

South Wokingham Distributor Road Eastern Gateway

>> Public Exhibition

The Eastern Gateway

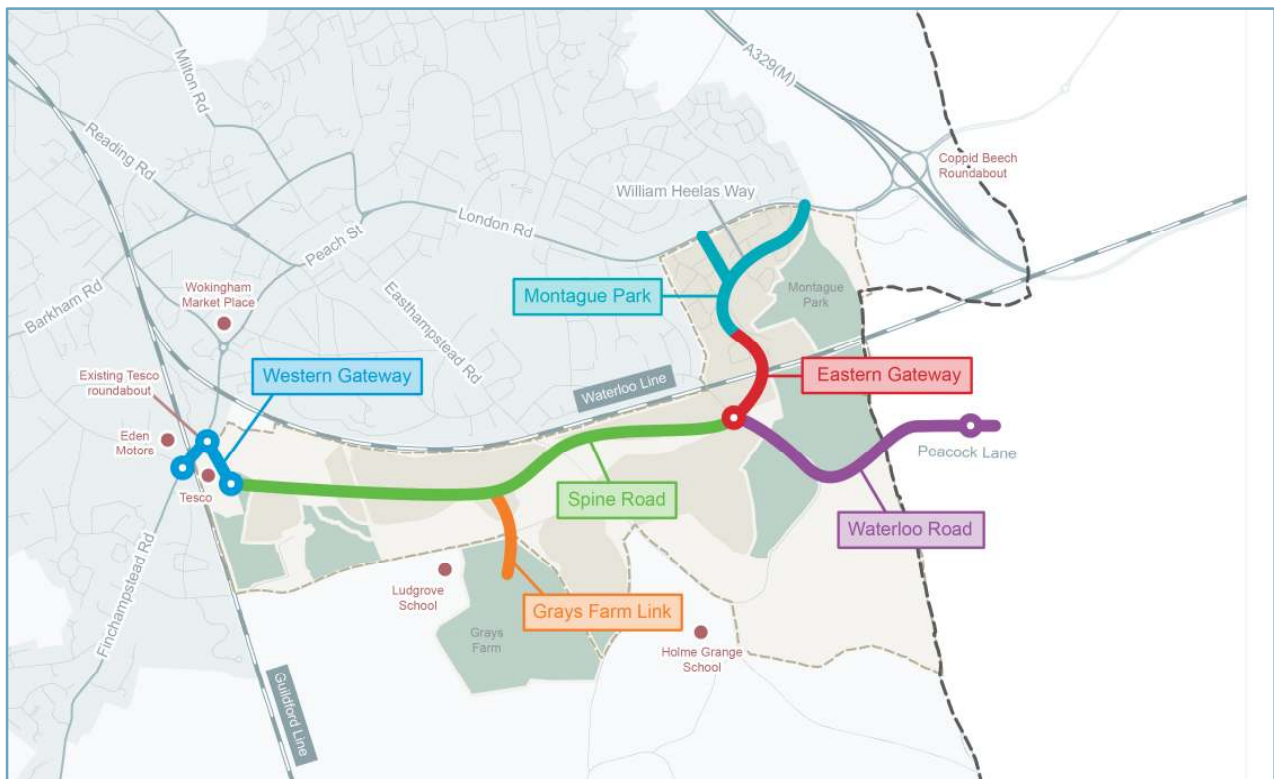
We are committed to the development of 2,500 new homes in The South Wokingham Strategic Development Location (SDL). The aim of the planned South Wokingham Distributor Road (SWDR) is to create access for these new homes and minimise SDL traffic on nearby residential roads.

Phase 1 of the SWDR (William Heelas Way from London Road) has already been built (by David Wilson Homes) as part of the Montague Park housing development. The Eastern Gateway (this exhibition) is the second phase of the SWDR.

The bigger picture - The SWDR

Assuming the current planning applications for the Eastern Gateway and later stages of the SWDR are approved, the road will pick up from Waterloo Road and continue to new junctions at Easthampstead Road and Finchampstead Road, connecting to the existing Tesco roundabout. The SWDR is to be delivered in stages as shown on the figure below.

The route of the SWDR was chosen following public consultation in 2014. Eighty-one per cent of respondents agreed with Option B (shown below). For details of other options considered, visit our website.



Indicative routes. Actual alignments will be determined by detailed design and development proposals.

>> Search "South Wokingham Distributor Road" at www.wokingham.gov.uk

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Source: Google Maps Sept 2016 © Google

Why is the SWDR Eastern Gateway section being built next?

We decided to move ahead with the Eastern Gateway sooner rather than later because:

- Closing the Waterloo Road level crossing will significantly improve both road and rail safety for everyone.
- It will help reduce traffic cutting through residential roads to the north (leading to the A329) such as Priest Avenue and Rances Lane.

Pre-planning application exhibition

This exhibition provides an update on the work done so far to develop the planning application for the Eastern Gateway. These display boards give a summary of the proposed scheme, some key images and drawings, and anticipated timescales for building it.

This exhibition and information leaflets provide links to our online information pages, feedback form and frequently asked questions.

This exhibition is not a consultation, although we welcome you to make comments about the proposed scheme. This feedback will be summarised in the Statement of Community Engagement document submitted as part of the planning application.

Formal feedback into the plans, which planners will take into consideration, must be lodged during the four-week statutory consultation period after the planning application has been submitted.

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What has been done since 2014?

We have been in discussion with Network Rail and its consultants regarding the new road bridge over the Waterloo line, as well as closing the Waterloo Road level crossing.

Our consultants WSP, and Network Rail, have been completing many investigations and surveys covering a wide range of matters. These included trees, ecology, landscape, archaeology, ground investigation, noise, ground water, flood modelling and transportation. We have continued to liaise with key stakeholders and interest groups, including the South Wokingham SDL Forum, developers and land owners.

We have used information collected from the investigations, surveys and stakeholder engagement to advance the proposed route alignment, bridge design and junction layout.



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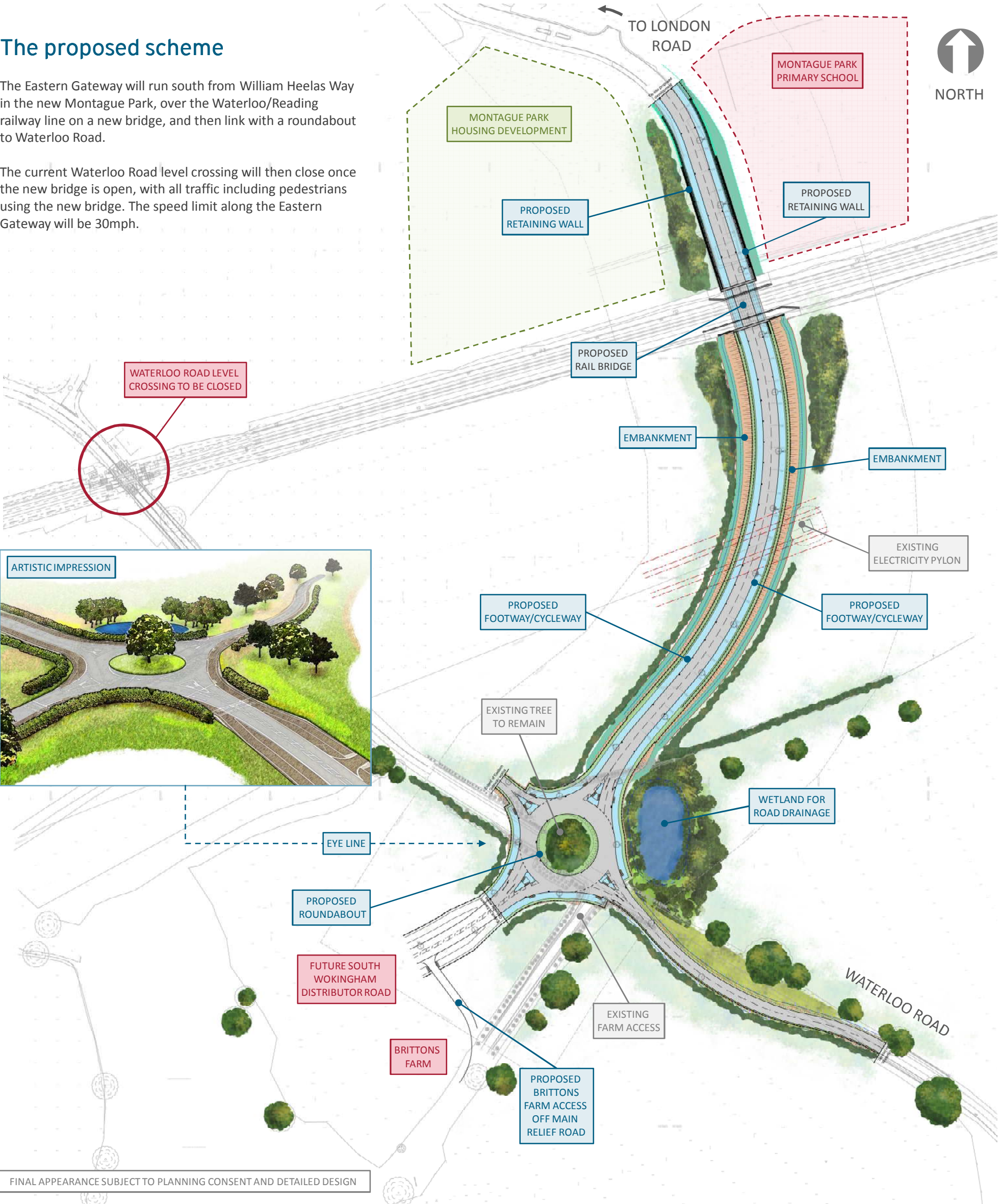
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The proposed scheme

The Eastern Gateway will run south from William Heelas Way in the new Montague Park, over the Waterloo/Reading railway line on a new bridge, and then link with a roundabout to Waterloo Road.

The current Waterloo Road level crossing will then close once the new bridge is open, with all traffic including pedestrians using the new bridge. The speed limit along the Eastern Gateway will be 30mph.



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Planning Application

Due to the size, complexity and impact of this section of road, the planning application will include a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment, Transport Assessment and a number of supporting planning documents.

The planning application will draw upon all of our baseline surveys, and will be developed to meet national and European guidance.

Noise



Tasks undertaken:

- Baseline noise surveys
- 3D noise modeling of the existing and future scenarios
- Mitigation measures developed based on likely noise levels
- Noise model used to predict the level of noise and vibration

Output:

Noise and Vibration Chapter of the Environmental Statement

Flood Risk



Tasks undertaken:

The team has modelled the effects of storm events across the catchment area and have prepared a drainage strategy to accommodate and store this run off.

Output:

Flood Risk Assessment

Transport Assessment



Including assessment of Non Motorised Users (NMTU)

Tasks undertaken:

- NMTU Context and Audit Reports prepared to identify current and future demands for cycle/pedestrian and equestrian routes
- Transport Assessment to explore the levels of traffic predicted in the future with and without the distributor road.

Output:

Transport Assessment Report

Heritage



Tasks undertaken:

Baseline surveys undertaken including:

- Desk-based assessment
- Targeted trial trenching

Output:

Heritage Chapter in Environmental Statement

Air Quality



Tasks undertaken:

- Baseline desktop survey
- Modelling and assessment of Air Quality impacts

Output:

Air Quality chapter within EIA.

Contamination



Tasks undertaken:

Desk-based assessment and ground investigation undertaken to look at the potential for soil and water contamination.

Output:

Ground Conditions Chapter in Environmental Statement

Ecology



Tasks undertaken:

Baseline ecological surveys undertaken including:

- Habitat surveys and ground level tree inspection
- Badger, dormouse and bat activity surveys
- Great Crested Newt habitat suitability and eDNA survey, breeding bird surveys

Output:

Ecological Impact Assessment

Landscape



Tasks undertaken:

Baseline assessment and impact assessment identifying where landscape mitigation is required.

Output:

Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment and Landscape Mitigation Design.

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Timeline (Provisional)

Eastern Gateway	1	August 2014: SWDR route options consultation; Option B identified as the preferred option
	2	2014/2015: Option B and early delivery of the Eastern Gateway agreed by our Executive
	3	2015-2016: Baseline surveys/investigations, stakeholder engagements, design development
	4	Summer 2017: Exhibitions showing Eastern Gateway planning application proposal
	5	Autumn 2017: Planning application due to be submitted
	6	Spring 2018: Eastern Gateway planning application determined
	7	Autumn 2018: Detailed design and planning conditions completed (subject to planning approval)
	8	Autumn 2018: Construction due to start
	9	Autumn 2019: Eastern Gateway due to open and Waterloo Road level crossing closed
Spine Road & Western Gateway	10	Spring 2018: Planning Application submission
	11	Spring/Summer 2019: Construction (subject to planning approval and land acquisition)
	12	Summer 2021: Road opening

What happens next?

Please complete the feedback form, either here at the exhibition or online. You can visit the website to read the detailed technical reports and frequently asked questions.

Search 'South Wokingham Distributor Road' at:
www.wokingham.gov.uk

The deadline for feedback is
31 July 2017.

Your feedback will be submitted as an appendix to the Statement of Community Engagement which will be submitted as part of the planning application.

There will be a four-week consultation period after the planning application is submitted. The feedback received during this period will be officially logged and taken into consideration by the local planning authority when determining the application.

Thank you for visiting our exhibition.

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