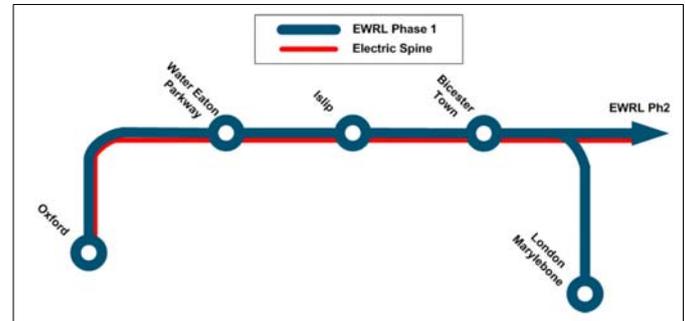


PROJECT PROGRESS UPDATE 2 6 September – 25 September 2013

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.



Collaboration Agreed



The work in this section is being delivered under the new Bicester to Oxford Collaboration, an agreement signed between Network Rail and Chiltern Railways on 30 August 2013. Ground surveys, investigation and ecological works are well underway including construction of new badger setts. All the necessary bat surveys have been completed for the year.

'Bicester Chord' - joining the Oxford Line to the Chiltern Main Line

Work to construct a new 1 km rail link between the two lines east of Bicester has started (and is due for completion in July 2014) and delivery of recycled railway ballast started on 3rd September. Approximately 80,000 tonnes will be delivered by rail near Gavray Drive, Bicester over the next few months to build the new chord. Delivery by rail will avoid road congestion in the area and minimise pollution.



Bicester to Water Eaton Parkway

Work will begin in May 2014 to construct a new twin-tracked railway and supporting systems between the new chord through to the new Oxford Parkway station near Water Eaton. Oxford Parkway will be the first new station to open in Oxfordshire since 1935 and the 20th parkway train station in UK, providing 1000s of Oxford residents new travel opportunities. Journey times from Oxford Parkway to London Marylebone are expected to be under an hour. Islip and Bicester Town stations will be upgraded and new footbridges will be installed to support level crossing closures included in the Transport and Works Act Order. The works in this area are due to be completed in August 2015.

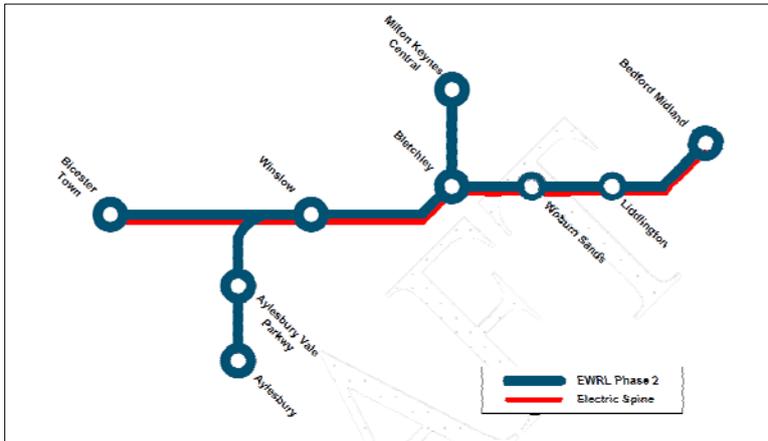
Water Eaton Parkway to Oxford Station

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.



PROJECT PROGRESS UPDATE 2

6 September – 25 September 2013



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.

Ecology and Environment Survey Work is Underway

Ecology and environmental survey work is taking place in September and October 2013 on the mothballed section of track between Claydon and Bletchley. This includes reptile, bat and dormice surveys. Arboriculture and over-wintering bird surveys are being conducted in parallel.

Design Work 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 construction 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.

Railway Crossings

Regular meetings with local authority Rights of Way Officers have been set-up to ensure a collaborative approach is taken to dealing with the 83 railway crossings along the route, which include roads, footpaths and bridleways.

A visit to Woburn Sands and Bow Brickhill level crossings was arranged with Local Councillors.



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.

