

Sandhill Road

Sandhill Road crosses over the railway to the south east of Steeple Claydon via a road bridge. The railway line underneath is known as East West Rail which is being reinstated to provide connections from Oxford to Bletchley/Milton Keynes and then onto Bedford and Cambridge.

Due to the age and condition of the Sandhill road bridge the structure requires replacing and upgrading to modern day standards.

A High Pressure gas main supply line runs across Sandhill road on the north side of the bridge and initial surveys which were presented during consultation showed that a protection slab could be installed to protect the gas line resulting in a 12 week closure of Sandhill Road.

The owner and operator of the High Pressure gas supply line, Southern Gas Network (SGN) carried out further surveys to the gas line in co-ordination with the bridge reconstruction final design and determined that a 500m section of the gas line crossing over Sandhill Road would necessitate considerably more work, requiring shutting down the supply leading to an outage. This can only be carried out in the summer months when gas usage is lower than at other times of the year.

Due to the additional work to the gas line and having to revise the bridge replacement work around this has resulted in having to close Sandhill Road for a longer period than originally anticipated.

After receiving feedback from residents and stakeholders it became clear that a lengthy closure of Sandhill Road was not well received. This feedback has helped us to understand local concerns fully and we have looked at opportunities to minimise disruption where possible.

We have carried out a full review of all work with SGN who will carry out the pipeline replacement and our supply partners to see how together we can shorten the time frame.

As a result, some key changes have been made to both the SGN and EWRA works plans, allowing us to shorten the length of time the road is closed.

In summary:

- Preparatory work for bridge demolition to take place from 8 March – 5 April (4 week closure)
- Sandhill Road will fully reopen from 6 April - 10 May
- High Pressure Gas main work will take place from 10 May - 17 August
- Final bridge and road work will take place from 17 August - 5th September (total 17 week closure)
- Access to all properties will remain throughout



During the closure of Sandhill Road a diversionary route will be in place.

