

Oxfordshire Connect Newsletter

1 May 2026



Oxford Station Enhancements Project



	Key projects	Date	Status
①	Foundations for bridge supports on station side completed	17-Mar-25	Complete
②	700mm clean water pipe completed (Thames Water)	30-May-25	Complete
③	125mm clean water pipe completed (Thames Water)	31-Jul-25	Complete
④	Sewer diversion completed	27-Aug-25	Complete
⑤	Northern pedestrian way available for public use	31-Aug-25	Complete
⑥	Southern pedestrian/cycleway works to start	30-Nov-25	Complete
⑦	Botley Road bridge replacement completed	9-Feb-26	Complete
⑧	New ground water flood defence concrete structure completed	10-June-26	Re-sequenced*
⑨	New surface water flood defence tank completed	17-Jul-26	Re-sequenced**
⑩	Botley Road reopened to traffic	31-Aug-26	

*Milestone 8 re-sequenced to 10 June due to changes to the concrete pour schedule, to ensure continuous local concrete supply available for the road slab backfill.

**Milestone 9 re-sequenced to 17 July due to an alternative drainage solution that removes build complexity and stakeholder disruption.

Milestones 8 and 9 have been reordered in line with the re-sequenced dates.

The resequencing of milestones 8 and 9 does not impact the road opening date.

Progress update

Works on the new rail bridge

Six concrete collision protection beams have been installed on the new eastern bridge. This bridge will form the new pedestrian route between Oxford Station and Becket Street car park and has capacity to become a rail bridge in the future.

Flood defence works

Construction is progressing on a new 120-metre groundwater flood defence beneath the lowered Botley Road. The base concrete layer is complete, with waterproofing and steel reinforcement now being added ahead of further concrete pours. This modern structure replaces the old Victorian brick arch and will help prevent groundwater flooding. Around 1,250 cubic metres of concrete will be used in the coming weeks.

Surface water drainage

Specialists have started work on the new underground surface water drainage system that will take surface water from Botley Road. A deep underground attenuation (water storage) tank is being built, using pre-cast concrete units.

Southern walkway

Work on the new southern walkway is underway. Steel reinforcement is being installed in stages, before concrete is poured. Drainage is also being installed through the walkway. The 4-metre-wide southern walkway will open this summer, while finishing works on the northern walkway take place.

Western retaining wall

The new western retaining wall is nearly complete. This will support a future rail track leading to a new Platform 5. Precast concrete units have been installed, including bespoke sections around existing utilities.



Pictured above: the surface water drainage system (left) and the western retaining wall (right).



Pictured above: construction of the groundwater flood defence (left) and steel reinforcement is fitted before concrete is poured to strengthen this structure (right).

Looking ahead

May and June work impacts

In the coming weeks, we'll be carrying out work to the road and footways around the junctions of Botley Road with Abbey Road, Cripsey Road and Mill Street and towards Osney Bridge. This work is due to take place between Monday 11 May and Friday 19 June and includes adjusting kerbs, installing raised tables (traffic-calming features that slow vehicles and improve pedestrian safety) and re-laying pavements with new slabs. This will ensure the road and pavements tie in with the new, wider section of Botley Road beneath the rail bridge when it opens in August.

Access for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles will be maintained at all times. Some minor changes including to pedestrian crossing points and bike waiting areas will be required. These will be clearly signposted, with marshals on hand to support.

Follow us on [Facebook](#) for further details about this work. We'll also share updates in this newsletter and on our [website](#).



Sign up to our digital notification system to keep informed about works near you.

You can now stay informed with Network Rail's free digital notification service. By signing up, you'll receive direct updates about:

- Upcoming planned railway works in your area
- Updates or changes to scheduled works
- Urgent works
- Important project news that could affect you, including Oxfordshire Connect

Sign up link: <https://lineside.networkrail.co.uk/oxfordshireconnect>

Resident meetings

Come along to meet the project team, find out the latest information and ask any questions. If you can't join us, we share the presentation on our [website](#).

Date	Time	Venue
Wednesday 20 May 2026	17:00 - 18:00	The Community Works 21 Park End St, Oxford OX1 1HH
Wednesday 24 June 2026	17:00 - 18:00	West Oxford Community Centre, Botley Road, Oxford OX2 0BT
Wednesday 22 July 2026	17:00 - 18:00	West Oxford Community Centre, Botley Road, Oxford OX2 0BT
Wednesday 19 August 2026	17:00 - 18:00	West Oxford Community Centre, Botley Road, Oxford OX2 0BT

Business meetings

Date	Time	Venue
Wednesday 20 May 2026	18:30 - 19:30	The Community Works 21 Park End St, Oxford OX1 1HH
Wednesday 22 July 2026	18:30 - 19:30	West Oxford Community Centre, Botley Road, Oxford OX2 0BT

Please note the change of venue for the May meetings, which is at The Community Works, behind Lula's restaurant. The entrance is from Becket Street, behind Domino's.



Pictured above: entrance to The Community Works, off Becket Street.

Further information:

Web: networkrail.co.uk/OxfordshireConnect

Facebook: facebook.com/oxfordshireconnect

Email: OxfordFeedback@networkrail.co.uk

Phone: 03457 11 41 41 (24-hour national helpline)

Botley & West Oxford Artweeks | 16-25 May 2026



Botley and West Oxford Artweeks returns this month, with more local artists taking part than ever. Artists across the area will be opening their studios, gardens and shared spaces to visitors.

From painting and photography to ceramics, jewellery, glass and sculpture, there's something for everyone to enjoy - all within walking distance of public transport.

Plan your visit by heading to www.artweeks.org, where you'll find full listings, opening times and trail maps. You can also pick up a printed catalogue from local shops, cafés and the library.

Venues will be open from Friday 16 May to Bank Holiday Monday 25 May (typically 11am-6pm, times may vary).

Start planning your Artweeks trail now!

Help for people to get to the city centre

The Botley Flyer provides a free service to help people get into the city centre. On bank holidays, the Botley Flyer runs on the Sunday timetable.

A flyer for the Botley Flyer service. The top right corner features the Network Rail logo and a diagonal orange banner with the text 'SUMMERTOWN - JERICO - BEAUMONT STREET - WESTGATE CENTRE'. The main title 'BOTLEY FLYER' is in large, bold, orange and white letters. Below it, the text 'FREE accessible transport from Botley Road to Oxford City Centre' is in white. The flyer is divided into sections for 'Monday - Saturday' and 'Sunday', each listing pick-up times for West Oxford Community Centre, Magenta self-storage, and Elms Parade West Way. A circular callout on the right states: 'For all journeys, the driver will make arrangements with passengers for return journeys before dropping them off'. At the bottom, an orange bar contains the phone number '01865 768 329' and the text 'to book a wheelchair space'. Below this, the email 'OxfordFeedback@networkrail.co.uk' is provided for more information.

Network Rail

BOTLEY FLYER

FREE accessible transport from Botley Road to Oxford City Centre

Monday - Saturday

West Oxford Community Centre pick-up 10am, 12pm, 3pm
Magenta self-storage bus stop pick-up 10.05am, 12.05pm, 3.05pm
Elms Parade West Way bus stop pick-up 10.10am, 12.10pm, 3.10pm

City Centre return journeys starting at 11am, 1pm, 4pm

Sunday

West Oxford Community Centre pick-up 9.30am
Magenta self-storage bus stop pick-up 9.35am
Elms Parade West Way bus stop pick-up 9.40am

City Centre return journeys starting at 12.30pm

For all journeys, the driver will make arrangements with passengers for return journeys before dropping them off

01865 768 329 to book a wheelchair space

OxfordFeedback@networkrail.co.uk for more information

A dark blue card with the Network Rail logo at the top right. The text 'Contact us' is in large white letters. Below it, the phone number '03457 11 41 41' is in large white letters, followed by the email 'OxfordFeedback@networkrail.co.uk' in smaller white letters. At the bottom, the website 'networkrail.co.uk/oxfordshireconnect' is written in orange.

Network Rail

Contact us

03457 11 41 41
OxfordFeedback@networkrail.co.uk

[networkrail.co.uk/oxfordshireconnect](https://www.networkrail.co.uk/oxfordshireconnect)

If you have any questions about the improvement work in and around the station, then please do feel free to contact us by clicking the logo to the left, calling us on **03457 11 41 41**, or emailing: OxfordFeedback@networkrail.co.uk

You can also find out more on our website by clicking the button below: