

Western Section, East West Rail

Bedford to Oxford, Milton Keynes to Aylesbury



Period 4 Report: 23 June – 20 July, 2013

The East West Rail project continues to make steady progress towards its goal of a new rail service between Bedford and Oxford, Milton Keynes and Aylesbury via Bletchley and Winslow and new services from Oxford and Water Eaton Parkway to London Marylebone.

Phase 1 – Oxford to Bicester Town

This section will deliver the benefits of a new station at Water Eaton Parkway, upgrades to the current stations at Islip and Bicester Town and a new service between Oxford and London Marylebone.

Construction begins

The works in this section are already very advanced with new fencing and new badger setts being constructed along the route. The works will be carried out between August 2013 and March 2016 and will be delivered in the three stages.

Newt fencing at Bicester Chord



Stage 1 – Earth Works near Bicester

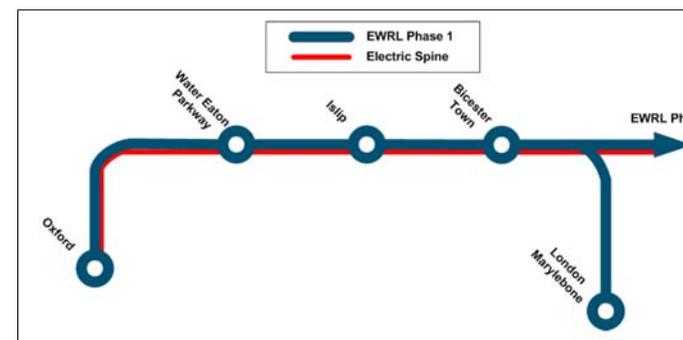
Work to construct a new rail chord between the Oxford Line and Chilterns Main Line east of Bicester is due to start on site in early August 2013 for completion in July 2014. The works will include large earth moving activities with material being brought in by rail.

Stage 2 – Bicester Chord Track Construction

Work will begin in May 2014 to construct a new twin-tracked railway and supporting systems between the new chord through to the new station near Water Eaton Parkway. Work includes construction of a new station at Water Eaton Parkway, station upgrades and new footbridges to support level crossing closures included in the Transport and Works Act Order (TWAO). The works in this area are due to be completed in August 2015.

Stage 3 – Water Eaton Parkway to Oxford Station

Work will start in March 2015 to construct a new twin-tracked railway and supporting systems between the new station at Water Eaton Parkway and Oxford Station. The works will include improvements to Wolvercote Tunnel to support the new service and are due to be complete in March 2016.

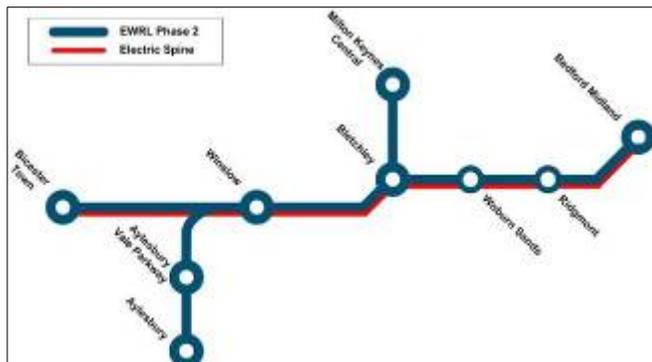


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Phase 2 – Bicester to Bedford, Milton Keynes to Aylesbury

This section of the project covers between Bicester, Aylesbury, Bletchley, Milton Keynes and Bedford and will deliver the benefits of a new station at Winslow, upgrades to Bletchley and ability for new service between Oxford and Bedford. This section will include upgrading the route between Claydon and Bletchley which requires rebuilding due its condition.

Design continues

The works in the section are still under design and development to ensure the benefits of the upgrade are delivered to the rail network. The project team will continue to develop this section over the coming months to establish what modifications are needed to the current infrastructure to support the new services and the benefits the new services will bring.

The plan is to start constructing on site in 2015 to support the target completion date of December 2017, subject to the relevant consents and powers being in place to support the improvements.

Surveys and investigations

Along the Phase 2 section of the route information is currently being gathered through a number of surveys and investigations including Ecology, Land Referencing and asset inspections. This information will be used to inform the design and development of the works to confirm what improvements are needed and to support submission of consents when this section is fully developed.

On-going stakeholder communications

The East West Rail Crossings Task Force is engaging with local authorities and communities to understand how the project can either close, divert or make railway crossings safer along the line. With around 90 crossing points along the entire route, this work will take time, patience and much collaboration. Various meetings have been held with parish councils and other stakeholder groups along the line.

Where can I find out more?

If you would like to find out more about East West Rail and the benefits the project will bring please visit our website at www.eastwestrail.org.uk or contact our Communications team by email info@eastwestrail.org.uk or phone 07785 927210.

