

## PROJECT PROGRESS UPDATE 5

### 11 April 2014

#### PHASE ONE - OXFORD TO BICESTER TOWN

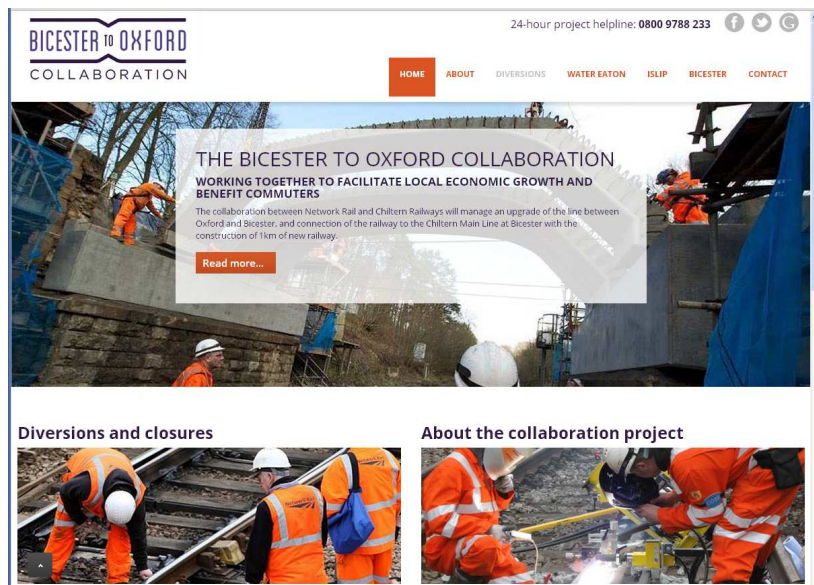
*This section will deliver the benefits of a new station at Oxford Parkway (Water Eaton), upgrades to the current stations at Islip and Bicester Town and a new fast Chiltern Railways service between Oxford and London Marylebone by spring 2016.*



#### New website launched for Bicester to Oxford Collaboration

The collaboration between Chiltern Railways and Network Rail will manage the upgrade of the line between Bicester and Oxford and the construction of an additional 1km of railway to connect the line to the Chiltern Mainline. The project includes building a new one kilometre section of railway to connect the Bicester Town to Oxford line to the Chiltern main line. It will also involve widening the existing track bed; doubling over 18km of track; increasing line speed to 100mph; constructing new overbridges, underbridges and footbridges; closing 37 level crossings; building a new Oxford Parkway station at Water Eaton; upgrading Bicester Town and Islip stations; and installing a new signalling system.

Visit [www.bicestertooxfordcollaboration.com](http://www.bicestertooxfordcollaboration.com) for details of work taking place as it progresses.



#### Progress on Early Work

A footpath has been diverted at Tubbs Lane level crossing and a footbridge site has been established. Surfacing work at Langford House has been completed to provide access for a site compound. A connection on the Chilterns Mainline at Bicester South Junction has been installed to support the future connection of the new chord. Work to upgrade the London Road level crossing has been completed and improvements to the Banbury Road Sidings have been made to support construction of Oxford Parkway Station.

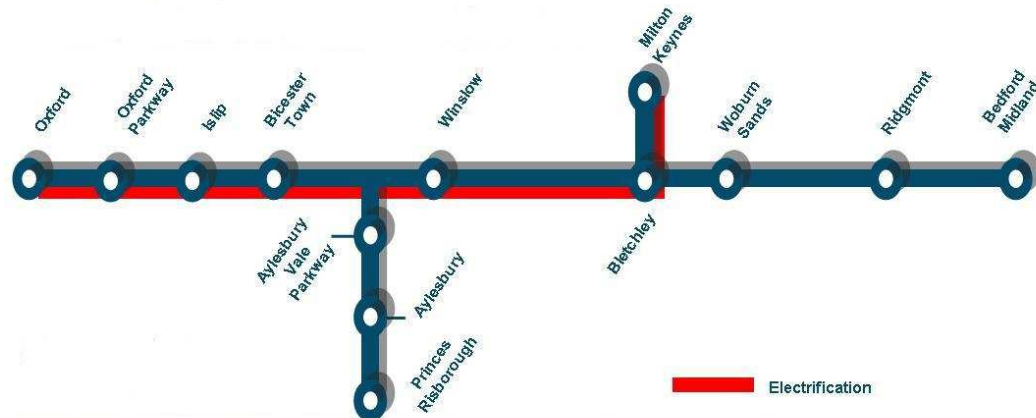


## PROJECT PROGRESS UPDATE 5

### 11 April 2014

#### 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.*



#### Scope and Enhancements Developments

Network Rail published their delivery plan for the spending period April 2014 to March 2019 on 31<sup>st</sup> March. The plan confirms its commitment to deliver the infrastructure for East West Rail (Western Section) passenger services to operate between Bedford and Oxford, Milton Keynes and Aylesbury by March 2019.

In addition to the original 'core' scheme promoted by the East West Rail Consortium, the Department for Transport has identified the route as having potential to deliver further enhancements to the rail network capacity and flexibility, including electrification of the line between Oxford and Bedford. Network Rail is working with stakeholders and industry partners to develop the scope of the scheme to include these proposed enhancements in order to deliver a railway that will be fit for purpose for the next 25 years.

The plan to March 2019 proposes that the work required for core East West Rail services and electrification of the line between Oxford and Bletchley be delivered at the same time for efficiency and to minimise disruption. Minor modifications to the line between Bletchley to Bedford section are planned to enable core East West Rail services to operate, with electrification work planned to take place after March 2019.

#### Preparatory Work

Work is currently underway to clear the mothballed track of vegetation, conduct environmental / ecological survey, survey structures along the route and review all the railway crossings.





## PROJECT PROGRESS UPDATE 5

### 11 April 2014

#### Vegetation Clearance



Vegetation is being cleared from the mothballed section of track between Claydon Junction and Aylesbury and towards Bletchley. Work is being undertaken by Mott MacDonald and an ecologist from Thomson Ecology is present on site while work takes place.



Ecology survey work to date along the mothballed section of track has identified that there are two buildings, three platforms, twenty bridges, 22 culverts and 54 trees with potential for roosting bats in just this stretch.



*Photos courtesy Phil Marsh*



## PROJECT PROGRESS UPDATE 5

### 11 April 2014

#### Safety Matters



Lucy Druce is a Scheme Project Manager working on the East West Rail project. She recently visited Fulbrook Middle School in Woburn Sands to take part in their 'super learning day' on the theme of Safety. Pupils from years 7 & 8 considered various safety topics including railway safety, alcohol, drugs and fire. Railway safety talks focused on level crossings and electrification, explaining the potential hazards and how to stay safe. Further talks are planned at schools along the East West Rail route.

#### 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](http://www.eastwestrail.org.uk) or contact our Communications team by email [info@eastwestrail.org.uk](mailto:info@eastwestrail.org.uk) or phone 07785 927 210.

