

Highlights

Phase 1: Bicester to Oxford

- Bicester Town station platforms demolished
- Bicester Chord construction progresses
- New track, switches and crossings are being installed

Phase 2: Bicester to Bedford, Milton Keynes to Aylesbury

- Enhancements to the original proposed scheme are being considered
- Topographical, environmental and structural surveys continue
- Consultation dates for railway crossing solutions planned

Phase One - Oxford to Bicester Town

This section will deliver the benefits of a new station at Oxford Parkway (Water Eaton), upgrades to the current stations at Islip and Bicester Town and a new fast Chiltern Railways service between Oxford Parkway and London Marylebone by Spring 2015, and from Oxford to London Marylebone by Spring 2016.

Work to construct the chord to link the Chiltern Mainline is progressing swiftly. A new footbridge has been installed at Tubbs Lane and crossing improvements have been made at London Road level crossing in Bicester. The platforms at Bicester town station have been demolished and a site compound for the station construction work has been established at Banbury Road Sidings.



^ Bicester Chord and Tubbs Lane Footbridge Construction



^ Installation of Switches and Crossings on Chiltern Mainline



^ Installation of Switches and Crossings on Oxford line

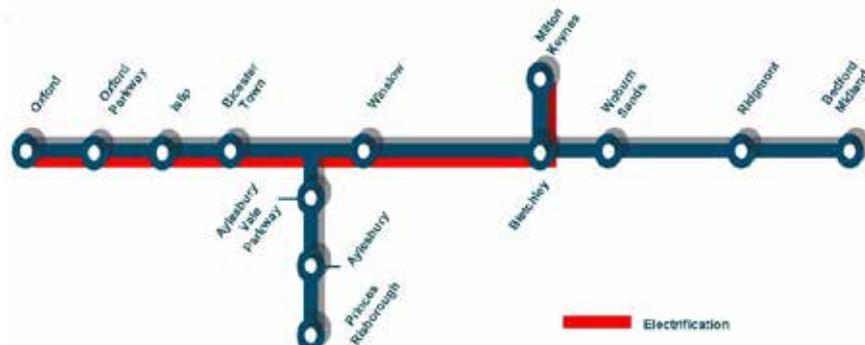
Work is now taking place on haul roads for structures between Bicester and Oxford Parkway and work is due to start on Oxford Parkway station.

Fencing is to be installed between Gavray and the Bicester Eastern Perimeter Road. New track between Claydon and the MOD site in Bicester will be commissioned to support the MOD trains travelling from the east.

For more details of work taking place as it progresses, please visit www.bicestertooxfordcollaboration.com

Phase Two - Bicester to Bedford, Milton Keynes to Aylesbury

This section of the project covers the railway between Bicester and Bedford, Aylesbury and Milton Keynes including building a new station at Winslow and rebuilding the track between Claydon Junction and Bletchley. Work to electrify the line between Oxford and Bletchley will undertaken at the same time.



Developing the Final Specification for East West Rail (Western Section)

On 31st March 2014 Network Rail published its delivery plan for the five-year spending period from April 2014 to March 2019. This plan demonstrates its commitment to deliver the work to reconstruct the railway to enable East West Rail train services to run between Bedford and Oxford, Milton Keynes and Oxford, and Milton Keynes and Aylesbury.

In addition to these 'core' services proposed by the East West Rail Consortium, some further enhancements to the scheme have been proposed by the Department for Transport to increase capacity and reliability of services on the line, to deliver a railway that takes into consideration anticipated demand for at least the next 25 years. This work includes electrification of the line between Oxford and Bedford. Network Rail propose delivering the requirements for electrification of the line between Oxford and Bletchley at the same time as the work required for the core East West Rail services, with electrification of the line between Bletchley and Bedford taking place at a later stage (after March 2019).

The potential 'incremental' requirements, or 'enhancements' of the line are currently being reviewed by Network Rail and may result in further additional work being required. Reconstruction of the East West Rail line must also take into consideration the proposed alignment of HS2 in Buckinghamshire to ensure construction work is delivered efficiently and to minimise disruption.

Network Rail is now undertaking work to identify any additional enhancements to the railway infrastructure required to accommodate both the 'core' and 'incremental' requirements of the line. The relative costs and benefits of the enhancements will then be considered before the final specification for the line is determined, by Spring 2015.

Vegetation Clearance

Work to clear vegetation on the 'mothballed' and other sections of track in Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire was completed in March in advance of birds' nesting season to enable various survey work to be undertaken.

Environmental Surveys

As part of the East West Rail line between Bletchley and Calvert has had no running trains running for a number of years, Network Rail will be conducting environmental surveys in order to understand the potential environmental impact of East West Rail in the local area. On behalf of Network Rail, Thomson Ecology will be undertaking Dormice, Bat Potential, Bat Roost, Bat Emergence and Reptile surveys from 16th June to 29th October 2014.

Between Bletchley and Bicester, surveys will be taking place during the day and night. Dormouse surveys will be completed during normal day time working hours between Calvert and Bletchley, and Calvert and Princes Risborough. Bat Activity and Bat Emergence Surveys will be carried out at night, between dusk and dawn. There may also be some activity outside of these times.

We do not anticipate that local residents will be disturbed by this work but are advising those who live close to the line that there will be a number of ecologists on site throughout this time.



We aim to keep disturbance to a minimum, however, some disturbance may be unavoidable. There will be no large machinery but vehicles and small surveying equipment, including torches, will be used. The people working on site are briefed on working responsibly in the local community.

Topographical Survey - Claydon Junction and Princes Risborough

A topographical survey will be undertaken over the summer months between Claydon Junction and Princes Risborough.

Structural Surveys

Surveys of structures along the route are to be surveyed. A structural survey of Bletchley Flyover is currently underway and due to be completed by August 2014. This survey is necessary because the plan is for East West Rail services to run over the flyover and for new platforms to be built for these services.



Safety Matters

Although sections of the East West Rail line have not been used by trains for some time, the line is still an operational railway. In order to make the railway environment as safe as possible for both the public and people working on the line, we are advising people not to venture onto the railway or cross it at unauthorised crossing points. Unauthorised access to the railway is trespass and enforcement action will be taken to prevent this. New signs have been erected along the length of the line to advise people.



Lucy Druce, Scheme Project Manager for East West Rail is visiting schools in the vicinity of the East West Rail line in Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire to give talks about railway safety. Please contact Lucy directly by emailing lucy.druce@networkrail.co.uk for further information or to arrange a visit at a school in your area.

Notice of Consultations on Crossings and Rights of Way

There are 104 railway crossings along the East West Rail route. All of these crossings have been reviewed by a dedicated 'Crossings and Rights of Way' team to identify what modifications may be required in order to make the railway and crossings as safe as practically possible before East West Rail train services start to operate.

The team has identified potential solutions to replace and improve safety at crossings and public rights of way across the railway, and has been in discussion with the local authorities' Rights of Way Officers, land owners, residents and special interest groups to help identify initial options and proposals.

Between August 2014 and January 2015, a series of consultation meetings is planned where stakeholders are invited to review and comment on these initial proposals for improving railway crossings in Buckinghamshire (west of Bletchley) and Oxfordshire. The purpose of these meetings is to draw on local knowledge at an early stage before more detailed design proposals are developed to help deliver the most appropriate solutions. This series of meetings is a forerunner to any formal consultation required as part of the statutory process to obtain any necessary authorisation for the East West Rail scheme through a Transport and Works Act order.

Further information about work on crossings between Bedford and Bletchley will follow at a later stage.

Public consultation meetings on East West Rail crossings

Meeting Location*	Date*	Railway Crossings	Meeting Location*	Date*	Railway Crossings
Swanbourne	Wednesday 13th August 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weasel's Lodge Swan's Way Swanbourne Old Station Moco Farm No 2 Winslow Footpath No 17 Moco Farm No 1 	Quinton	Wednesday 10th December 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sheephouse Wood Charndon FP No 9 Grendon Underwood Footpath No 31 Ditchburns, Quinton Footpath No 26 Quinton Footpath No 24 Doddershall Upper South Farm Quinton Footpath No 31 North Bucks Way No 1 Lower Blackgrove No 1 Fleet Marston Farm Griffin Lane
Winslow & the Claydons	Wednesday 17th September 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winslow Footpath No 5 Verney Junction Littleworth Farm Middle Claydon Nos 4 & 6 Middle Claydon No 8 Claydon Vehicle Crossing Steeple Claydon No 7 Steeple Claydon No 8 	Little Kimble	Wednesday 28th January 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aylesbury Station Aylesbury No 31 Old Stoke Road Stoke Mandeville No 17 Moat Farm No 2 Moat Farm No 1 Stoke Mandeville No 4 Marsh Lane Dodds Farm Aspley Manor Farm No 2 Aspley Manor Farm No 1 Great and Little Kimble No 29B Great & Little Kimble No 38A Great & Little Kimble No 3B North Bucks Way Footpath No 2B Great & Little Kimble No 2C Great & Little Kimble No 27 Princes Risborough No 31 Westmead Church Path Footpath No 41 Mount Way FP No 2
Marsh Gibbon	Wednesday 22nd October 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shepherd's Furze Grebe Lake Twyford No3 Twyford No 2 Charndon No 3 Poundon No 2 Barnwell Farm Marsh Gibbon 			
Launton & Bicester	Wednesday 19th November 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launton Launton No 2 Launton No 1 Grange Farm Manor Farm Bicester Eastern Perimeter Road Jarvis Lane Footpath Bicester London Road 			

*These dates are provisional and may be subject to change.

Details of times and venues will be publicised nearer the time on the East West Rail website, via local Parish Councils and advertised locally. If you have queries about any specific crossings, please contact the team by email to EWRPublicInformation@networkrail.co.uk

Spreading the Word!

We are keen to spread the word about East West Rail and keep people informed about progress on this exciting project and regularly give talks and presentations to business and community groups.

If you would like to find out more about, please contact Caryl Jones, Communications Manager for the East West Rail Consortium. Phone 07785 927210 or email caryl.jones@bedford.gov.uk

To receive these news and project updates by email, please visit our website and subscribe [here](#).