35 until 17.15 because of escalator defects. The Central Line was suspended between Woodford and Epping from 17.00 to 17.50 when a passenger's foot became trapped between a westbound train and the platform at Loughton. Stations closed for a lack of staff were Goodge Street (02.00 to 11.10 and after 22.00), Bow Road (before 06.35), Holland Park (10.20 to 16.15), Chancery Lane (18.00 to 20.05) and Arsenal (after 23.30).

Monday 24 July was thus:

- Central Line suspended Woodford – Epping 06.25 to 07.30 – person ill on a westbound train at Buckhurst Hill.
- District Line's Richmond branch suspended 07.25 to 09.50 – Network Rail points failure at Richmond. One westbound train in Kew Gardens station was authorised to return wrong line to Gunnersbury and thence eastbound in normal service.
- 25-minute delay approaching Acton Town westbound at 07.25 – SPAD by a westbound Piccadilly Line train at the home signal which "bobbed" (i.e. returned to danger momentarily as the train approached and was therefore 'tripped' on the trainstop).
- Piccadilly Line suspended west of Northfields 17.00 to 18.15 – person trackside between Hounslow East and Osterley. Three trains were stalled between stations throughout.
- Monument station closed 24.00 until the end of traffic – local power failure.
- Station closures for a lack of staff were Goodge Street (before 06.50), Arsenal (before 07.15 and after 22.45) and Holland Park (before 11.20).

On **Tuesday 25 July**, Clapham Common station remained closed until 10.10 because of a local power failure. A person trackside at Latimer Road caused a 25-minute delay to the Circle and Hammersmith & City lines from 20.05, while at 22.45, the Northern Line was suspended between Finchley Central and High Barnet until 23.25 because of a track fire at the latter. Stations closed for a lack of staff were Arsenal (before 07.10 and after 23.30), Chancery Lane (before 08.10), Covent Garden (before 08.35) and Southwark (after 21.15).

Stations closed because of a lack of staff on **Wednesday 26 July** were Arsenal (before 07.05), Southwark (before 07.20), Holland Park (before 08.15), Queensway (after 21.30), Temple (after 21.55) and Bermondsey (after 00.10). Cancellations for no Train Operators reached nine in the evening off-peak on the Metropolitan Line – your writer noted a 30-minute gap on the Uxbridge line which equated to three trains cancelled on the trot. The Piccadilly Line also had 15 trains cancelled for the evening peak. Even on reduced service timetables because of rolling stock non-availability, there were 4 trains cancelled on the Central Line and 6 on the Jubilee¹, both in the morning peak. The only notable incident was a train that became stalled between Highgate and East Finchley northbound at 22.30, causing a 30-minute delay while the problem was investigated and dealt with.

The eastbound District Line was suspended Ealing/Richmond – Earl's Court and the Piccadilly Line between Acton Town and Hammersmith from 05.30 until 06.10 on **Thursday 27 July** because of a person trackside at Turnham Green. Stations closed for a lack of staff were Covent Garden (before 06.50), Temple (before 06.50 and after 22.05), Chancery Lane (18.05 to 19.45) and Southwark (after 23.30).

On **Friday 28 July**, staffing continued to be an issue. The Piccadilly Line had 13 trains cancelled late in the evening and the Metropolitan Line 14 mid-evening because of no Train Operators and the Jubilee Line had 8 trains cancelled for defective stock, leaving just 44 in service for the evening peak (see also footnote, below). Stations closed for a lack of staff were Temple (before 07.10 and after 22.00), Southwark (before 07.25), Holborn (07.30 to 08.15) and Chancery Lane (18.10 to 19.45, after 23.30 and through Night Tube).

In the early hours of Night Tube on **Saturday 29 July**, the Northern Line's Edgware branch was suspended from 02.25 until 03.05 following the report of an obstruction on the track run over by a southbound train in Hendon tunnel – nothing was found after a search. During the day, both the Central and Jubilee lines reached 8 trains cancelled for defective stock. The rest of the day was concerned with stations closures – White City (02.55 to 03.15 – fire alarm activated and consequential 30-minute delay

¹ 4 trains cancelled on the Central Line equates to 67 trains in service instead of 71 (reduced service) or 77 (full service) and on the Jubilee Line 46 trains in service instead of 52 (reduced service) or 57 (full service).

to Night Tube services because of train crews having to be evacuated), Tottenham Court Road (Central Line only 06.50 to 07.20 – passenger altercation), Wimbledon (before 07.05) and Marylebone (after 23.40), both because of the National Rail strike) and Canary Wharf (20.50 to 21.20 – fire alarm activated). Stations closed for a lack of staff were Temple (before 07.15 and after 21.50), Chancery Lane (throughout Night Tube until 08.05, 18.05 to 19.55, after 23.30 and through Night Tube), Arsenal (18.50 to 23.10), and Knightsbridge (after 23.30 and through Night Tube).

Station closures for a lack of staff on **Sunday 30 July** were Chancery Lane (throughout Night Tube until 07.40), Knightsbridge (through Night Tube until 07.55), Temple (before 11.40 and after 21.55), Tower Hill (after 14.15), Southwark (after 21.55) and Knightsbridge (after 22.45). The District Line was suspended west of Parsons Green from 22.05 because of a trespass incident. A group of youths had climbed onto a signal gantry at East Putney and then onto the roof of a westbound train. Services resumed to Wimbledon at 23.00.

On **Monday 31 July**, a late finish to Network Rail engineering work caused the Bakerloo Line not to start up until 07.20 between Queen's Park and Stonebridge Park (suspended north of there because of continuing engineering work). Just as the service began, a Network Rail signal failure at Stonebridge Park kept the service suspended until 08.45 and then again from 11.40 to 15.00, the latter because of signalling problems at Harlesden. The District Line also had a 25-minute late start through Hammersmith because of a late finish to weekend engineering work. Euston LU station closed from 09.45 to 11.45 and again from 15.20 to 17.05, both because of a fault on the station's PA system. A defective northbound Metropolitan Line train was unable to depart from Finchley Road other than in restricted manual at 12.50, eventually reaching Neasden Depot at 13.45, causing a 45-minute delay 'through the road'. A tree across the track near West Finchley suspended the Northern Line between Finchley Central and High Barnet from 14.40 until 16.40. Clapham Common station closed from 15.45 to 17.20 because of escalator defects. A southbound Northern Line train stalled approaching Camden Town at 21.00, suspending the service on the Edgware branch until 22.25, while at Old Street at 00.15, a person trackside caused a 25-minute delay. Stations closed for a lack of staff were Temple (before 07.10), Covent Garden (09.30 to 10.25) and Chancery Lane (after 20.00).