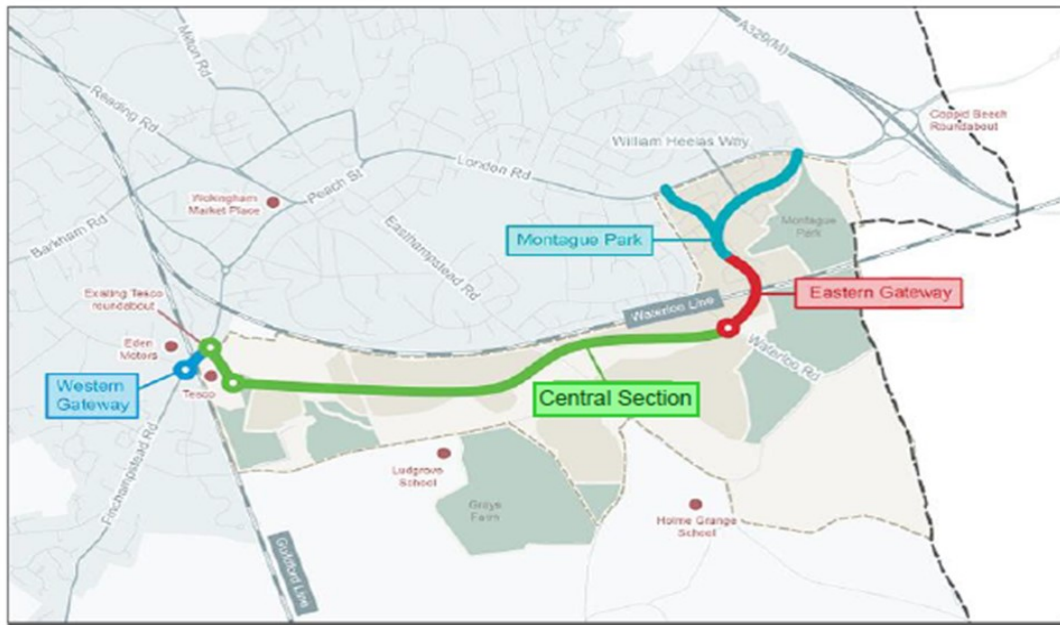


South Wokingham Distributor Road – Eastern Gateway Newsletter

July 2021



» Works Overview

The Eastern Gateway will provide improved access to planned new housing within the South Wokingham major development and help to reduce congestion within the surrounding area by providing a new railway bridge to replace the current Waterloo Road level crossing. It will also ensure a high-quality corridor for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport.

Works have progressed to plan in the second quarter of the year. With works already carried out on the abutments, retaining walls and wingwalls, the new bridge was installed over the railway lines in early May. Works on the new roundabout and road continue to schedule, with the teams currently working on the install of new drainage and utility supplies. A section of Waterloo Road between the level crossing and the Oakwood outdoor bounds centre is now being prepared for the laying of a new surface in July. This section of road is still anticipated to remain closed until the beginning of 2022. When complete, this will offer improved access to and from London Road via Heelas Way and over the new bridge. The current diversion route via Old Wokingham Road /Peacock Lane remains in place.

July 2021

» Waterloo Road Roundabout & Carriageway Works

Since a section of Waterloo Road and the Clay Lane level crossing were closed as planned on the 08th March 2021, works have progressed well on the new alignment and construction of Waterloo road, and also on the new roundabout and the 4 arms that link to it. Over the next couple of months, the look of the whole site will change again, as the roads and footpaths will be surfaced.



Aerial view of the Waterloo Road site works. The new roads and ponds are now visible, and the new route of the stream has been completed. Works on the new roundabout are also progressing to plan.



Above left: Photo shows the new kerbs being installed at the new roundabout on Waterloo road. Centre photo: The new road adjacent to Montague sports centre. Photo on the right: Shows the new stream.

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» Network Rail Bridge & Retaining Walls

The North and South abutments which support the bridge beams, were constructed to plan to allow the bridge beams to be lifted into place in the early hours of 3rd May 2021. The lifting operation was carried out by one of the largest mobile cranes in the UK. Since the bridge beams were installed, the team have poured concrete to create the bridge deck and the bridge wingwalls are also near to completion. **The next milestone**, will be to 'Backfill' and tie-in the new roads to the new bridge, this work will commence this later month.



Aerial view of the new railway bridge and works being carried out on the wingwalls towards the abutments.



Above photos were taken during the process to install the bridge beams and the pouring of concrete on to the new deck. Many months of planning ensured a successful result.

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» Utilities Diversion Works

As planned, the SSE HV supply has been installed underground, replacing the previous unsightly over head cables and pylons that supported them. New BT cabling has also been installed underground as part of the future communication infrastructure.



The pylon tower has been removed and drainage/utility supplies work has progressed to plan in the area above. The layout of the new road leading to the bridge can now also be seen.

Photos below, show an element of the new drainage system and of the newly installed utility supplies.



» Innovative Technology



Kerb plug prototype, the “Push-in” version.

This has been designed & developed by an ‘in house’ Balfour Beatty engineer, with full support of the entire delivery team and drainage supplier Aco. The ‘Plug’ will prevent construction debris and tarmac falling through the kerb drainage holes, which can cause blockages to the internal flow channel of the kerb. This is a time consuming function to inspect and clean and a product to alleviate this will be a significant benefit during construction build.

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» Upcoming Works

These tables show planned works, between now and end of this project. Please note these are indicative dates and are subject to change at short notice.

Waterloo Road	
Brief Description of Works/Key Milestones	
Construction of retaining walls	June 2021—July 2021
Backfill to bridge structure and completion of the main embankment	July 2021— September 2021
Waterloo Road (new alignment) - carriageway & footway paving	July 2021
Rail Bridge—Main Structure	November 2020 – October 2021
Waterloo Road—New Roundabout	January 2021 - August 2021
Main carriageway construction	January 2021 - January 2022
Waterloo Road realignment and new road link main construction	March 2021 – March 2022
Expected Completion of Overall Scheme	March 2022

» Upcoming Traffic Management Works

Period	Peak/Off-Peak	Location	Section of Road
March 2021 - March 2022	Full Road Closure	Waterloo Road	From Priest Ave Through to 'Oakwood Climbing Centre'

Daily public safety will remain a priority, as will access to the Emergency Services. Additionally, access for local residents will remain open at all times.

Keep up to speed with the Council's traffic and travel social media

Wokingham Borough Council's 'Traffic and Travel' social media accounts are dedicated to keeping residents up to speed with the roadworks around the borough that may affect their journey times. You can follow the council's traffic and travel 'social' pages by visiting:

www.facebook.com/WokinghamRoadWorks and www.twitter.com/TrafficAlert



Also, for more information on roadworks you can visit one.network, an online platform which provides the latest information about upcoming works.

CONTACT US

If you know of anyone in your local community who does not have access to the internet but would like to receive this e-newsletter, please let us know. Wokingham Borough Council, in partnership with Balfour Beatty have a dedicated project team should you have any questions or concerns. E-mail us at SWDR@balfourbeatty.com or telephone 0800 121 4444.

For further information please visit:

www.wokingham.gov.uk/roadworks-and-outdoor-maintenance/major-new-roads/