Frequently asked questions about the New River Bridge scheme (Hoddesdon)

Updated April 2020

Information on the background, objectives and programme associated with the New River Bridge scheme can be found on the project website. These FAQs will help to answer some common queries about the scheme and will updated periodically.

How will the project be affected by the Covid-19 outbreak?

The project team are following the latest government guidance in relation to construction sites during the Covid-19 outbreak. Construction on site has continued thus far throughout this period as the project is deemed to be essential works. Measures to keep staff safe are being followed on a daily basis on site, including keeping 2m apart at all times. We will continue to adhere to government guidance going forwards, and any updates or potential disruptions to the scheme will be communicated across our communication channels, including via project website and social media.

How will the project’s progress be communicated?

Quarterly newsletters will be published on the project website. If you wish to be sent newsletters and project updates via email, please ask via newriverbridge@hertfordshire.gov.uk to be added to the mailing list.

You can also sign up for bitesize updates on the project by clicking on Subscribe to Update Me and then scrolling down and selecting ‘Major works scheme: New River Bridge’.

Project updates will also be communicated on the following social media channels;

- Twitter: @Herts_Highways
- Facebook: @hertshighways

Residents and businesses in close proximity to the scheme will receive letters through the post.

Who is the contractor?

The appointed contractor is Osborne, a trusted and regular partner of Hertfordshire County Council.

When will construction commence?

The construction of the scheme will begin in Winter 2019/20.

How long will construction take?

Construction of the scheme will take approximately one and a half years and is estimated to conclude in spring 2021.

Will there be any disruption to the road network?

As the scheme will be constructed ‘offline’ (as in away from the existing road), there will be minimal disruption to the road network. At the beginning of works we will use temporary traffic lights on Essex Road to create access into the construction compound. There will be short term disruption at the end of the construction period to tie the new road into Dinant roundabout to the west and Essex Road to the east. These ‘tie in’ works will be carried out overnight and only take a matter of days. We will be working closely with the business park and provide regular communication to ensure any works are broadcasted well in advance.
Will the public right of way be open for use during the works?
To ensure the safety of construction workers and the members of the public, the public right of way within the scheme extent will be closed with diversions provided.

Have you thought about the environmental impacts?
A comprehensive suite of environmental reports were submitted with the application, which outline the proposed mitigation on the environmental impacts of the scheme. These include the Ecological / Biodiversity assessment, Tree Survey and Impact Assessment, and Soft Landscape Specification. A screening process was undertaken at an early stage of the design, and the local planning authority deemed that a full Environmental Impact Assessment was not required.

Will there be any changes to Dinant Link Road roundabout?
Yes, the New River Bridge access road will add an additional exit to the roundabout. Additionally, the three lanes which approach the roundabout from the A1170 Dinant Link Road will be reduced to two lanes to improve safety.
Have the impacts of flooding been considered?

A Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) was approved with the application in April 2019. Proposed mitigation measures include creating flood relief culverts and optimising flood storage areas on both sides of the New River. As a result of the mitigation, the assessment concluded that the development will not result in an increased flood risk elsewhere.

Will the existing Essex Road remain open to traffic following construction?

No, driving will be prohibited on the current alignment of Essex Road just after the Pumping Station if approaching from Dinant roundabout once the new scheme is online. Residents of the proposed development at Oaklands Yard will use the existing road to access Dinant roundabout. Emergency services vehicles will still be able to use the existing Essex Road by using removal bollards to improve the resilience of the transport network. Updates of when the new road will go ‘live’ will be communicated closer to the time.

What will the new road be called?

The responsibility for naming the new road lies with the district council (Borough of Broxbourne Council). The website will be updated when a new name for the road is confirmed.

How will the new scheme improve safety for all road users?

Currently HGVs are unable to pass each other where the existing bridge is without overrunning the footway. A wider 6.75m carriageway, including a 2m footway and a 3m shared footway will improve safety for all road users. The current approach to and from the New River canal footpath is a blind summit and there is no footway. Two new toucan crossings will make it easier for pedestrians and cyclists to cross the road safely.

Where can I go to find more information?

A link to the full planning application can be found below, where you can view all of the documents that were submitted.

https://planning.hertfordshire.gov.uk/Planning/Display?applicationNumber=PL%5C0962%5C18

Alternatively, please email newriverbridge@hertfordshire.gov.uk if you have any further questions about the scheme and we will respond to you as quickly as possible.
Following the ‘Meet the Contractor’ Events which took place on the 29th & 30th November, we received a number of common queries, which are addressed below.

**Is anything being done to address the traffic problems in the nearby area?**

Hertfordshire County Council and Broxbourne Borough Council have identified a need to review the current road network around the immediate area of the Hoddesdon Business Park. Visual evidence shows that the local network experiences severe congestion during peak periods. A transport study is currently underway to fully understand the local situation, identify key network issues, and, where possible, develop and agree solutions required to improve the situation for all transport users.

The outcomes of this work will be completed early 2020, for further information please contact: Trevor Brennan, Strategy & Programme Manager, Hertfordshire County Council on 01992 658406 or email: trevor.brennan@hertfordshire.gov.uk

**What will the speed limit be on the new road?**

The speed limit will be 30mph.

**What is the development to the north of the scheme at Oaklands Yard?**

The development at Oaklands Yard is for 60 dwellings, of which 100% are affordable housing. Following several amendments, the scheme was approved in November 2019.

A link to the planning application page can be found here: http://planning.broxbourne.gov.uk/Planning/lg/GFPlanningSearchref.page