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## Welcome!

Welcome to the Autumn issue of the East West Rail Alliance project newsletter.

I wanted to start by thanking everyone who took the time to read and share the last issue of the newsletter. We have seen an increase in the readership of the newsletter and have received feedback on the format with the level of information in the local update sections we introduced in issue two being positive.

As you'll read below, perhaps the most obvious progress we have made since the last newsletter can be seen in Bletchley, where our team has dismantled sections of the Bletchley Flyover ready for it to be rebuilt to modern standards.

The dismantling has demanded a meticulous amount of planning from our team, Network Rail operations, the train operating companies, local authorities and environment agencies and I'm delighted to report all the lifts were safely completed in line with our programme. We are now in the process of removing the final elements of the structure that need to be removed before we can start the rebuild process in November/later this year.

Away from the flyover, we have continued to prepare much of the project footprint for our main construction activities to begin. We have also started work on Charbridge Lane overbridge – one of the most significant construction activities in the East West Rail Phase 2 project. You can read more on this in the content below.

In addition to the challenges Covid-19 presents from an operational perspective, it also presents us with a number of challenges when it comes to keeping residents informed of our progress. This newsletter will therefore become an increasingly important tool as we move through the pandemic, however I am pleased to report that in spite of the challenges, we have continued to engage with key project stakeholders, whether that be via our virtual supply chain engagement events, our socially distanced pop up community engagement event in Bletchley, or working with local charities to help the elderly and vulnerable who have been severely impacted by lockdown restrictions. I am also delighted to welcome our new Community Liaison Advisors, Thaina Sa'id and Vernon Loo, who will play a key role in keeping local communities engaged with the project.

Thank you for your continued interest in the project.

Kind regards

**Mark Cuzner**, EWR Alliance Director

## Enabling works underway



Since the last issue of our newsletter, the Alliance has been preparing many areas across the project footprint for our main construction activities to begin. Highways improvements have been made, with roads widened, passing bays on narrow roads put in place, and access points for our site compounds installed. In addition, we have been constructing 'haul roads', which will enable construction traffic to travel between certain areas of the project without needing to use local roads.

We have also carried out vegetation clearance and drained areas of the old varsity line which have become overgrown and flooded since the line closed in the 1960s. In the Winslow area, in the cutting where the new station will be built, we have been busy installing new drainage, to ensure the line does not flood in future.

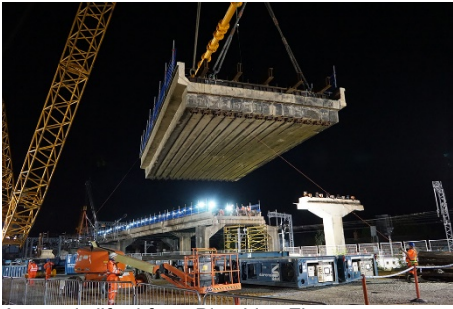
As reported in our last newsletter, our archaeology teams have carried out 'strip map and sample' works on a number of sites to ensure there are no archaeologically significant artefacts in the area.

Our Bicester compound is now fully operational, which will be our main compound in the area. This will be the headquarters for our teams in the Bicester area.

We have also started a number of main works activities, in particular, carrying out bridge repairs that need to be made on several existing structures.

Finally, we have begun work on one of the most significant construction activities on the project – the construction of a new road bridge on Charbridge Lane. We have been preparing the site for the construction of a new temporary road which will direct traffic away from the site so the new bridge can be built.

## Lift off in Bletchley



A span is lifted from Bletchley Flyover



New Overhead Line Equipment (OLE) is installed



ALO (Any Line Open) protective hoarding is piled and installed

The EWR Alliance has successfully removed 14 spans from the Bletchley Flyover which needed to be dismantled ready for the structure to be rebuilt to modern standards later this year.

The spans previously crossed over the West Coast Mainline and Buckingham Road, and were removed during overnight shifts over consecutive weekends to ensure the West Coast Main Line could remain operational throughout.

The complex lifts have been carried out with the help of three of the largest mobile cranes in the UK - the largest capable of lifting 1200 tonnes! Once the spans were removed from the structure, they were taken to the Alliance compound off Water Eaton Road where they were crushed, with the majority of the stone set to be re-used elsewhere on the project.

With the spans now removed, the team move onto removing the remaining 'piers' which held the spans in place. These will be lifted over similar overnight weekend possessions, following which the process of rebuilding will start in November/later this year.

We are sorry that some of our works in Bletchley have had an unavoidable impact on local residents, particularly those in close proximity to the flyover, with overnight piling works taking place over the weekends and some in the midweek. It is essential we carry out these piling works to erect ALO (Any Line Open) hoardings which are needed to allow our teams safe access to the flyover to complete the rebuild whilst the railway remains open. This overnight piling activity will be complete in November and will mean we no longer need as many weekend overnight possessions. This will speed up the construction and mean less inconvenience for local residents.



To complete the work on the flyover, it has been necessary to close Buckingham Road to road traffic. The current road closure will be in place until early December. During this time a diversion will remain in operation, however pedestrian access has been maintained. On occasions where this has not been possible, the Alliance has provided a free shuttle bus to escort pedestrians around the diversion.

To read more about upcoming works in Bletchley, please refer to the Bletchley section of the local updates below.

*Left: one of the spans is transported from Buckingham Road to Water Eaton Road*

## Introducing our new Community Liaison Advisors



Since the last issue of our newsletter, we have recruited two dedicated Community Liaison Advisors who will be responsible for engaging with key stakeholders, including members of the public across the project to keep you up to date on our progress and respond to your queries and feedback.

Vernon Loo will be covering the area between Bletchley and Little Horwood, including Newton Longville, Swanbourne, Winslow, and Mursley. Thaina Sa'id will be responsible for the areas between Bicester and Verney Junction, including Launton, Stratton Audley, Poundon, Marsh Gibbon, Charndon, Twyford, Edgcott, Calvert, Steeple and Middle Claydon.

The easiest way to get in touch with the team should you have any queries or feedback would be to email us at [publicinformation@ewralliance.co.uk](mailto:publicinformation@ewralliance.co.uk), or contact us via the 24/7 Network Rail helpline on 03457 11 41 41 or [www.networkrail.co.uk/contactus](http://www.networkrail.co.uk/contactus).



## Pop up community engagement event held in Bletchley



When lockdown measures were introduced in March 2020, our plans for hosting regular community engagement events were naturally put on hold. However, we believe it is vital for us to engage with the communities in which we are working to help keep local residents and businesses up to date and informed about project progress and so we are visible and approachable as a team.

In late September, the Alliance held two trial pop up community engagement events near our Bletchley site. The team erected a gazebo behind the site barriers at the top of Buckingham Road, with members of the team available between the hours of 10am and 3pm on Tuesday and 3pm and 7pm on Thursday to talk to members of the public about the project.

Clearly, all social distancing measures were followed at all times, with members of the public standing on markers a safe distance from the project team, and only a certain number of people allowed into the area at any one time.

Jeff Booth, Project Leader for our Bletchley works said: “the trial event was a great success and it was really beneficial for us and the people that visited us to talk directly with the team to find out more about the works. We spoke to around 30-40 people on each day and it was great to see so many people interested to learn more about what it is we’re doing.”

We will carry out further events as soon as restrictions permit us to do so, as we are aware people appreciate a face to face chat to discuss the project.

In the meantime, if you’d like to talk to us directly please contact our Community Liaison Advisors Vernon or Thaina at [publicinformation@ewralliance.co.uk](mailto:publicinformation@ewralliance.co.uk)

## Virtual supply chain engagement held

On Wednesday 7 October, the Alliance hosted an online supply chain engagement event aimed at existing supply chain partners as well as prospective suppliers who may be interested in working with the Alliance.

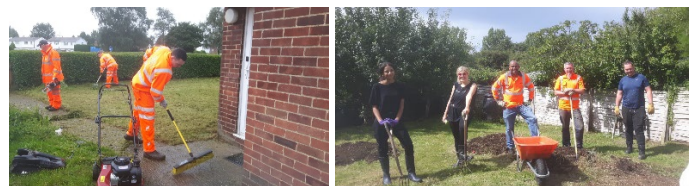
The event was promoted via the Alliance’s [CompeteFor procurement portal](#), and via Buckinghamshire Business First, and with over 200 registrations for the event from 177 different companies, it’s clear there is a lot of interest in the project from across the supply chain.

The event was a chance to bring suppliers up to speed with the status of the project, the progress that has been made and to provide some information on the opportunities that will be available through the project, and share details on our procurement and onboarding processes.

The Procurement & Commercial teams will be hosting similar supply chain engagement events on a quarterly basis.

If you are interested to learn how your business may be able to get involved in the project, be sure to [visit our CompeteFor portal](#) and sign up for alerts. You can also contact the procurement team via email at [procurement@ewralliance.co.uk](mailto:procurement@ewralliance.co.uk).

## Alliance lends a helping hand in community gardening project

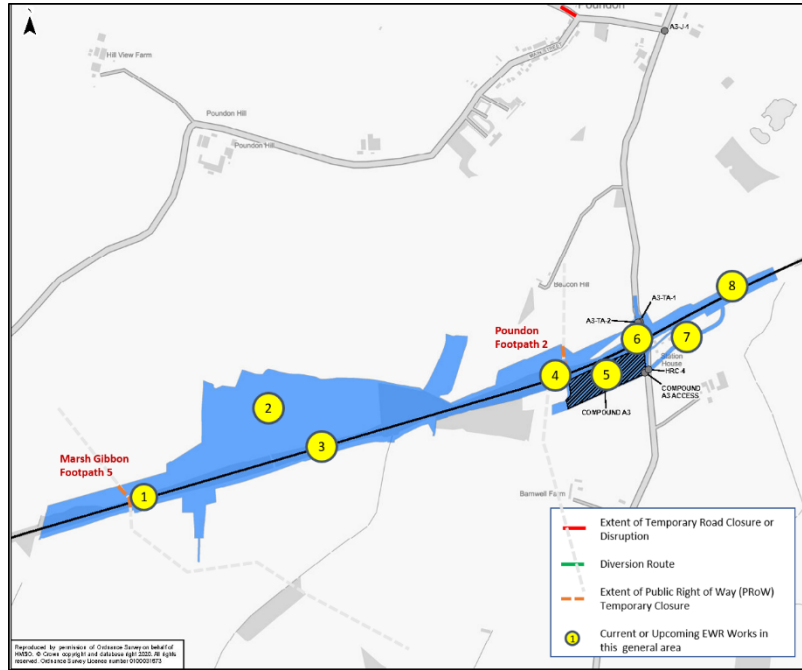


Over the summer, 20 members of the Alliance team took part in a number of voluntary gardening projects organised by local charity, Community Impact Bucks.

The teams visited elderly and vulnerable residents - many of whom had been severely impacted by coronavirus lockdown restrictions - to lend a helping hand in their gardens – observing social distancing measures at all times.

Samantha Hardy, from Community Impact Bucks said: “We are extremely grateful to East West Rail Alliance for providing us with 23 of your team members to assist us on our Gardening and Befriending project. Over the 4 days the Alliance team tackled 10 overgrown gardens in Aylesbury, Waddesdon, Quainton and Steeple Claydon which benefited 16 vulnerable elderly/disabled residents.

“The Alliance’s offer of help could not have come at a better time for us and our clients because we were behind on our gardening visits due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The team’s hard work has really helped towards getting us back on track.”



## Marsh Gibbon

### 1. Marsh Gibbon Footbridge

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

**Duration:** Work will start in late 2020 and is due for completion in autumn 2021.

**Disruption:** The footpath will be closed intermittently during this work. Signage will be displayed to advise as to when the closures will be in place.

**Upcoming Activity:** Over the next few months there will be some temporary closures of the footpath to keep people safe while construction traffic travels through this location along the route of the railway. In autumn 2020 we will construct a temporary working platform which will enable piling for the new footbridge to start in early 2021.

### 2. 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.

## 3. Railway works

In spring 2021 we will begin preparing the ground for the new railway to be constructed in these areas. The installation of the track is due to begin summer of 2022. In addition, we are currently constructing new haul roads for our construction traffic to use in these areas to minimise our use of public highways.

### 4. Poundon Footbridge

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

**Duration:** Work will start in late 2020 and is due for completion in autumn 2021.

**Disruption:** The footpath will be closed during this work. Signage will be displayed to advise as to when the closures will be in place.

**Upcoming Activity:** Over the next few months there will be some temporary closures of the footpath to keep people safe while construction traffic travels through this location along the route of the railway.

### 5. Poundon/Marsh Gibbon Compound construction

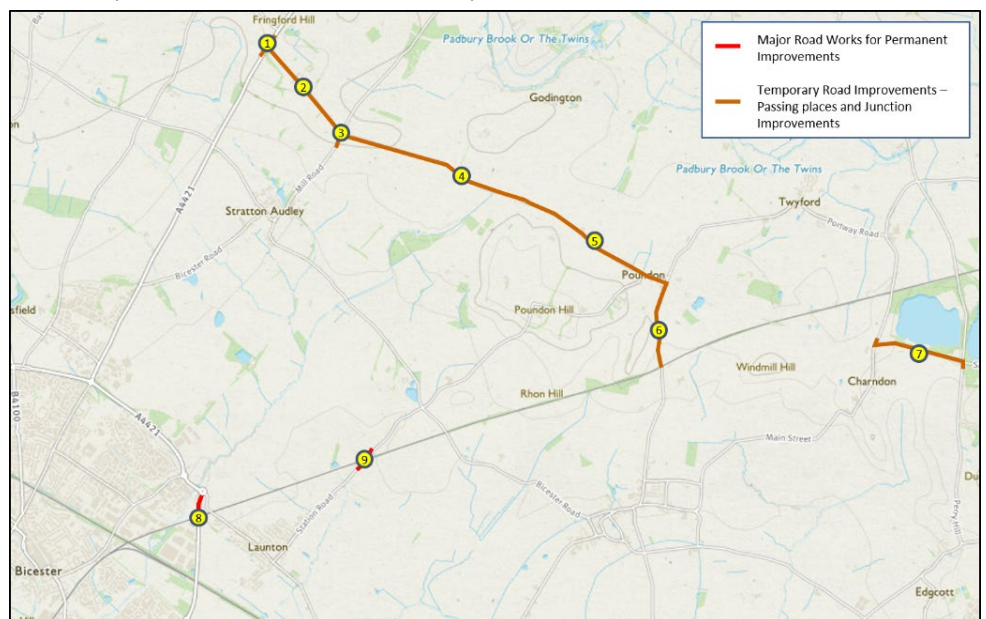
**Description:** We will build a compound to provide staff offices, welfare facilities and materials storage. The compound will be used for the duration of our construction work.

**Duration:** Work on the construction of the new compound began in summer 2020, with archaeological investigations currently taking place, as well as work to prepare the site for the construction of the compound. When our work has been completed the site will be re-instated to its former condition in late 2022.

**Disruption:** There will be partial and full road closures in the area over the next six months as the local traffic routes are upgraded for construction traffic as highlighted on the map on the right. This will include highway widening on Station Road and Main Street, plus junction improvements on Mill Lane and the A4421. This will be carefully coordinated with other works in the area to minimise disruption. All closures will be published on [one.network](#) and appropriate signage will be displayed.

**Access:** Traffic marshals will be in place 24/7 during the road closure to allow access at all times to the coal yard at Marsh Gibbon.

**Upcoming Activity:** Over the next three months we will start the highway upgrades and build the entrance to the compound off Station Road. In addition, we will complete the construction of the site compound.



Highways works in the area



## 6. Station Road underbridge repair works

**Description:** We will replace the existing bridge deck with a new steel deck and repair and strengthen the bridge structure to accommodate the new railway.

**Duration:** Work will start in autumn 2020 and is due for completion in Spring 2021.

**Disruption:** There will be some temporary road closures during the winter, which will be notified on [one.network](#) and appropriate signage will be displayed.

**Upcoming Activity:** The work will begin in autumn 2020.

## 7. 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.

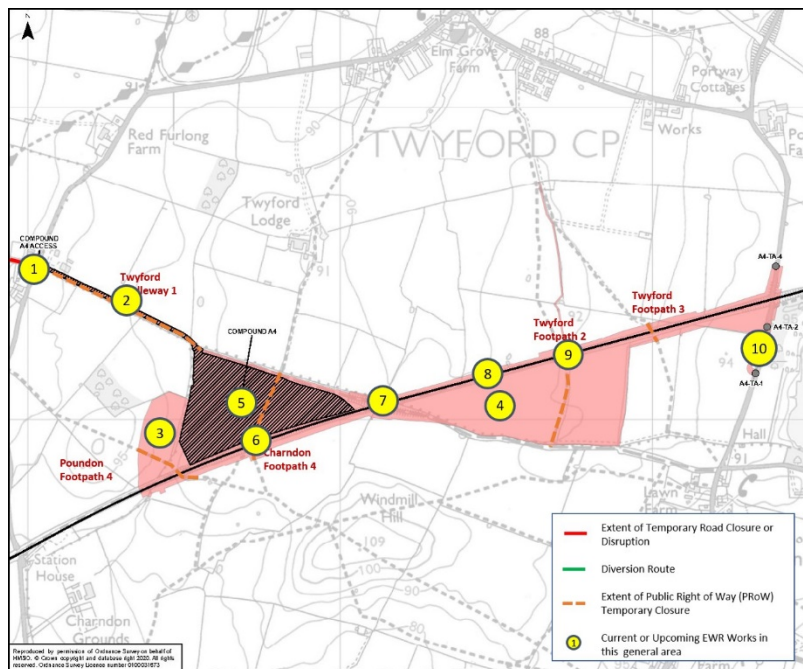
**Duration:** Work on the haul road began in summer and is due for completion in spring 2021.

**Disruption:** There will be a number of temporary, short-term partial road closures as we construct the access to the haul road. All road closures will be published on [one.network](#) and appropriate signage will be displayed. In addition, there will be marshalling of construction traffic throughout 2021 as the haul road comes into use. The haul road will reduce the amount of construction traffic that would use the local road network within the area.

**Upcoming Activity:** Work will begin in late summer 2020

## 8. Railway works

In spring 2021 we will begin preparing the ground for the new railway to be constructed in these areas. The installation of the track is due to begin summer of 2022. In addition, we are currently constructing new haul roads for our construction traffic to use in these areas to minimise our use of public highways.



## Poundon

### 1. Main Street, Poundon road improvements

**Description:** We will carry out junction improvements and road widening between the A4421 and Poundon to allow construction traffic to keep to the agreed construction traffic routes on main roads and minimise traffic using local public roads.

**Duration:** Work began in summer 2020 and is due for completion in early 2021.

**Disruption:** There will be an increase in construction traffic and there will be partial and full highway closures during the road improvement works. All road closures will be published on [one.network](#) and appropriate signage will be displayed.

**Upcoming Activity:** Over the next three months, the road improvement works will continue on Main Street and Mill Lane. In addition, we will begin creating the access routes for the compound from the highway (Station Road). We will also be clearing vegetation from the old railway line.

### 2. Twyford Bridleway 1 haul road construction

**Description:** We are carrying out work to upgrade the current bridleway to build a haul road for construction traffic. This will allow us to move our construction vehicles

and machinery across some of our sites which will minimise disruption to local roads.

**Duration:** This haul road will form part of the traffic route to be used in conjunction with the compound at Green Lane Twyford from July 2020 through to summer 2022.

**Disruption:** Once the access is built, construction traffic will begin using the route until the compound is removed once work is completed in late 2022.

**Upcoming Activity:** Work to improve the access off Station Road began in summer 2020. The access will be surfaced ready for use in winter 2020.

## 3 & 4. 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.

## 5. Green Lane, Twyford 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:** Work will start in summer 2020 and once work has been completed the site will be re-instated to its former condition in late 2022.

**Upcoming Activity:** Over the next few months the site will be prepared for the compound construction. This will include vegetation clearance, ecology relocation, gas and utilities protection and construction of the compound building itself.

## 6. Marsh Gibbon overbridge repair

**Description:** We will carry out repairs and upgrade the existing bridge that goes over the railway at Marsh Gibbon. This will include a new bridge deck, brickwork repairs, new waterproofing and re-surfacing.

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

**Disruption:** During the repair works the footpaths under the bridge will be temporarily closed.

**Upcoming Activity:** Over the next three months we will clear the site and undertake the initial demolition of the main span of the existing bridge ready for a replacement precast concrete span to be installed.

## 7. Green Lane overbridge improvement

**Description:** We will carry out repairs and upgrade the bridge that goes over the railway at Green Lane. This will include brickwork repairs and new waterproofing.

**Duration:** Work will start in autumn 2021 and is due for completion in early 2022.

**Disruption:** There will be an increase in construction traffic accessing the site from Station Road through to the compound at Green Lane.

**Upcoming Activity:** Apart from the compound construction, no works are planned on this structure until autumn 2021.

## 8. Railway works

In spring 2021 we will begin preparing the ground for the new railway to be constructed in these areas. The installation of the track is due to begin summer of 2022. In addition, we are currently constructing new haul roads for our construction traffic to use in these areas to minimise our use of public highways.

## 9. Twyford footbridge construction

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

**Duration:** Work will start in winter 2020 and is due for completion in late 2021.

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

**Upcoming Activity:** We will begin clearing the site in late summer/early autumn 2020 ready for the bridge foundation construction work to start in winter 2020.

## 10. Access point construction

**Description:** We will construct a new access from the highway (Main Street) to provide construction access on to the railway alignment. There will also be some upgrade works to the Main Street railway bridge to improve safety. This will include the installation of new parapets and general repairs.

**Duration:** Work will start in winter 2020 and is due for completion in Autumn 2021.

**Disruption:** There will be temporary partial closures of the highway during the works. All road closures will be published on [one.network](#) and appropriate signage will be displayed.

**Upcoming Activity:** Over the next few months we will be improving the highway and clearing vegetation in preparation for starting the construction of the access point later in the year.

## More Information

This newsletter has been published as a summary of works in the Marsh Gibbon, Poundon, Charndon & Twyford 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.

