



## ATKINS

Member of the SNC-Lavalin Group



## Welcome!

Welcome to the second issue of the East West Rail Phase 2 (EWR2) project newsletter which contains updates on recent progress and outlines forthcoming activities on the project. On behalf of the East West Rail Alliance, I wish you well during these challenging times with the coronavirus pandemic and hope that you are all keeping safe.

Since our last newsletter in April 2020, the Alliance has continued the site preparations for the delivery of the EWR2 project. As an essential infrastructure project, site operations on EWR2 have continued through the coronavirus pandemic with workers and supervisory staff continuing to attend site while support staff work from home. The Alliance commitment to reduce the project construction duration and therefore minimise disruption to the community remains very strong. By continuing to work through the coronavirus pandemic we are safeguarding the project completion date and working to make the new railway infrastructure available to the public at the earliest possible date.

I would like to thank everyone in the community for their tolerance and understanding during the implementation of our works. In particular, we appreciate that the closure of local footpaths and roads does impact the everyday lives of people in the community and that this impact is exaggerated by the additional strains imposed by the coronavirus pandemic. Please rest assured that we are making every effort to minimise the disruption while also responding to the feedback we receive from our community stakeholders.

Recognising the significant challenge posed by the coronavirus pandemic on local government, I would like to thank all our colleagues in the local planning authorities, councils and statutory bodies who have been working closely with the project team to keep the required planning applications and approvals on track.

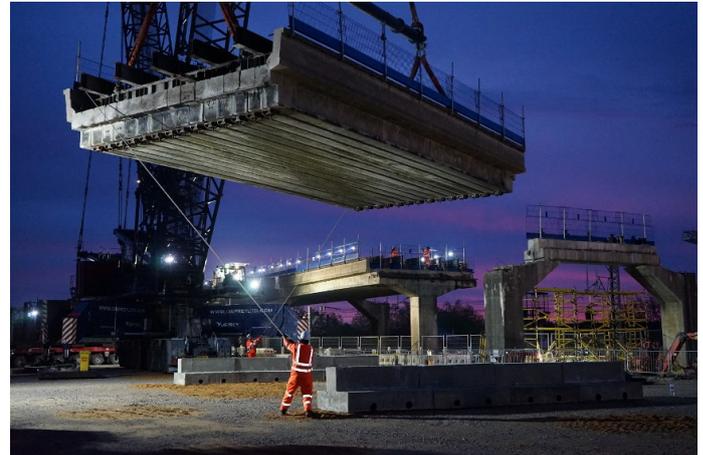
As part of our response to the feedback received on the works undertaken so far, we have significantly increased the amount of information in our project newsletter and organised the content into sections to enable a better understanding of what is happening in each area of the project.

If you have any feedback or suggestions for the newsletter, please use the email [publicinformation@ewralliance.co.uk](mailto:publicinformation@ewralliance.co.uk)

Kind regards

**Mark Cuzner**, EWR Alliance Director

## Bletchley Flyover upgrade underway



As reported in the first issue of our newsletter, a key element of the EWR Phase 2 project is the upgrade of the Bletchley Flyover. To bring the flyover up to modern standards and ensure it is structurally sound for the next 60 years we will need to dismantle and rebuild the flyover.

Since our last newsletter in April, the team has successfully lifted three of the 17 concrete decks (spans) that need to be removed from the flyover, including one deck which was previously located above the West Coast Main Line itself. These significant lifts were carried out using one of the largest "mobile" cranes in the country and took place whilst the railway was closed in order to maintain the safety and integrity of the railway.

The team are now preparing for the removal of the next set of decks from the flyover. These decks span over the West Coast Main Line and Buckingham Road, and so the complex lifts need to be carefully coordinated and meticulously planned.

The lifts will take place throughout July and August, and will be carried out with the help three cranes, including the AK 680-3, the largest mobile crane in the country with a lifting capacity of 1,200 tonnes.

To allow us to safely remove the decks that span over Buckingham Road, it has been necessary to close the road to all vehicles. The closure came into operation on Sunday 5 July and will be in place until Thursday 30 August.

A protected walkway has been provided through the worksite so pedestrians can still get access from one side of Buckingham Road to the other for the majority of the work. However, if and when pedestrian access cannot be maintained a shuttle bus will operate between the train station and the bus station, every 15 minutes.

## Early works underway as construction sites begin to take shape



One of our Environmental Compensation Sites



Site clearance in the Winslow Cutting



One of the 'haul roads' we are constructing to reduce the amount of construction traffic on local roads.

In addition to our works at Bletchley, the Alliance has been busy carrying out works to enable us to set up our construction sites and compounds required for the project.

The team has been making good progress, working collaboratively with local authorities and statutory bodies to ensure all the permissions and licences are in place for the required works.

We have continued the construction of all of our Environmental Compensation Sites, designed to offset the environmental impact the project will have. So far we have finished 12 of the 19 sites we're due to construct. We are underway with three further sites and the remaining four will all be complete within the next 12 months. As part of this process, we have now completed the construction of all of our artificial badger setts, and we're delighted to report that we have footage of them being used, including video showing a mother badger nursing a baby cub at one of the setts.

We have now served notice on the majority of the temporary and permanent land required for this phase, and in late May/early June, began the process of erecting hoardings and boundary fencing to mark out the various plots of land needed for our construction activity. This will help us keep our construction sites safe and secure.

In addition, as confirmed in our last newsletter, we have been carrying out vegetation clearance works to remove trees and areas of scrub which have established along the embankments of the mothballed section of the old Varsity Line and recently closed sections of the railway. These works have been conducted under a licence granted by Natural England.

We have continued to prepare for the construction of a number of our compounds, including our Bicester site. Before the compound can be established, we have needed to undertake archaeological works to ensure there are no archaeologically significant artefacts in the area. As various sections of the site have been handed back to us by our archaeological specialists, we have been back filling the land to facilitate the construction of the compound.

Finally, we have started the construction of a number of haul roads and are making road improvements to ensure that our construction vehicles can safely access our sites with as little disruption to local traffic as possible.

## Footpath Closures



As part of the project, we have already needed to close a number of footpaths/bridleways along the old 'varsity' railway line between Bicester and Bletchley. We are aware that with current covid-19 measures in place, these footpaths were being used more frequently.

The footpaths which crossover and run alongside the railway have always been part of our plans, and the proposals for their closures were included in the various consultation phases and presentations which the Network Rail and EWR Alliance has made to communities along the route.

There will be a great deal of construction work taking place to reinstate the railway, including sections of 'haul roads' which will be used by HGVs and large construction vehicles - making it dangerous to allow members of the public to use the footpaths.

We recognise that this is inconvenient and have received feedback from local people on the closure length and signage. We've taken on board comments and are improving the signage and are reviewing plans so we can re-open the footpaths as soon as work is completed and it is safe to do so.

### Alliance recognised for 'excellent' sustainable approach to design

As an Alliance, we have committed to delivering lasting environmental, social and economic benefit through the project. "Sustainability in Every Choice" is a core principle of the Alliance, which everyone who works on the project contributes towards.

To demonstrate our commitment and to track our progress, we have registered with CEEQUAL - an internationally recognised evidence-based sustainability assessment, rating and awards scheme for civil engineering and infrastructure projects. We have entered the "Whole Project Award", which assesses everything from the early sustainability strategy decisions made by the client and how these requirements are embedded into the project from design through to construction and beyond.

We are delighted to report that project has been rated as 'Excellent' as part of CEEQUAL's interim assessment, which focuses on the decisions made during the design stage.

Sustainability & Environment Lead for the Alliance, Ruth Voigt said: "Excellent is the highest rating available on CEEQUAL scheme, so we're thrilled that our approach has been recognised with this accolade. It demonstrates that sustainability has been a key component of our design strategy for the project and that stands us in good stead to deliver a truly sustainable project. Our focus is now on delivering against that strategy and gathering all the evidence we need for our final assessment at the end of the construction phase."

### How can we help?

The Alliance is fully committed to leaving a lasting legacy in the communities we serve. We have already undertaken various community engagement projects including painting signage and fencing in Calvert Green, transforming outdoor spaces at Winslow and Wescott schools, as well as installing a new patio and refurbishing the club house at Waddesdon Cricket Club.

We also engage with many schools and colleges in the area. We can come in to talk about the project, promote career paths in rail, construction and engineering and our team of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) ambassadors are trained to deliver engaging activities for primary and secondary school pupils.

Unfortunately, many of the plans we had for this year have been impacted by the coronavirus pandemic, however we are working with local stakeholders and community groups to see if there are activities we can help with during lockdown, and what we can do as lockdown measures continue to ease.

Some of our plans include:

- Working with local charity Bucks Impact to carrying out gardening for the elderly and vulnerable across Buckinghamshire
- Working Buckinghamshire County Council on a clear up of the popular local walking/cycle path between Waddesdon Green and Berryfields
- Working with local schools to deliver STEM sessions to their pupils online via Microsoft Teams

Naturally, each of these activities will only be carried out in accordance with the latest social distancing guidelines.

If you have any projects we may be able to help with, please get in touch with us at [publicinformation@ewralliance.co.uk](mailto:publicinformation@ewralliance.co.uk)

### Alliance scores 45/50 in first CCS assessment



In addition to CEEQUAL assessing our sustainable approach to the project, the Alliance has registered its Bletchley site with the Considerate Contractor's Scheme (CCS), a not-for-profit, independent organisation endorsed by local authorities and government to raise standards in the construction industry by working with sites to share best practice and assess their approach to engaging with the public, our workforce and caring for the environment.

Monitors assess our performance against a set of criteria via a series of visits and audits, with the very highest performing registered sites considered for National Site Awards.

The Bletchley site had its first assessment in early July and we're delighted to report that the project scored 45/50 and achieved an 'exceptional' rating in each of the five areas that are assessed. Achieving such a high rating sets a high standard that we will aim to maintain and seek to improve as and when we register our additional sites across the project.

In the meantime, if you would like to find out more about the CCS scheme, please visit: <https://www.ccscheme.org.uk/>



## Newton Longville

**1 & 2. New railway works** - In this area, the railway works are due to begin in the summer of 2022.

### 3 & 4. New Salden overbridge construction

**Description:** A new road bridge will be built over the new railway line. This will replace the existing bridge which will be demolished after the new bridge comes into use.

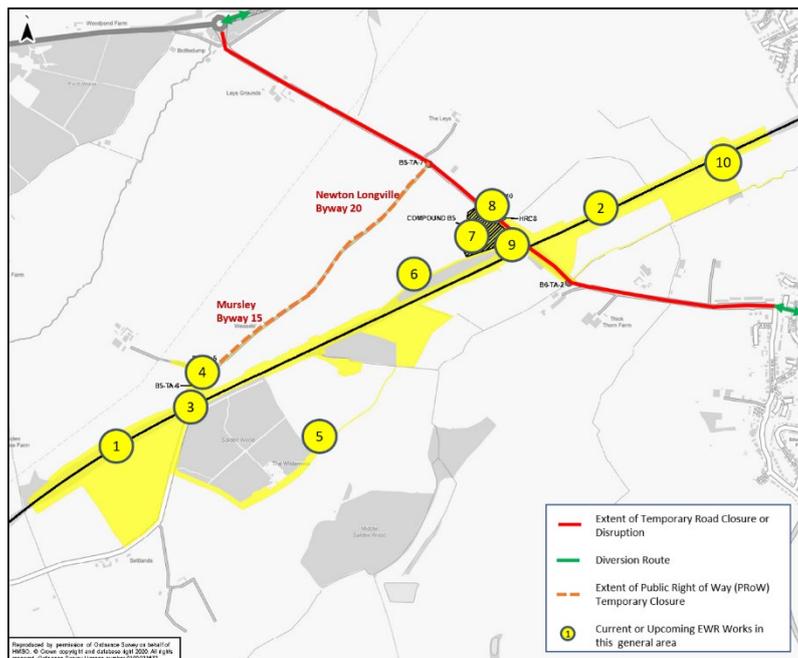
**Duration:** Construction is due to start in winter 2020 and is due for completion in winter 2022.

**Disruption:** There will be some temporary road closures both partial and full as the new bridge and new road layout is constructed. There will be an increase in construction traffic throughout the work. Mursley restricted By-Way will be temporarily closed during the construction.

**Upcoming Activity:** In winter 2020 the construction site is due to be cleared ready for the new bridge foundations to be constructed in early 2021.

### 5. Environmental Compensation Site

**Description:** We will construct a temporary access which will allow us to build a new Environmental Compensation Site (ECS). 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.

**Duration:** Work is due to start in late summer 2020 and is due for completion in autumn 2020.

**Disruption:** There will be an increase in construction traffic whilst the access and ECS is constructed.

**Upcoming activity:** We will carry out site and vegetation clearance ready for construction work to begin.

### 6. Haul Road construction

**Description:** We will construct 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.

**Duration:** Work will start in summer 2020 and is due for completion a few weeks later.

**Disruption:** There will be an increase in construction traffic throughout the work to establish the haul road.

**Upcoming Activity:** Vegetation clearance and road construction will be carried out in summer 2020.

### 7. Whaddon Road, Newton Longville Compound construction

**Description:** We will build a compound to provide staff welfare and material storage. This compound will provide an entrance to the temporary haul roads between Salden Wood and Bletchley.

**Duration:** Construction of the compound will start in summer 2020 and once work has been completed the site will be re-instated to its former condition in early 2023.

**Disruption:** There will be a temporary road closure of Whaddon road during the construction of the compound access. All road closures will be published on [one.network](#) and appropriate signage will be displayed.

**Upcoming Activity:** Construction of the compound will begin over the summer months.

### 8. Whaddon Road, Newton Longville Compound access construction

**Description:** We will construct a new access road into the new compound from Whaddon Road. This will allow construction traffic to enter the construction sites from the A4421 without disrupting the local road networks to the south.

**Duration:** We started constructing the access earlier in the summer and this is due for completion in late summer.

**Disruption:** There will be a temporary road closure of Whaddon Road during the construction of the compound access. All road closures will be published on [one.network](#) and appropriate signage will be displayed.

**Upcoming Activity:** Surfacing of the access is due to be completed in summer 2020.

### 9. Maintenance yard construction

**Description:** We will construct a new access point which will allow future maintenance of the railway to take place once the new line opens.

**Duration:** Construction will start in the summer of 2022 and is due for completion in the summer of 2023.

**Disruption:** Whilst the access point is constructed there will be temporary road closures and an increase in construction traffic in the area. All road closures will be published on [one.network](#) and appropriate signage will be displayed.

**Upcoming Activity:** None until 2022.

### 10. Haul Road construction

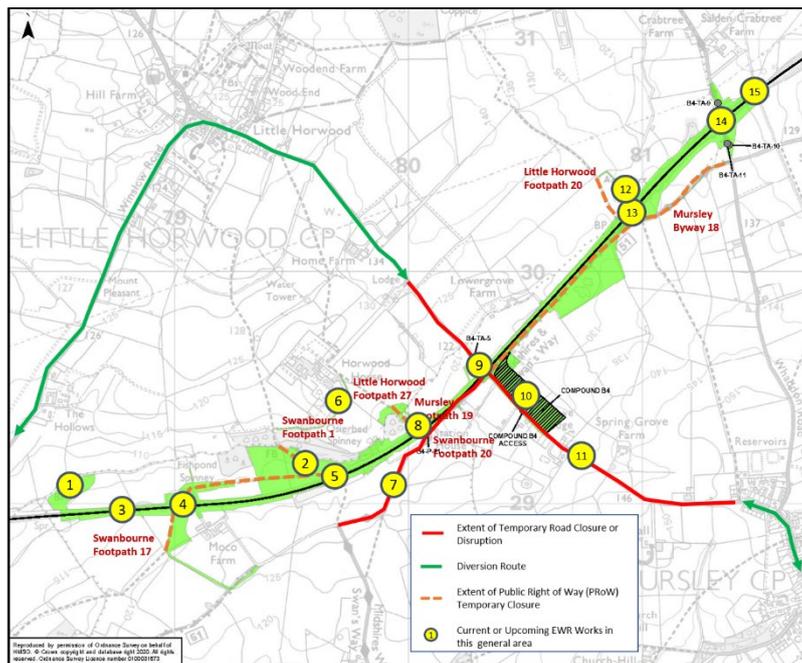
**Description:** We are constructing a new haul road which will allow us to move our construction vehicles and machinery from the compound on

Whaddon Road to Bletchley, keeping these vehicles away from local roads.

**Duration:** Work will start in summer 2020 and is due for completion in late autumn/early winter 2020.

**Disruption:** There will be an increase in construction traffic during the work to build the haul road.

**Upcoming Activity:** Site and vegetation clearance and haul road construction will begin in late August.



## Horwood

### 1 & 2. Environmental Compensation Sites

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.

**3. Railways works** - In this area, the railway works are due to begin in the summer of 2022.

### 4. Moco Farm overbridge repairs and footpath construction

**Description:** The existing bridge at Moco Farm will be upgraded. This will include brickwork repairs, new waterproofing and re-surfacing.

**Duration:** Work will start in late summer 2020 and is due to complete in summer 2021.

**Disruption:** There will be temporary, partial closure of the bridge during these works.

**Upcoming Activity:** Brickwork repairs will start in late summer 2020.

### 5. Moco Farm footbridge construction

**Description:** We will be building a new footbridge to allow people to cross the new railway safely.

**Duration:** We will start construction in late summer 2020 and are due to complete in autumn 2021.

**Disruption:** The footpath across the railway will be temporarily closed whilst we build the new footbridge.

**Upcoming Activity:** We will be clearing the site ready for construction to start in late summer 2020.

### 6. New footpath construction

**Description:** We will be building new footpaths to divert the existing footpaths to the new footbridge near Moco Farm.

**Duration:** We will start to build the new footpath in spring 2021 and this is due for completion in winter 2021.

**Disruption:** The existing footpath will be temporarily closed whilst the new footpath is constructed.

**Upcoming activity:** we are currently carrying out vegetation clearance throughout the area. This will be complete in summer 2020.

### 7. Highways improvements - passing bays

**Description:** We will carry out junction improvements and road widening to allow construction traffic to keep to the agreed construction traffic routes on main roads and minimise traffic using local public roads.

**Duration:** The work will start in summer 2020 and will continue until the end of late summer 2020.

**Disruption:** Whilst we carry out the highways improvements there will be temporary full and partial road closures. These will be notified via [one.network](#) and appropriate signage will be displayed.

**Upcoming Activity:** These works will start in summer 2020.

### 8. Swanbourne Station works

**Description:** The old Swanbourne station building and platforms are to be demolished and removed to create space for the new railway.

**Duration:** Work will start in late summer/early autumn 2020 and complete in by late autumn 2020.

**Disruption:** There will be an increase in construction traffic near the site.

**Upcoming Activity:** We will begin preparing the site to start demolition works in late summer 2020.

### 9. Horwood road overbridge and junction works

**Description:** We will refurbish the existing bridge. Works will include new water proofing, brick work repairs and new parapets.

**Duration:** Work will start in summer 2020 and is due to be completed in summer 2021.

**Disruption:** There will be temporary road closures starting in summer 2020 and throughout the duration of the works. There will also be an increase in construction traffic.

**Upcoming Activity:** The brick repair works will start in summer 2020.

### 10. Station Road, Swanbourne Compound construction

**Description:** We will build a compound to provide staff offices, welfare facilities and materials storage which will be used throughout the duration of our construction work.

**Duration:** We will start constructing the compound in summer 2020 and once work has been completed the site will be re-instated to its former condition in late 2022.

**Disruption:** There will be an increase in construction traffic during the construction of the compound.

**Upcoming Activity:** In summer 2020 we will start site and vegetation clearance to enable the compound construction to begin. We will also be installing concrete slabs to protect a gas main running through the compound.

## 11. Highways improvements - passing bays and junction improvements

**Description:** We will carry out junction improvements and road widening to allow construction traffic to keep to the agreed construction traffic routes on main roads and minimise traffic using local public roads. There will be temporary road widening along Station Road, and the junction between Horwood Road and Station road will be improved. We will also be constructing an access road for the compound off Green Lane, Twyford.

**Duration:** Works started in June 2020 and are due to complete later in the summer of 2020.

**Disruption:** There will be temporary full and partial road closures throughout the duration of the construction.

**Upcoming Activity:** Work on the passing bays and junction improvements will continue until later in the summer.

## 12. New footpath construction

**Description:** We will build new footpaths to divert the existing footpaths to the new footbridge near Swans Way

**Duration:** We will start to build the new footpath in Spring 2021 and this is due for completion in Winter 2021.

**Disruption:** The existing footpath will be temporarily closed whilst the new footpath is constructed.

**Upcoming activity:** We are currently carrying out vegetation management throughout the area. This will be complete in summer 2020.

## 13. Swans Way footbridge construction

**Description:** We will be building a new footbridge to allow people to cross the new railway safely.

**Duration:** We will start construction in winter 2020 and are due to complete in Summer 2022.

**Disruption:** The footpath across the railway will be temporarily closed whilst we build the new footbridge.

**Upcoming Activity:** We will be clearing the site ready for construction to start in winter 2020.

## 14. Whaddon Road overbridge repairs

**Description:** We will refurbish the existing Whaddon Road bridge. Works will include new water proofing, brick work repairs and new parapets.

**Duration:** Work will start in late autumn/early winter 2020 and is due to complete in summer 2023.

**Disruption:** There will be two phases of road closures on Whaddon Road. The first will be in autumn 2020, the second will be throughout the winter of 2022.

**Upcoming Activity:** We will start brickwork repairs in late autumn/early winter 2020.

## 15. Watercourse underbridge repairs

**Description:** We will carry out repairs and upgrade the bridge that goes under the railway including brickwork repairs and new waterproofing.

**Duration:** Work will start in winter 2020 and is due for completion by the end of summer 2021.

**Disruption:** There will be an increase in construction traffic in the area during the works.

**Upcoming Activity:** We will start brickwork repairs in late 2020.

## More Information

This newsletter has been published as a summary of works in the Newton Longville & Horwood area. If you would like more information on the entire East West Rail Phase Two project, scan the QR Code opposite to read our project-wide newsletter.

