

North Wokingham Distributor Road (NWDR) Newsletter

April 2019



Aerial view of the M4 and Reading Line

Welcome to our latest newsletter about the North Wokingham Distributor Road, part of Wokingham Borough Council's Major Highways Project.

As you may be aware, the NWDR consists of seven separate schemes, four of which are developer led, details of which can be found on the Council website, and three that are being delivered by the Council which are West of Old Forest Road (WOFR), Toutley Road and Ashridge Farm.

Once completed, the NWDR will connect the A329 near the BP garage on Reading Road, with the A329(M) Reading to Bracknell motorway near the Coppid Beech roundabout junction.

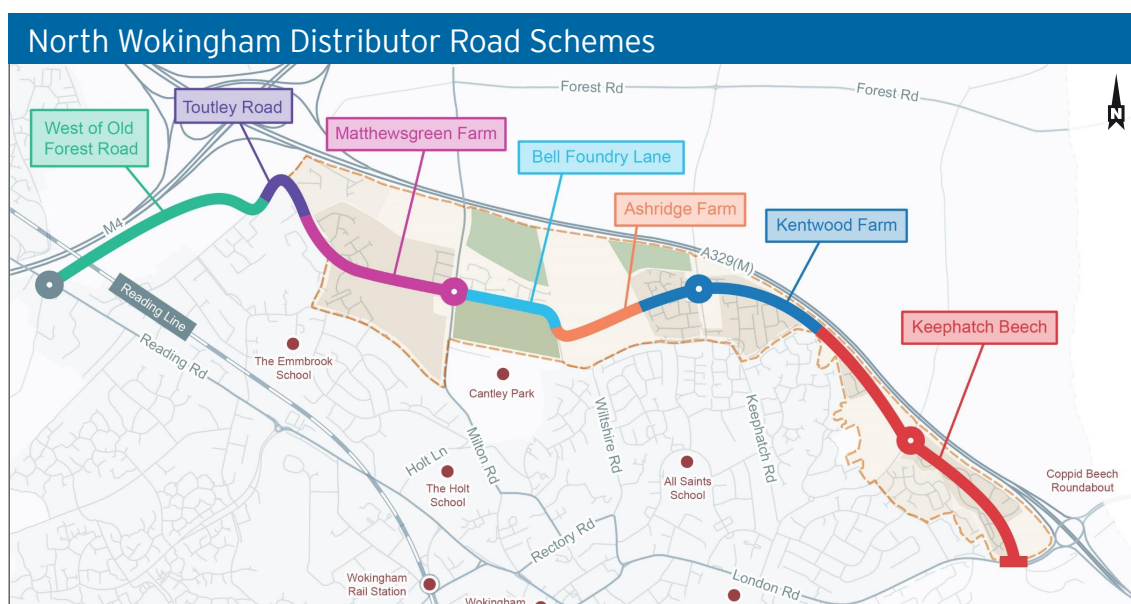
The new road will provide a link from Winnersh to the A329(M) avoiding Wokingham town centre.

The NWDR will also provide access to the developments at Matthewsgreen, Kentwood Farm and Keephatch Beech and provide these areas with convenient and direct access to the motorway network as it will give access to both A329 (M) and M4.

In this edition we will be updating you on the latest information about those sections being delivered by the Council, West of Old Forest Road (WOFR), Toutley Road and Ashridge Farm.

As always, we encourage questions you may have about this programme, as well as your comments, suggestions and feedback on any aspect of this programme. You can find our contact details on the last page.

Below is a map detailing where each section starts and ends and further information can be found by visiting www.wokingham.gov.uk and searching major roads.



For further information and updates please visit: www.wokingham.gov.uk/roadworks-and-outdoor-maintenance/major-new-roads/

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West of Old Forest Road/Toutley Road (WOFR)

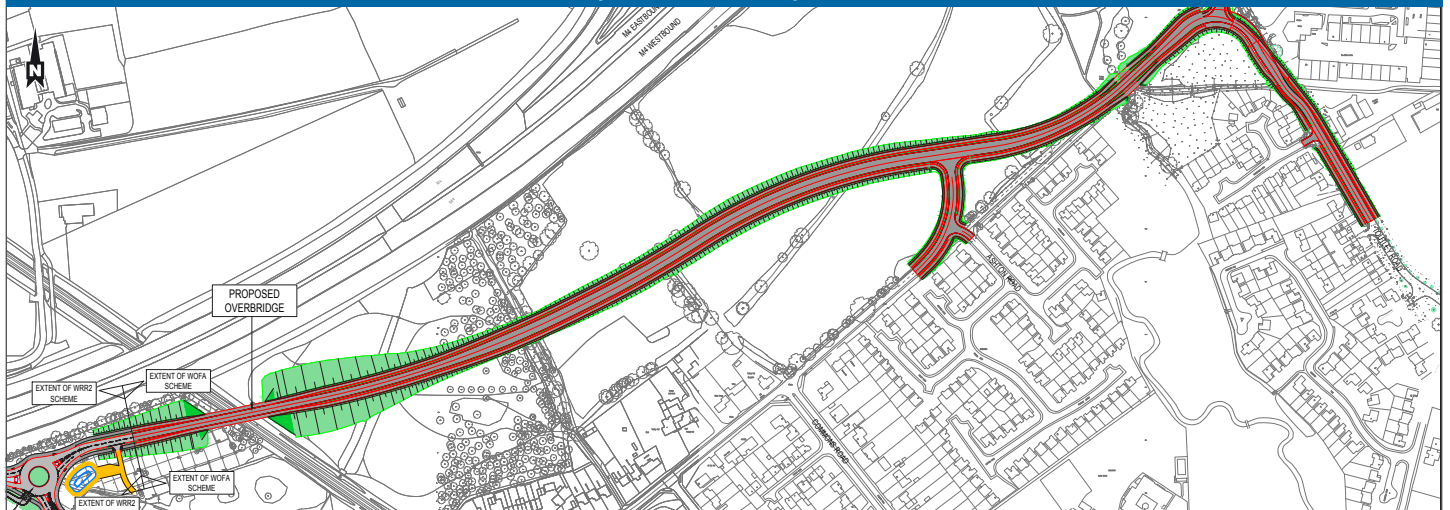
The current proposals consist of a single carriageway between The West of Old Forest Road and Toutley Road and introducing a shared cycle and pedestrian route between Toutley Road and the proposed Winnersh Relief Road on A329 Reading Road. The junction layouts shown are indicative and may alter during detailed design.

A planning application was submitted in January 2019. Details can be found on the Planning Portal under **Ref 190198** <https://planning.wokingham.gov.uk/FastWebPL/detail.asp?AltRef=190198&ApplicationNumber=&AddressPrefix=&Postcode=&KeywordSearch=old+forest+road&Submit=Search>. We anticipate a decision in May.

Subject to planning approval being granted, work on main construction is programmed to begin in Summer 2020.

Work has begun on the creation of a Suitable Area of Natural Greenspace (Country park), a wider open space incorporating the plantation of around 2,500 new trees, provision of four new ponds and wildflower meadows. The timing of these works is important to enable the new habitat to mature sufficiently in order to allow translocation of animal and plant species by the autumn which is important from a programme perspective. The Country park will be a valuable community asset irrespective of the new road being delivered.

West of Old Forest Road (WOFR) including Toutley Bridge



Excavating Pond Three - the largest in the Country park with an area of 600m²



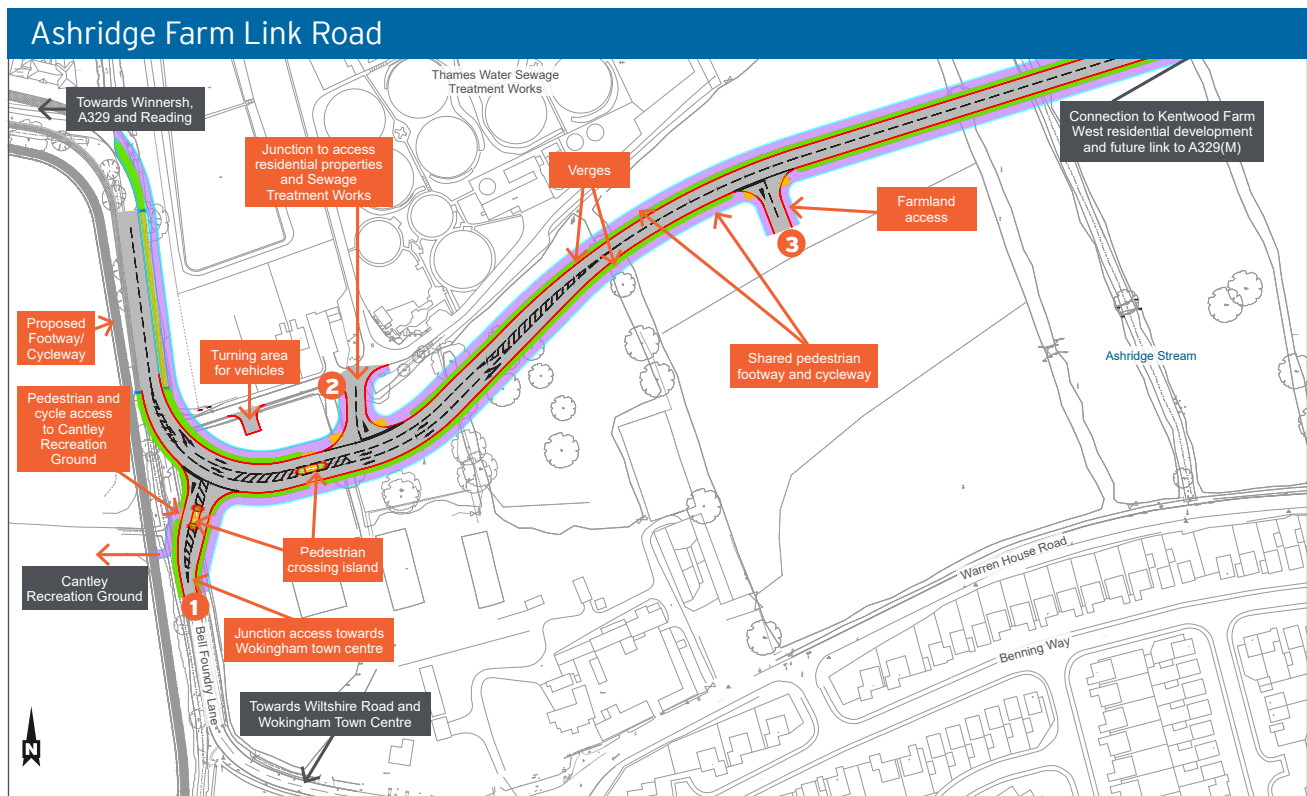
Creating the reptile basking bank for the Country park



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Ashridge Farm Link Road

The proposed Ashridge Farm section of the NWDR will be a new single carriageway approximately 0.5km long, connecting Bell Foundry Lane with the housing development at Kentwood Farm West. The new road will have two pedestrian crossing points, access junctions and a shared-use pedestrian/cycle lane on both sides of the road.

Thank you to all those who attended the drop-in session in March and provided comments on the proposed scheme. A planning application was submitted on 8 April 2019 and we anticipate a decision in the Autumn. Full details, including the Statement of Community Consultation which summarises the feedback provided can be found on the Wokingham Borough Council Planning Portal under reference under **Ref 191010** <https://planning.wokingham.gov.uk/FastWebPL/detail.asp?AltRef=191010&ApplicationNumber=&AddressPrefix=&Postcode=&KeywordSearch=old+forest+road&Submit=Search>.

Work will now commence on the detailed design for the scheme including topographic and environmental surveys which are due to begin later in the Spring.

Subject to receiving planning approval, the programme is to commence construction late Summer 2020 with the road opening for traffic in Summer 2021.

» Want to keep up to speed with the progress being made on our multi-million-pound Major Highways Programme?

We'll be communicating further updates about the project via our e-newsletter. If you'd like to receive the North Wokingham Distributor Road e-newsletter, please send your details to **NWDR@balfourbeatty.com** specifying the name of the scheme you are interested into. We will only use your information and personal data for the purposes of sending the e-newsletter, and it will not be shared with any third party.

Contact Us:

Balfour Beatty has a dedicated team who will be able to assess any issues and provide a response as applicable: **T: 0800 121 4444**

Alternatively, you can use the email address at **NWDR@balfourbeatty.com**

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