

# EWR2 Project Newsletter

## Winter 2021/2022

Bletchley

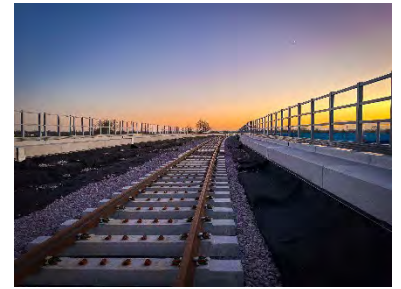


EWR Alliance



# East West Rail Phase 2

## Project Newsletter



New track on Bletchley Flyover, January 2022

### Welcome

Welcome to the winter 2021/2022 issue of the EWR2 Project Newsletter. On behalf of the Alliance, I would like to wish you the very best for 2022, which will be another challenging but exciting year for the project.

This time last year we set out the objective to deliver most of the civil construction work, including the main earthworks, within 2021. I am pleased to advise that the project has successfully achieved these milestones and the overall programme remains on schedule to complete in 2024. From the 3rd quarter of this year the construction activity will decrease significantly and will be focused on installing the track and railway systems while also completing the stations at Winslow and Bletchley. Most of the bridge structures and the main earthworks will be complete and the reinstatement of our compounds and haul roads will have begun. As mentioned in previous newsletters, during the track construction we will predominantly use rail for the delivery of materials and so the number of will reduce from the 3rd quarter of this year.

The good progress in 2021 has not been without challenges and we remain acutely aware of the disruption the project has caused to the local community. Once again, on behalf of the Alliance I would like to apologise for the disruption the project has caused. Please be assured that we will continue our efforts to mitigate the disruption as much as possible. I would also like to thank everyone for their patience and feedback, as well as all those who have supported our various community consultation activities. In particular, thank you to the residents affected by the delayed reopening of Sandhill Road which turned out to be one of the key Covid challenges for the project during the year.

As you will read in the Project Progress section below, since the Autumn issue of our newsletter we have continued to make significant progress at our work sites, including Bletchley Flyover, where we have now installed over 1.5km of track over the flyover and surrounding area which will enable engineering trains to access the remainder of the project.

At the west end of the project, Charbridge Lane was successfully re-opened in early December which switched traffic onto a new road alignment whilst we continue to build the permanent southern approach to the new bridge. We hope to complete the final traffic diversion and fully open the road on its new permanent alignment in late summer.

I hope you enjoy reading more about the progress being made in this issue of the newsletter and as ever, thank you for your continued support and interest in the project.

**Mark Cuzner**, Alliance Director

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## First engineering trains pass over the new Bletchley Flyover

In a hugely significant moment for the East West Rail project, the first engineering trains that will help build the track from Bletchley to Bicester were able to make their way across Bletchley Flyover in mid-January, the first time any locomotive has used the structure since it was closed to freight traffic in 1993.

The trains - delivering ballast stone to facilitate the track works - were the first of 434 such trains that will be used during this phase of the project.

This follows the completion of the structural works required to dismantle and rebuild sections of the flyover and the construction of a new 'box bridge' structure over the West Coast Main Line to bring the structure up to modern standards and increase its asset life from 60 to 120 years.

Track Project Leader, Joe Jamieson said "It's fantastic to see trains in operation across the new flyover. There has been a lot of hard work and effort across the entire Alliance to get us into this position and it's really rewarding to see the first trains in operation."

precast concrete components being installed for the two new platforms and staircases.



Bletchley Flyover structural competition, November 2021. Image courtesy of Network Rail Air Ops



The Alliance construction team hand over the completed flyover to the track team in November 2021

As the work needed to be completed whilst the West Coast Main Line was closed, the first sections of track on the flyover were laid during Christmas Day and Boxing Day and the team have now installed over 1.5km of track in the area. In addition, in late January, our Signalling, Power & Communications (SP&C) team commissioned new signalling equipment which enables engineering trains to access the site without whilst the West Coast Main Line remains operational – meaning our works can continue to carry on without disruption to rail services.

Alliance Director, Mark Cuzner said: "The team has continued to make fantastic progress since we completed the rebuild of the Bletchley Flyover in October last year. Starting our track works on schedule is key to maintaining our programme as the engineering trains are booked months in advance.

"With the commissioning of the new rail in the Bicester area in mid-2020, It is now possible to signal trains into the project during operational hours at both the eastern and western fringes, which is key to our strategy to deliver as much of the materials to site via rail as possible – reducing our impact on the local road network and local residents."



## Winslow Station works well underway

**The construction of the new Winslow Station is now well underway, with the two new platforms starting to take shape.**

Winslow station forms a key part of East West Rail, which will deliver vital transport connections for communities between Oxford and Cambridge and provide people with faster journeys and more affordable travel.

The station itself is located in the cutting of the original railway line closed in the 1960s and will include two platforms serving Oxford and Milton Keynes, with lift/footbridge access, as well as waiting shelters, toilets, cycle storage, customer information systems, CCTV and a new car park.

Preparatory works began in summer 2020, with activities including site clearance, de-vegetation and the installation of a drainage system needed to drain the water-logged cutting completed by the spring of 2021, when our earthworks contractors began the installation of the permanent drainage system and the strengthening the railway embankments, in preparation for track and the installation of sheet piling needed to support the construction of the new platforms, which is now well underway.

Outlining the work, David Ebdon, Project Manager for Winslow station explained: "The platforms themselves are constructed from over 500 pre-cast concrete units, delivered to site over a three-month period and lifted into place using a 250-tonne crawler crane located at the top of the cutting.

"On completion of the platforms and supporting works, we then move on to construction of the main station building and forecourt areas, which will take place between the spring and winter of this year, followed by installation of the station footbridge, plus construction of the car park which will run throughout 2023."

Overall construction of the new station building and platforms is scheduled for completion in spring 2023, with supporting track and signalling works running from late 2022 to late 2023.



Winslow Station Platforms under construction in December 2021

## Community engagement events in 2022



**Thank you to everyone who attended our Newton Longville community drop-in at the Free Church on Tuesday 25 January where the Alliance team answered questions from over 60 members of the local community.**

The drop-in is part of a planned schedule of community engagements that will take place throughout the year, including further compound open days following the successful event held in Winslow last year.

More details about other forthcoming events will follow in the next edition of the newsletter.

If you would like the team to visit your area, or join a regular community meeting, then please get in touch via [publicinformation@ewralliance.co.uk](mailto:publicinformation@ewralliance.co.uk)



## Grange Farm footbridge opens to the public

The new Grange Farm footbridge near Launton was successfully opened to the public on Friday 21 January, allowing for the re-opening of the Public Right of Way (PRoW) in the area and enabling local residents to safely cross the railway

Aligned to Network Rail's commitment to eliminate safety risks by removing level crossings where possible, the existing user-operated crossing and the supporting public right of way at Launton near Bicester was closed in March 2020 to allow the Alliance to create a temporary haul road that could be used by construction traffic serving the project.

The new footbridge is the second of ten to be installed along the line of route from Bicester to Bletchley and is constructed from weatherproof, fibre reinforced polymer, making it easier to maintain than conventional materials such as steel or concrete.

The installation works on the new footbridge began in Summer 2021, with the last few months spent carrying out works to the existing public rights of way, including introduction of way marker signs, gates and supporting footpaths.

The first of the ten new footbridges was officially opened to the public at Jarvis Lane in Bicester in October of last year, with the remaining eight scheduled for completion by this summer.



Launton Parish Councillor Simon Turner and Mel Banks, Project Leader for the EWR Alliance open the new bridge



## Public Rights of Way re-opening schedule

**We recognise that Public Rights of Way (PRoW) are an important resource for the community and seek to minimise closures of PRoWs where possible. In some instances, closures must be made to ensure public safety whilst works are undertaken, for example to divert watercourses and reroute PRoWs.**

The Alliance is seeking to reopen the PRoWs affected by the project as early as possible and again make them available to the community.

We have created an interactive guide to share information regarding each of the current and future PRoW closures, including guidance indicating when the PRoW is scheduled to re-open.

To view the guide, scan the QR code below on any internet-connected mobile device:



Please note, this information is subject to change and any closures/re-openings will be notified nearer the time by the Alliance via the local authorities as necessary.



## Second traffic switch at Charbridge Lane completes on time

One of the most significant construction activities in the area will be the new road bridge on Charbridge Lane, which is being constructed using multiple temporary road diversions to minimise disruption to the local community.

The EWR Alliance successfully completed the first temporary traffic diversion of Charbridge Lane in early 2021 to enable construction work for the new bridge to begin and for our earthworks contractors to construct the northern and southern approach embankments needed to connect the road network to the new structure.

In late 2021, a second traffic switch was put in place, allowing traffic to cross over the new bridge on a temporary road alignment. The team are now focused on completing the construction of the southern approach embankment and will complete the final traffic switch in spring 2022, when traffic will begin to use the new permanent road alignment.

Alliance Director Mark Cuzner said “Achieving the traffic diversions at Charbridge Lane has long been a critical milestone in our programme and our team at Charbridge Lane have done a fantastic job to meet those dates on schedule and with minimal disruption.

The Alliance remains on track to complete the final traffic switch and fully open the bridge in spring 2022.



The second traffic switch for the construction of the new Charbridge Lane overbridge was completed in late 2021



A CGI render of the new Charbridge Lane overbridge

## Mud on the Roads



**All EWR2 sites have provision for cleaning wheels of our construction vehicles before they enter the public highway. Unfortunately, during recent periods of adverse weather there have been instances of mud getting on to the public highway. We apologise for the nuisance this has caused to road users. We have implemented an improvement plan to address the issues and avoid further reoccurrence.**

We have also strengthened the road sweeping regime that is in operation around our sites. Our traffic marshals will also continue to monitor the condition of the roads and ensure the situation remains satisfactory.

The Alliance has been working closely with Buckinghamshire Council and their traffic ambassadors to manage this issue and we thank communities for their patience when allowing our road sweepers to clean areas.

If you would like to raise any issues you can do so via

[publicinformation@ewralliance.co.uk](mailto:publicinformation@ewralliance.co.uk) or  
the 24/7 Network Rail Helpline  
03457 11 41 41.



## Acoustic barriers installed two years early to help mitigate noise for local residents

**With the introduction of new rail services when the East West Rail line opens, naturally this will create noise for local residents whose properties are in the immediate vicinity of the railway.**

Through the development stage of the project, the EWR Alliance has carried out extensive acoustic surveys to determine locations where it is necessary to install acoustic barriers to reduce noise levels for those living in close proximity to the railway.

These surveys indicated that several locations along the line of the new route in Winslow, Verney Junction, Steeple Claydon and Bletchley would require the installation of acoustic barriers.

The barriers are required to be in place before train services commence, however, the Alliance has opted to install the barriers as early as possible so that residents can benefit from the potential noise reduction during the construction phase of the project.

Our specialist contractors Gramm Barrier Systems Ltd commenced installation of the barriers in late 2021 and works across the four areas identified is scheduled to complete during spring 2022.



EWR Company CEO Simon Blanchflower CBE with members of the Alliance and EWR Company outside Twyford Community Stores Cafe

## Thank you to Twyford Community Stores Cafe

**We would like to thank Twyford Community Stores Café for their hospitality during a project visit hosted by the EWR Alliance and EWR Company shortly before Christmas.**

EWR2 was hosting leaders from across the rail industry to provide an update on project progress. During the lunchtime stop at Twyford guests were treated to a delicious pit stop at the Twyford Community Stores Café, owned and operated by residents of the village, which provided an excellent opportunity to meet local residents and give something back to the community business.

Thanks to everyone at Twyford Community Stores Café for their warm welcome and hospitality.





## Alliance team muck in at Curly Tails Pig Sanctuary

As part of our ongoing commitment to leave a lasting social legacy during the delivery of the project, members of the Alliance and our earthworks supply chain partners recently spent an afternoon with volunteers at Curly Tails Pig Sanctuary in Newton Longville.

Putting their Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and work boots to good use (and never being more thankful for their protection!), the team carried out some maintenance and tidying for the sanctuary, who rescue mistreated, neglected and abandoned pigs, or pet pigs whose owners can no longer care for them.

Since the sanctuary was established in 2016, Curly Tails has also become a learning, education and wellbeing centre, working with local schools, children's charities, additional needs centres, and respite centres for the elderly.

Tasks completed included gate repairs, clearing scrap and vegetation, and clearing old structures to enable the construction of new buildings at the sanctuary.

Alliance Deputy Director, Mark James said: "Despite the challenging conditions, it was a really enjoyable afternoon spent learning about the fantastic work Curly Tails and their volunteers do, and enjoying the charming company of the pigs, who definitely kept us all entertained!

"We hope to return in the future to help restore paths and connect running water, and hope to be able to re-use materials from the project once we begin to demobilise our compounds."

If you have any community events or projects we might be able to help with, please contact us via [publicinformation@ewralliance.co.uk](mailto:publicinformation@ewralliance.co.uk)



Members of the team with donations collected from our main project office in Milton Keynes

## £1000 Christmas collection for food banks in Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire

Continuing its work with local food banks, in the lead up to the Christmas period, the Alliance and its supply chain partners organised a collection for the MK Food Bank in Buckinghamshire and Bicester Food Bank in Oxfordshire for the two organisations to distribute to those in need across the two counties.

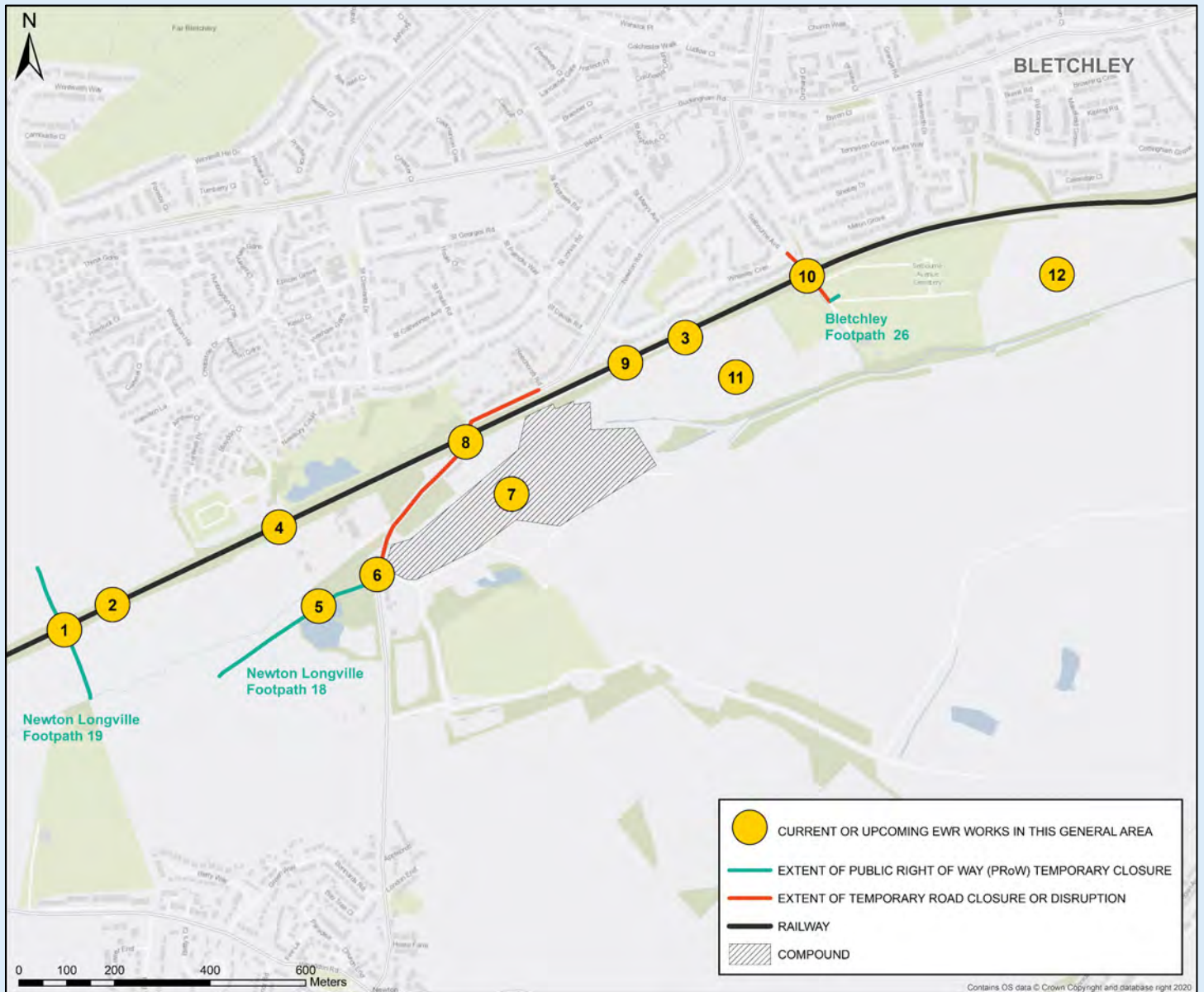
Across the Alliance compounds and project offices, nearly £1000 worth of donations were collected for the two organisations, including essential items such as tinned and jarred goods, cereal and porridge, dried pasta as well as Christmas treats and sweets.



## Progress in your area – Bletchley

The coded maps in this section mark out areas of Bletchley where we will be working. Use the numbers to find out what is happening in each area, and what activity is coming up in the next three months.

### West Bletchley





## 1. Trenches underbridge replacement

**Description:** The existing bridge is to be demolished and replaced with a new bridge to support the new railway. We will also be diverting an existing water main.

**Duration:** Construction began in summer 2020 and is now complete.

**Disruption:** Newton Longville footpath 19 has been closed to allow the existing bridge to be demolished and the new bridge to be constructed. The footpath is also crossed by our temporary haul road between compounds, so needs to remain closed whilst the haul road is in operation in the interests of public safety.

**Recent progress:** Final finishing works have been undertaken and the diversion of the existing water main is complete.

## 2 & 3. Railway works

In March/April we started preparing the formation for the new railway to be constructed in these areas. The formation provides the ground upon which the new railway will be installed, consisting of earthworks and drainage installation. The installation of the track is due to begin in early 2022.

## 4. Tompkins underbridge repairs

**Description:** We will repair and strengthen the existing underbridge so that it can accommodate the new railway. Work will include brickwork repairs, replacing the parapets and new waterproofing.

**Duration:** We started ecology works in early summer 2020 and began strengthening and repairing the bridge in autumn 2020. These works are due to be completed by spring 2022.

**Disruption:** Access under the bridge will be restricted during the construction works.

**Recent progress:** The second phase of repair works have commenced, including waterproofing works.

**Upcoming Activity:** We will complete the second phase of repairs by spring 2022, including installation of handrails and final finishes.

## 5. Haul road construction

**Description:** We have constructed a new haul road which will allow us to move our construction vehicles and machinery across some of our sites which will minimise disruption to local roads. The reinstatement of the haul road to its original condition will commence in the spring of 2022.

## 6 & 7. Compound construction and access

**Description:** We have built a compound to provide site offices, welfare facilities and materials storage which will be used throughout the duration of our construction work. We will also build an access route which will enable construction traffic to get onto the new railway construction site through the compound and a new haul road connecting to our compound near Whaddon Road in Newton Longville. This will mean we can reduce the amount of construction traffic using local roads between these two areas.

**Recent progress:** The compound is fully operational and is being used to facilitate the main earthworks required in the area.

## 8. Newton Road underbridge repairs

**Description:** We will refurbish the existing Newton Road underbridge. Work will include new waterproofing, brickwork repairs and deck strengthening works.

**Duration:** Work began in summer 2020 and is due for completion by spring 2022.

**Recent progress:** We have undertaken waterproofing works to the bridge deck and drainage installation in the last period.

**Upcoming Activity:** We will complete the second phase of repairs by spring 2022, including installation of handrails and signage.

## 9. Cattle underbridge repairs

**Description:** We will refurbish the existing Cattle Arch underbridge. Works will include new waterproofing, brickwork repairs and installing new parapets.

**Duration:** Work began in autumn 2020 and is due for completion in spring 2022.

**Recent progress:** Waterproofing of the bridge deck has been undertaken and acoustic barriers have been installed to either side of the bridge.

**Upcoming Activity:** Final finishing works are now being carried out, including installation of handrails and signage.

## 10. Selbourne Avenue underbridge repairs

**Description:** The existing bridge is to be upgraded to support the new railway. The work will involve demolishing parts of the bridge, piling works to reinforce the existing structure and installing new parapets. We will also install new handrailing and waterproof the deck.

**Duration:** Work began in summer 2020 and is due for completion in spring 2022.

**Recent progress:** Waterproofing of the bridge deck has been undertaken and acoustic barriers have been installed to either side of the bridge. Access steps for future maintenance of the railway have also been constructed.

**Upcoming Activity:** Final finishing works are now being carried out, including installation of handrails and signage.

## 11. Compensation Flood Storage Area

**Description:** We have constructed a new compensation flood storage area (CSFA) in this area to provide alternative flood water storage areas which will protect the area from flooding as the new railway is constructed.

**Recent progress:** These works are now complete.

## 12. Environmental Compensation Site

These sites have been established to mitigate our impact on the local ecology. They include the creation of aquatic habitat features like river back waters, grasslands, scrub and woodland with specific species and features for badger, otter, reptiles, great crested newts, bats, butterflies etc.



## Progress in your area – Bletchley

The coded maps in this section mark out areas of Bletchley where we will be working. Use the numbers to find out what is happening in each area, and what activity is coming up in the next three months.

### Central Bletchley





## 1. East Water Eaton Road Compound and access point

**Description:** The East Water Eaton Road compound and access road provides us access to the East side of the West Coast Main line so we can carry out work on the Bletchley Flyover.

**Duration:** The compound and access point was established in the summer of 2020 and will remain in place until spring 2022. Once the compound is demobilised a large proportion of this area will be restored to its former condition.

**Disruption:** There will be an increase in construction traffic using the compound and access point whilst the works take place. Work in this area will include night-time working. This is because much of our work needs to take place when the West Coast Main Line is non-operational – for the safety and integrity of the railway. We will be monitoring light and noise levels on site to keep disruption to a minimum. If residents do experience any issues, these can be reported to our team on site, or via Network Rail's 24/7 helpline on 03457 11 41 41 or [www.networkrail.co.uk/contactus](http://www.networkrail.co.uk/contactus)

**Recent Progress:** Work has begun to restore this area to its former condition. We have completed the construction of the main structural elements of the new flyover structure, and we are now installing track. The protective barrier which allowed our workforce to carry out work whilst the railway was running has now been removed and minor finishing works such as joint sealing, anti-graffiti coating application and bird spike installation are well advanced.

**Upcoming activity:** In the next three months we will continue restore the area and will complete the minor finishing works. The track team will continue to install the new track across the structure and landscaping and fencing works will near completion.

## 2. Water Eaton Road Compound

**Description:** Our Water Eaton Road Compound is located in the car park of the old Cable & Wireless building (aka Mercury House). The compound provides us with access to the West Coast Main Line and the Bletchley Flyover in order to carry out our works.

**Duration:** The compound was established in September 2019 and will remain in place until the flyover construction work is complete in spring 2022. Once works are complete, we will reinstate the land to its former condition.

**Disruption:** The site will be used throughout our works on the Bletchley Flyover. There will be an increase in construction traffic using the compound whilst the works take place.

**Recent progress:** We have started to reinstate the Water Eaton Road compound to its former condition.

## 3. Wellington Place Compound

**Description:** Our Wellington Place compound was established in the spring of 2019 and provides site offices, staff welfare, staff parking and materials storage, as well as an access point to the Bletchley Flyover. It is the main control centre used to manage our work on the West Coast Main Line.

**Duration:** The Wellington Place Compound will remain operational until our activities are complete. We will then return the land to its former condition.

**Disruption:** Our Wellington Place compound will cause minimal disruption. EWR staff are not permitted to park on local roads, they must instead use the Wellington Place compound car park – helping us minimise disruption to the local community. Wherever possible, our staff access the Water Eaton Road compound via the access point provided by the Wellington Place compound.

## 4, 8 & 9. Bletchley Flyover refurbishment works

**Description:** One of the most significant and complex elements of the entire East West Rail Phase Two project, the upgrades we're making to the Bletchley Flyover will bring the structure up to modern standards and will ensure it is structurally sound for the next 120 years. We have carried out maintenance and repairs in various locations spanning the

length of the flyover and the sections that span the West Coast Main Line and Buckingham Road have been dismantled and re-built in order to safely accommodate new, modern rail services.

**Duration:** Our works on the Bletchley Flyover started in August 2019, however, ramped up significantly since April 2020. The works are due to finish in spring 2022.

**Recent Progress:** We have completed the construction of the main structural elements of the new flyover structure and we are now installing track.

**Disruption:** We continue to carry out of hour work when the railway is closed to traffic – as ever - if residents do experience any issues, these can be reported to our team on site, or via Network Rail's 24/7 helpline on 03457 11 41 41 / [www.networkrail.co.uk/contactus](http://www.networkrail.co.uk/contactus) or via [publicinformation@ewralliance.co.uk](mailto:publicinformation@ewralliance.co.uk)

## 5. Buckingham Road site

**Description:** Our Buckingham Road site was established in early July 2019 and was used to dismantle the sections of the flyover that span Buckingham Road and Duncombe Street. In early summer 2021, we re-opened the site and closed Buckingham Road to install the new beams needed for the new flyover structure. The main structural elements of the new flyover are now complete in this area with track construction well advanced on top of the new structure.

**Duration:** Works in this area will be complete by spring 2022.

**Upcoming activity:** Work on this section of the flyover is nearly complete. Over the coming weeks the team will start to complete the finishing works with fencing and landscaping being completed.

## 6 & 7. Bletchley High Level Station & CEMEX area

**Description:** We are building two new high-level platforms at Bletchley Station, which will enable the station to become a stop on the East West Rail line once it's opened. The new station will be accessed via a new link bridge extension from the existing Bletchley Station platforms to the west.

**Duration:** The work in this area started in early 2021 and will run through to mid 2022.

**Disruption:** There will be limited disruption to the existing station through this period, so train passengers should see limited impact.

**Recent activity:** We have completed piling the foundations for the new Bletchley Station footbridge and the installation of steelwork and precast concrete components has progressed for the station and platforms.

**Upcoming activity:** Construction of the main building and high level platforms will continue until autumn 2022. The new link footbridge is due to be installed and completed by the end of the year.

## 10. Railway works

**Description:** Throughout the Bletchley Flyover works, we will be carrying out changes to the Signalling, Power & Communications (SP&C) equipment and Overhead Line Equipment (OLE) on the West Coast Main Line. Now we have completed the construction of the main structural elements of the new flyover structure, we have begun installing track. Not only will this provide the track for the new East West Rail line once it opens, it is now being used by engineering trains to deliver materials to site.

**Duration:** Installation of the track will continue into spring 2022. We will then start the installation of railway systems – signalling, power & communications systems in autumn 2022.

**Disruption:** Track installation work will involve some out of hours deliveries by train.

**Upcoming activity:** The team has installed one line of track over the new flyover which is now being used by engineering trains. Work will now continue on the second line heading from the Bletchley High Level Station area, across the flyover and into West Bletchley in 2022.





## EWR2 Earthworks - Winter 2021/2022 update

The Alliance's earthworks programme is now well-advanced – a critical component in the successful delivery of the project.

This involves preparing and forming the circa 1 million m3 of earthworks required for the construction of the railway infrastructure and track, for example by creating embankments, slopes and cuttings needed to facilitate the passage of trains.

The earthworks programme is being delivered by our two specialist contractors, J Murphy & Sons and Buckingham Group Contracting Ltd, who are operating out of the construction compounds we have established along the route. J Murphy & Sons (JMS) will be responsible for the delivery of the earthworks at the eastern end of the project between Bletchley and Verney Junction–whilst Buckingham Group (BGCL) are responsible for the delivery of earthworks on the western side of the project between Bicester and Verney Junction.

### Progress Update

Since the last issue of the newsletter, the earthworks contractors have now handed back 10 of the 25 worksites to the Alliance, including the completion of earthworks from Bletchley flyover through to Salden Wood, which has enabled us to start the construction of track in the area on programme.

To summarise progress across our earthworks programme:

- Buckingham Group:
  - The first phase of the earthworks at Station Road, Launton overbridge has been completed and handed to the highways team to progress ahead of the opening of the bridge.
  - At Charbridge Lane overbridge, the traffic switch onto a new temporary road alignment was completed in late 2021 and we have started on the second phase of earthworks for the structure, which involves building the embankment which will form the southern approach to the new bridge. These works are due to complete in spring 2022, when the bridge will open to road traffic on its new permanent road alignment.
  - 8km of trackbed (the surface upon which the new track will be installed) has been completed at our Poundon/Marsh Compound and Green Lane, Twyford Compound.
  - The backfill at Queen Catherine Road overbridge and Verney Road overbridge is substantially complete.
- John Murphy & Sons:
  - A total of 13km of trackbed has been installed in various areas of the project in Murphy's control. There remains 2km of trackbed left to complete around Verney Junction, which will be complete by spring 2022.
  - All of the track drainage has been installed. This will prevent the trackbed becoming waterlogged through the winter period.
  - At Salden Wood the earthworks for the new overbridge have been handed over to the utilities and highways team to complete their works ahead of the bridge opening to road traffic in spring 2022.
  - All of the culverts and under track crossings in J Murphy & Sons' scope have been installed.

The good weather we have experienced in recent weeks, combined with the Section 61 consent we have gratefully had supported in Newton Longville – Mursley to extend our working hours has meant we have been able to recover some of our late start and our teams are now regularly over-achieving on our planned volumes overall.



Read the interactive, electronic version of this newsletter by scanning the QR Code:



## Localised Earthworks Updates

The list below provides a summary of our earthworks programme across the project:

### Charbridge Lane overbridge

**Description:** As part of our works to construct the new overbridge at Charbridge Lane, our earthworks contractor will create the bridge approach embankments.

**Duration:** Late spring 2021 to early 2022.

**Likely disruption:** Residents will continue to see increased construction traffic as the bridge is constructed. All closures will be publicised on [one.network](#) and appropriate signage will be displayed.

**Supply Chain Partner:** BGCL.

### Charbridge Lane to Station Road, Launton

**Description:** Our earthworks contractor will be widening the rail corridor, installing drainage and constructing the track bed for the new EWR2 track to be installed.

**Duration:** Earthworks in this area are due to commence late spring 2021 and will complete in early 2022.

**Likely disruption:** No disruption to local residents is anticipated due to works being restricted to the disused railway line. However, plant and vehicle movements will be visible from surrounding areas.

**Supply Chain Partner:** BGCL.

### Station Road overbridge, Launton

**Description:** As part of our works to construct the new bridge structure at Station Road, Launton, our earthworks contractor will create the bridge approach embankments.

**Duration:** Late spring 2021 to early 2022 (Please note: this duration reflects earthworks programme and not the entire length of the Station Road, Launton road closure currently in place, which will continue until spring 2022).

**Likely disruption:** Earthworks for this activity is not anticipated to be the cause of disruption, however – as above, Station Road Launton will be closed until spring 2022. For more information, please refer to the Station Road update in the Bicester & Launton section of the [newsletter](#).

**Supply Chain Partner:** BGCL.

### East of Station Road, Launton – Station Road, Marsh Gibbon

**Description:** Our Earthworks contractor will be using the existing railway line to transport materials to be placed within Station Road overbridge, as well as widening the rail corridor, installing drainage and constructing the track bed for the new EWR2 track to be installed.

**Duration:** Spring 2021 to spring 2022.

**Likely disruption:** We anticipate there will be minor disruptions to journeys as a result of a general increase in construction traffic at Station Road and Bicester Road north of Marsh Gibbon. No specific disruption is anticipated as a result of the construction works along the railway corridor with the exception of a small number of dwellings close to the railway who may be able to hear the works taking place during working hours.

**Supply Chain Partner:** BGCL.

### Station Road, Marsh Gibbon to Main Street, Charndon

**Description:** Our earthworks contractor will be widening the rail corridor, installing drainage and constructing the track bed in this area.

**Duration:** Spring 2021 – spring 2022.

**Likely disruption:** No specific disruption is anticipated during the

construction works along the railway corridor, however, there will be at times road closures required to facilitate bridge repairs. You can find out more about these closures in the Marsh Gibbon, Poundon, Charndon & Twyford Progress update section of this [newsletter](#).

**Supply Chain Partner:** BGCL

### Queen Catherine Road overbridge

**Description:** As part of our works to construct a new bridge at Queen Catherine Road, our earthworks contractor will create the bridge approach embankments.

**Duration:** Spring 2021 – summer 2022 (Please note this is the total bridge duration, however, the earthworks is anticipated to finish sooner).

**Likely disruption:** Expected disruption to local residents will include noise, dust and vibration from plant movements and material handling. We will implement a range of control measures to minimise impacts as much as possible and our works will be discussed on a monthly basis with Buckinghamshire Council Environmental Health Consultant.

**Supply Chain Partner:** BGCL.

### Queen Catherine Road to Verney Junction

**Description:** Our Earthworks contractor will be using the existing railway line to transport materials to be placed within Queen Catherine Road overbridge as well as widening the rail corridor, installing drainage and constructing the track bed upon which the new EWR2 track will be installed.

**Duration:** Spring 2021 – summer 2022.

**Likely disruption:** Expected disruption to local residents will include noise and dust from plant movements. We will implement a range of control measures to minimise impacts as much as possible and our works will be discussed on a monthly basis with Buckinghamshire Council Environmental Health Consultant.

**Supply Chain Partner:** BGCL.

### Verney Junction overbridge north approach

**Description:** As part of our works to construct a new bridge at Verney Junction, our earthworks contractor will create the bridge approach embankments.

**Duration:** Spring 2021 – spring 2022.

**Likely disruption:** Expected disruption to local residents will be noise and dust from plant movements. EWRA will implement a range of control measures to minimise impacts as much as possible and works discussed on a monthly basis with Buckinghamshire Council Environmental Health Consultant.

**Supply Chain Partner:** BGCL.

### Verney Junction overbridge south approach

**Description:** As part of our works to construct a new bridge at Verney Junction, our earthworks contractor will create the bridge approach embankments.

**Duration:** Spring 2021 – spring 2022.

**Likely disruption:** Expected disruption to local residents will be noise and dust from plant movements. EWRA will implement a range of control measures to minimise impacts as much as possible and works discussed on a monthly basis with Buckinghamshire Council Environmental Health Consultant.

**Supply Chain Partner:** JMS.



## Verney Junction overbridge to Furze Lane Compound

**Description:** Earthworks in this area has already begun with the construction of the track bed that will provide the foundation for the EWR2 track to be constructed upon.

**Duration:** Spring 2021 – spring 2022.

**Likely disruption:** Expected disruption to local residents will include noise, vibration and dust from plant movements. EWRA will implement a range of control measures to minimise impacts as much as possible and works discussed on a monthly basis with Buckinghamshire Council Environmental Health Consultant.

**Supply Chain Partner:** JMS.

## Winslow New Station to Furze Lane Compound

**Description:** Our earthworks contractor has completed the earthworks required for the construction of the new station at Winslow, however, earthworks between the new Winslow station and Furze Lane are ongoing. Our Utilities contractor has begun diverting various utilities within this area.

**Duration:** Spring 2021 – spring 2022.

**Likely disruption:** Expected disruption to local residents will include noise, vibration and dust from plant movements. Other works, including sheet piling, will be taking place at this location, associated with the construction of Winslow Station and the new Station Platforms, where similar disruption is possible. EWRA will implement a range of control measures to minimise impacts as much as possible and works discussed on a monthly basis with Buckinghamshire Council Environmental Health Consultant.

**Supply Chain Partner:** JMS.

## Furze Lane Compound to Station Road, Swanbourne Compound

**Description:** Our earthworks contractor has begun excavation and fill works within this section has removed the old Winslow Station platforms ready for the installation of the new platforms, which began in late 2021. Track bed and drainage construction will also be taking place throughout this section.

**Duration:** Spring 2021 – spring 2022.

**Likely disruption:** Expected disruption to local residents will include noise, vibration and dust from plant movements. EWRA will implement a range of control measures to minimise impacts as much as possible and works discussed on a monthly basis with Buckinghamshire Council Environmental Health Consultant.

**Supply Chain Partner:** JMS.

## Whaddon Road, Newton Longville to Station Road, Swanbourne Compound

**Description:** Our earthworks contractor has completed the construction of the drainage and track bed works for rail corridor widening that will provide the foundation for the EWR2 track to be constructed upon.

**Duration:** Work began in spring 2021 and was completed in late autumn.

**Likely disruption:** Some disruption from noise and dust is possible for the few properties in the vicinity of the Swanbourne compound, otherwise, no specific nuisances are anticipated during the construction works along the railway corridor with the exception of a small number of dwellings close to the railway. Control measures will be applied where possible to minimise impacts.

**Supply Chain Partner:** JMS.

## Whaddon Road, Newton Longville to Wellington Place Compound

**Description:** Our earthworks contractor has completed the construction of the retaining wall for embankment retention to facilitate the required track bed construction; this involves driving steel piles into the ground

and placing precast concrete planks in between. Track bed construction and embankment regrading will also be taking place in this section.

**Duration:** Work began in spring 2021 and was completed in late autumn 2021.

**Likely disruption:** During piling and earthworks operations, disruption to local residents is likely to include noise, dust and vibration. We will implement a range of control measures to minimise impacts where possible and will review works regularly with Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Councils.

**Supply Chain Partner:** JMS.

## Wellington Place Compound to Bletchley North/Saxon Street

**Description:** Our earthworks contractor has now completed works in this area - widening the rail corridor, installing drainage, and constructing the track bed.

**Duration:** Work began in summer 2021 and was completed in autumn 2021.

**Supply Chain Partner:** JMS.

## Mitigating Disruption

To minimise disruption for local residents we have worked with our supply chain partners to plan the works with the community in mind, sequencing the works in such a way so as to reduce our impact wherever possible.

EWR Alliance Traffic Ambassadors are also monitoring our earthworks contractor's vehicles to monitor compliance and driver behaviour.

In addition:

- Our earthworks supply chain partners are utilising the network of 'haul roads' that have been constructed to allow construction traffic to move between various areas of the project without using the local road network wherever possible.
- We aim to re-use 100% of all materials on the project, meaning we are re-using excavated earth elsewhere on the project wherever possible – reducing the amount of deliveries required, reducing our use of the local road network and helping us achieve our environmental targets.
- We are using the latest, modern construction plant and machinery in order to minimise noise and idling plant.
- We are adhering to the agreed working hours (07:00 – 18:00 Monday – Friday, 07:00 – 16:00 Saturday) and will apply for Section 61 consent from Local Authorities where works are required to take place outside of these working hours. We are also meeting with the relevant Local Authorities regularly to discuss the works programme.
- We are regularly monitor dust, noise and vibration levels throughout our earthworks programme.
- Our earthworks contractors are utilising wheel washes installed at our construction compounds to reduce mud and dust deposited onto local roads.
- We will employ road sweepers to keep the local roads to and from our construction compounds clean.
- Towable bowsers and other dust suppression methods will be employed to limit the emission of dust from works activities and plant movements.

As with all our works, any road closures associated with our earthworks programme will be publicised on [one.network](#) and appropriate signage will be displayed.

If you experience any issues or would like to raise a complaint, please email [publicinformation@ewralliance.co.uk](mailto:publicinformation@ewralliance.co.uk) or, contact the Network Rail Helpline 24/7 on 0345 711 4141.



## EWR2 Highways works – Winter 2021/2022 update

As we continue to build the new railway infrastructure, residents and local businesses will see an increase in the levels of construction traffic in the area. In addition, carrying out our work may mean there is some temporary disruption, with partial and full road closures required in some circumstances to accommodate our works and keep our workforce and the general public safe.

The list of activities below indicates where we will be carrying out highways works across the length of the project, including maps to indicate where works will be taking place.

### Notification of planned highways works

All road closures across the project are notified in advance via [one.network](#), a free platform used by local and national highways authorities to provide information on planned roadworks. User friendly and free-to-view, users can register for email alerts about upcoming roadworks affecting their area. Of course, we will continue to display physical signage in the local area to advise of upcoming works.

### Logistics management

The Alliance has appointed several Traffic Ambassadors. The Ambassadors continue to monitor the performance of the project's traffic flows and report any issues they observe in real time to our Logistics and Construction Managers for immediate action.

In addition, the Ambassadors monitor delivery vehicles to ensure they comply with requirement to display EWR2 identification, and to ensure EWR2 construction vehicles stick to the approved construction routes for the project. Finally, they monitor driving behaviours to ensure compliance with our driving policies and the expected driving behaviours.

Our ambassadors are identifiable by their hi-vis EWRA branded jackets and EWRA labelled vehicles.

**ATKINS**  
Member of the SNC-Lavalin Group



Read the interactive, electronic version of this newsletter by scanning the QR Code:







## EWR2 Highways works - east

### 1. Little Horwood Road – permanent Network Rail Access point and power connection works

**Description:** A permanent access point will be constructed for a permanent Network Rail compound. This is to allow maintenance work to be carried out to the railway once it is operational.

**Duration:** Network Rail Access – mid 2022.

### 2. Whaddon Road, Newton Longville – accesses and utility diversions

**Description:** Permanent accesses will be constructed, and the haul road crossing will be removed when our nearby compound is demobilised.

**Duration:** The new permanent accesses will be constructed autumn – summer 2022.

### 3. Salden Lane – Surfacing repairs & maintenance, we will surface the new structure and utility diversions over new Salden Wood overbridge.

**Description:** Road construction, surfacing works and utility works have started on the new Salden Wood bridge which crosses the railway.

**Duration:** Late 2021 – spring 2022.

### 4. Bletchley Road – Network Rail access point

**Description:** A permanent Network Rail access point will be constructed, which will allow access onto the railway for future maintenance work.

**Duration:** The access point will be constructed in the spring of 2022.

### 5. Station Road Mursley – Vehicle restraint system and surfacing works

**Description:** The bridge works have now been completed. The compound access will be removed and an access point for the railway will be constructed later this year.

**Duration:** Summer-autumn 2022.

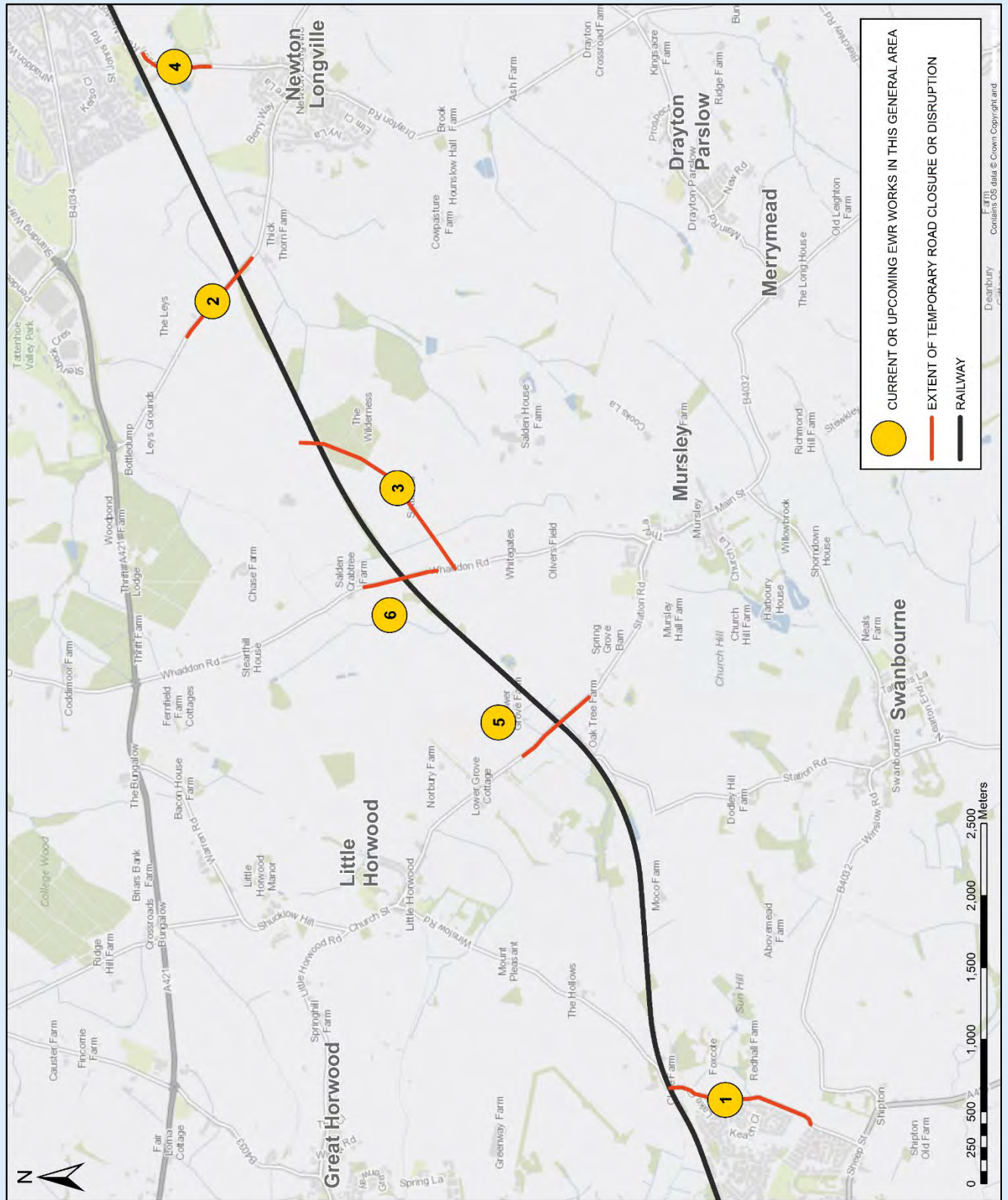
### 6. Whaddon Road, Mursley – surfacing bridge structural works

**Description:** Once the Whaddon Road structural work is complete the road will be surfaced.

**Duration:** The current road closure will remain in place until spring 2022.



## EWR2 Highways works - east





## EWR2 Highways works - central

### 1. The Spinney, Steeple Claydon – junction improvement

**Description:** Work to the junction around the Spinney has been carried out to make a one-way system allowing HGV lorries to travel around the island safely and not come into conflict with other vehicles which is required to meet highways regulations.

### 2. Queen Catherine Road – surfacing of new bridge

**Description:** The new bridge on Queen Catherine Road will need surfacing and will need to be connected to the existing road. In addition, there are utility diversions required for the new bridge.

**Duration:** Surfacing and highway tie ins for new bridge – spring - summer 2022.

### 3. Sandhill Road – New surfacing over bridge and utility diversions

**Description:** The road surfacing and utility diversion works have been completed for the Sandhill Road bridge.

### 4. Verney Road –Utility connections

**Description:** We have established utility connections to the nearby EWRA compound.

### 5. Furze Lane – bridge surfacing and protection works

**Description:** Once the bridge at Furze Lane is refurbished the road on top of the structure will be resurfaced.

**Duration:** Autumn 2022.

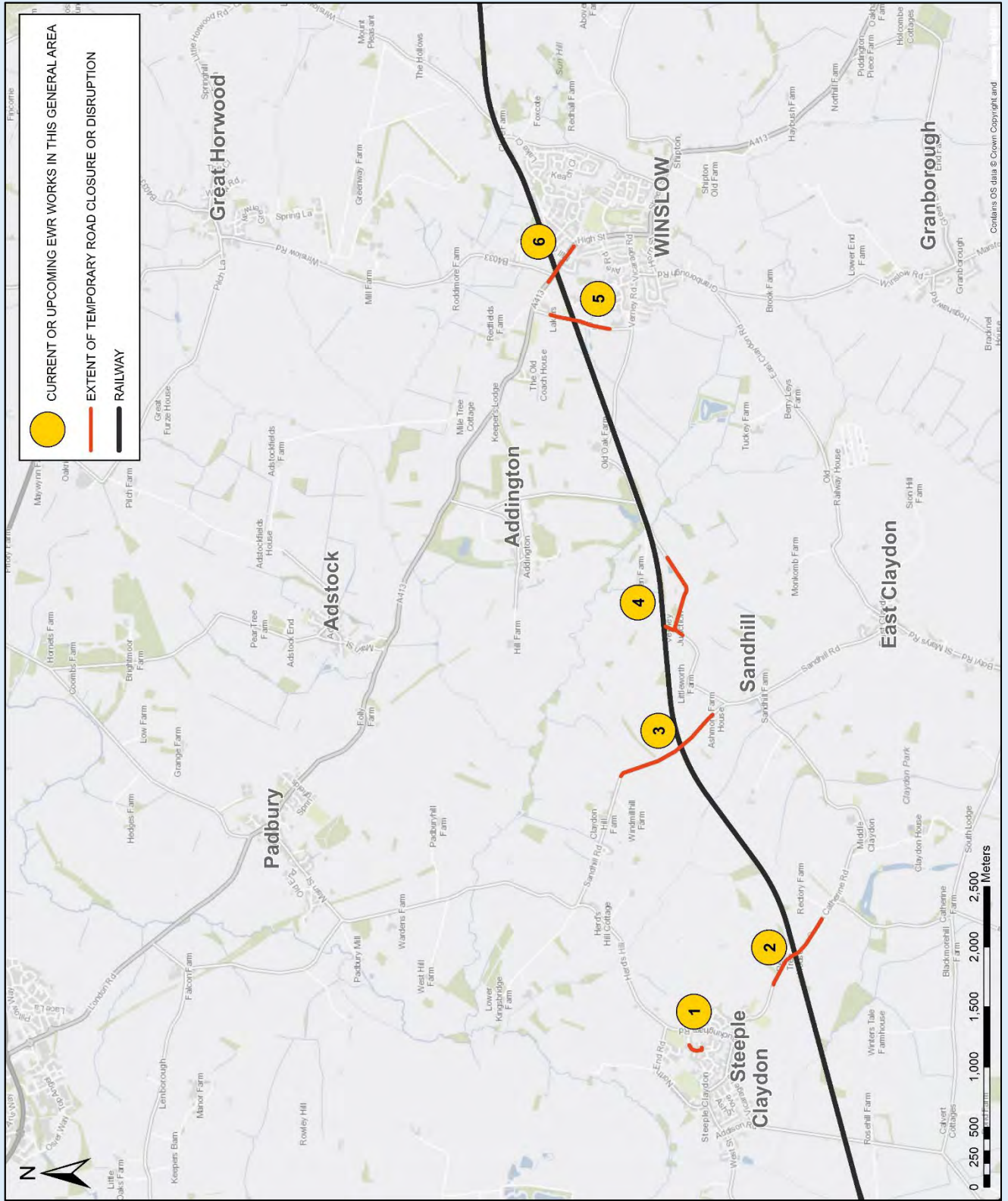
### 6. Buckingham Road – Highway/Rail Fencing Works

**Description:** A fence to the north of Buckingham Road bridge will be erected.

**Duration:** Summer 2022.



## EWR2 Highways works - central







## EWR2 Highways works - west

### 1. A4421 - junction works

**Description:** Changes to the A4421 junction alignment were completed earlier in 2021.

### 2. Charbridge Lane

**Description:** One of the most significant construction activities in the area will be the new road bridge on Charbridge Lane, which is being constructed using multiple temporary road diversions to minimise disruption to the local community.

The EWR Alliance successfully completed the first temporary traffic diversion of Charbridge Lane around the site for the new bridge structure in early 2021. A second traffic switch onto a second, temporary diversion route was put in place in late 2022 and will remain in place until the southern approach to the bridge is complete and traffic is switched on to the new permanent road alignment in spring 2022.

For a full update, please see the Bicester & Launton section of the [newsletter](#).

### 3. Bicester Road, Launton – surfacing of bridge works

**Description:** Surfacing works will be required after the refurbishment works on the Bicester Road, Launton structure are complete.

### 4. Station Road crossing and overbridge, Launton

**Description:** As part of our works, the existing level crossing at Station Road will be replaced with a road bridge, providing road users with a bridge over the new railway. For more information on this, please see the Bicester & Launton section of the [newsletter](#).

**Duration:** The construction of the bridge started in summer 2020 and is still due for completion in summer of 2022.

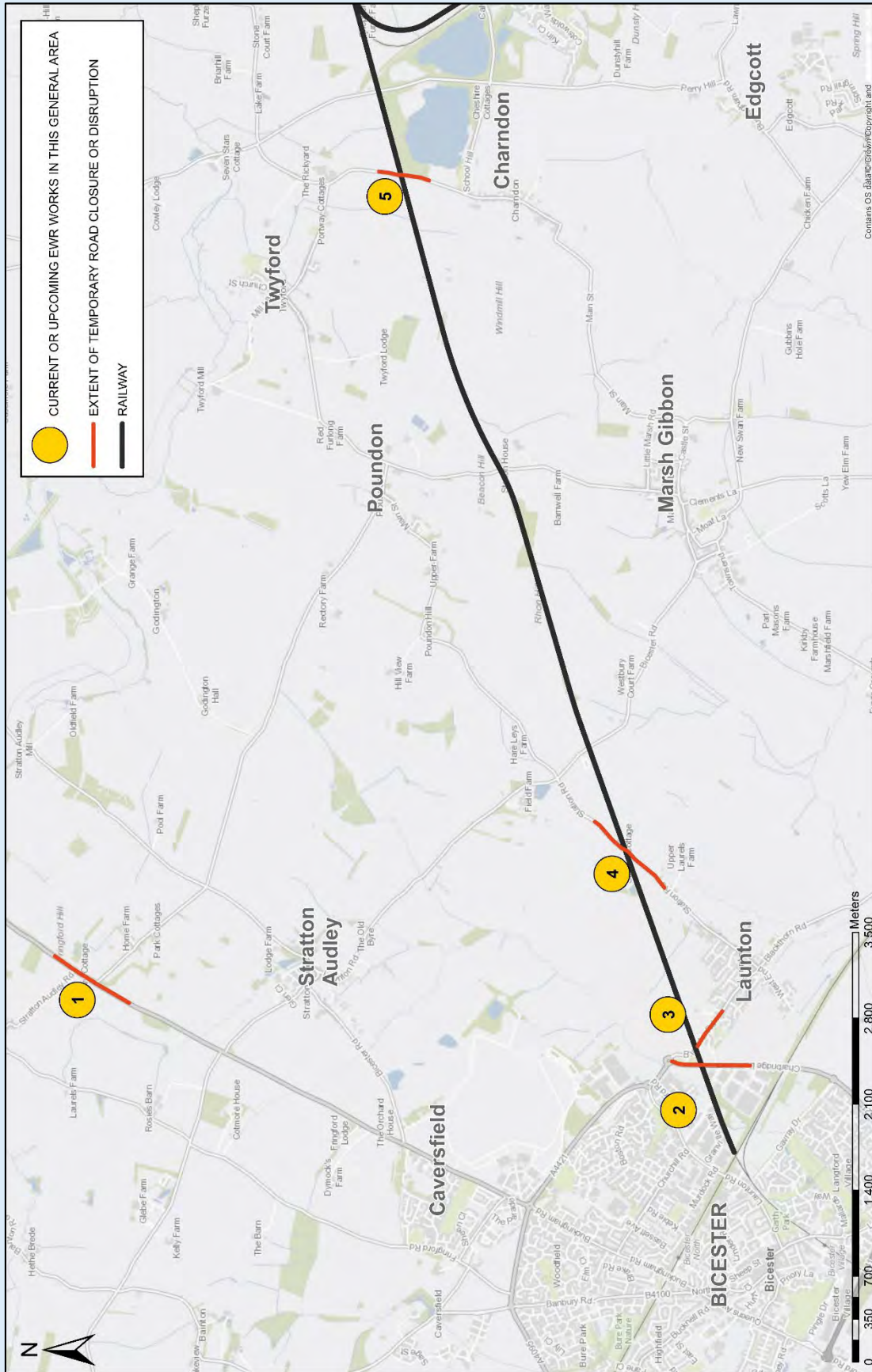
**Disruption:** Station Road near Launton closed earlier in the year and will remain closed until spring 2022. A diversion has been put in place. Details of the closure and diversion are also available on [one.network](#).

### 5. Charndon Lane – surfacing bridge works

**Description:** Surfacing have been completed at this location.



## EWR2 Highways works - west







**EWR Alliance working for Network Rail on behalf of the East West Railway Company**