

Lower Earley Way Dualling - Newsletter

June 2020

» Project Overview

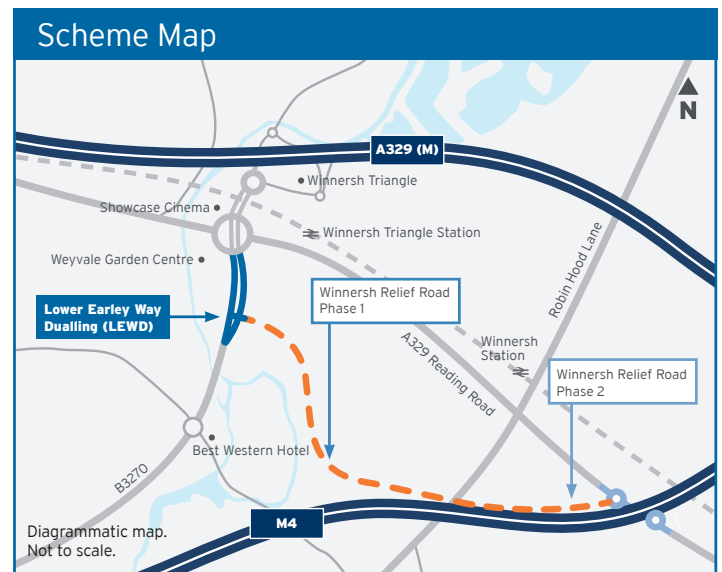
This is the first in a group of nine major highways projects now complete.

The project involved widening of the existing road to provide two lanes in each direction, between Loddon Roundabout near Showcase Cinema, and the new junction with the Winnersh Relief Road, which is part of the neighbouring North Wokingham Distributor Road (NWDR) scheme.

These dualling works were necessary to accommodate the forecast traffic and new features include: a widened northbound carriageway, renewed kerbing and water drainage infrastructure and new road markings.

» Work to date

Final resurfacing and drain jetting works were completed last month, after a slight delay caused by unfavourable weather conditions. Strong project management coupled with regular communication ensured that a number of significant risks identified at the start of the project in Summer 2018 were either avoided or mitigated during design.



An aerial view of the new-look Lower Earley Way Dualling



An aerial view of the old Lower Earley Way



New-look swale



New footway and verge provision



Soft landscaping work was completed at the start of this month

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» Road safety

We'd like to thank everyone who contacted us with their observations, suggestions and recommendations relating to this project. The one single theme which stood out as a common paramount concern was road safety.

A final safety audit will be undertaken in the Autumn, approximately one year after opening, in line with standard UK best practice, after which any outstanding issues will be addressed.

» Key Milestones

We are always looking for opportunities to reduce our environmental impact. With a small increase in footpath surfacing thickness - we were able to reduce the thickness of the stone underneath by 75mm, thus saving almost 150 tonnes of imported stone and significantly reducing the number of lorry movements. To minimise the risk of flooding, all cabins at this project were lifted, by around 500mm from above ground level. Fuel and effluent tanks were moved up on the bridge abutments which, to date, is protected from flooding.

- A macerator system was deployed to prevent any effluent contamination into the nearby River Loddon in the event of a flood. The macerator is designed to pump the effluent up and over the cabins to a higher lying position.
- Reduction in use of materials - the team reduced the thickness of the sub-base in the footway construction by increasing the thickness of the binder course by 10mm.
- The sub-base was originally specified as 225mm thick but could be reduced to 150mm by increasing the binder course thickness from 50mm to 60mm.



Actions identified through the recent road safety audit and inspection were addressed during a short period of overnight works last month



Cabins lifted to avoid flooding



Finished footway surfacing



Reduced footway construction thickness

While this scheme is now complete, we have decided to keep the dedicated inbox active and we welcome your feedback. If you know of anyone in your local community who does not have access to the internet but would still like to receive this and related updates then please let us know. A reminder of the scheme e-mail **WRR@balfourbeatty.com** which is monitored regularly. Alternatively, you can also contact our central helpdesk on **0800 121 4444**.

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