

**BROMHAM ROAD BRIDGE
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

QUESTION	ANSWER
Where is Bromham Road Bridge?	Bromham Road Bridge lies in the centre of Bedford, to the north of Bedford Central station. It is a two-span brick arch bridge carrying the 2-lane single carriageway Bromham Road (A4280) over the Midland Main Line.
What work is being carried out on Bromham Road Bridge?	Having been identified as not having enough clearance for overhead line equipment to safely pass beneath - a requirement of Network Rail's electrification of the Midland Main line from Bedford to the north - the bridge needs to be demolished and reconstructed. The new structure will also enable wider gauge trains to pass through it.
When did the work on Bromham Road Bridge begin?	The work began on 4 March 2019.
When will it conclude? Why will it take so long?	<p>We are currently working closely with the Local Authority and utility companies to deliver this work in the most efficient manner.</p> <p>We are planning to complete our work by November 2020 but will confirm the exact date once our programme has been approved by all parties.</p> <p>This is a major scheme with a large number of services and utilities to consider, and we have worked closely with all parties involved to plan and ensure all aspects are covered.</p>
Will you need to close the road?	<p>Yes. For the safety of drivers and the workforce there will be further partial and full road closures.</p> <p>The road will fully close to vehicles from Monday 24 June to Spring 2020.</p>
What about pedestrians/cyclists	Pedestrian access will be maintained throughout via a temporary footbridge that will be constructed. Cyclists will be able to use the temporary bridge as long as they dismount.
What is the diversionary route for vehicles?	A diversionary route via the A6 and Clapham Road will be in place. This will be clearly sign-posted.
What volume of works traffic is anticipated?	The volume of works traffic will be similar to construction traffic during the work on Ford End Road bridge. We will continue to use the existing Network Rail compound at Ford End Road in order to minimise vehicle movements in the vicinity of Bromham Road.

	Higher volumes of works traffic are to be expected at the beginning and end of the works, to allow for the setup and closedown of the work compound.
How can I get more information on the work being carried out on Bromham Road Bridge?	Visit the dedicated webpage: https://www.networkrail.co.uk/running-the-railway/our-routes/line-and-em/midland-main-line-improvement-programme/bromham-road-bridge/ You can also call the Network Rail National Helpline on 03457 11 41 41.
Will cyclists be able to use the temporary pedestrian footbridge when it is installed?	Yes. Cyclists can use the temporary pedestrian footbridge, but they are required to dismount for the safety of all users.
Can mobility scooters use the temporary footbridge?	Yes. The temporary footbridge will be accessible for mobility scooters, and complies with the Equalities Act 2010
How much wider will the new bridge be?	The new bridge deck will be approx. 600mm wider than it is currently.
What will the impact be to trees on Spencer & Chaucer Road?	The branches overhanging have been trimmed. This was done sensitively under the supervision of the local authority.
How much higher will the bridge be?	The highway surface level over the length of the reconstructed bridge will be lifted by approximately 32cm
How is Network Rail planning to coordinate with other authorities and agencies to minimise disruption and inconvenience?	Network Rail has been closely liaising with Bedford Borough Council and utilities companies. All parties are aware of Network Rail's preferred timescales and discussions remain ongoing to ascertain what a final programme of works could look like.
Why can't the temporary footbridge become a permanent structure?	The temporary structure will be made of scaffolding poles – enabling it to be erected quickly and cause as little impact to the land it is located on. It therefore does not meet the requirements for a permanent footbridge in terms of longevity and maintenance. The amount of land available for Network Rail's usage is also not suitable for a permanent structure.
What will the impact be for station users?	During the work a crane will need to be stationed in the car park at Bedford station. This will reduce car parking at the station from 21 October for approximately 9 weeks.
Where will I be able to park my car while the car park spaces are reduced?	We have worked with Train Operators and Bedford Borough Council to develop a strategy to address the temporary loss of car parking and to minimise the disruption to customers. For more information on this, please visit www.thameslinkrailway.com/bedfordcarpark

How will Network Rail ensure the public is provided with regular updates?	Network Rail will continue to communicate information as it becomes available through public events, leaflets, mail drops, press releases and advertising.
Will Network Rail restore the East Midlands Trains stopping service at Bedford during the peak hours given that the Midland Main Line Upgrade releases additional capacity?	Timetable alterations and the services provided by Train Operators are not related to the works at Bromham Bridge.
Will Network Rail be working at night to finish the works more quickly?	The proposed project timescales currently incorporate some night working in order to achieve delivery by November 2020.
How will buses be rerouted?	Buses will follow the agreed route for vehicle diversions. For more information on buses, please refer to the bus operator's website for further information. www.stagecoachbus.com/regional-service-updates/east/bedfordshire
Will the lighting on the bridge be improved?	The design for the new bridge is a 'like for like' replacement, therefore there are no current plans to change the lighting provision.
Has a cost benefit analysis been completed to estimate the impact of closing the bridge and station car park?	The community impact of closing the car park has been recognised and the original proposal for the compound and worksite at Bedford station has been revised to use the existing welfare facilities at Ford End Road which will reduce the size of the compound, and therefore reduce the number of car parking spaces required.
Are the brick piers strong enough for the new structure?	Structural assessments have shown that the existing foundations will be suitable However, the piers and abutments will require reconstruction.
Do the designs provide passive provision for an additional platform at Bedford Station?	The works at Bromham Road Bridge are unrelated to any proposal to build new station platforms.
How many tracks will pass under the bridge?	Four tracks will pass under the bridge, as currently.
Why close all of the bridge to vehicular traffic? Would it not be better to carry out the works in two stages, rebuilding one half of the bridge at a time (in the longitudinal direction) / bailey bridge?	The bridge is not wide enough to follow this approach. The proposed method for replacing the bridge is the most practical and efficient available, despite the significant impacts upon the local community.
What provisions are being put in place to prevent graffiti?	The design for the new bridge is currently for a 'like for like' replacement. The current bridge does not have any anti-graffiti coating.

Will there be any financial compensation for disturbance/disruption?	<p>As a publicly funded organisation, Network Rail does not compensate for disturbance relating to noise or disruption arising from our work.</p> <p>During the works to Bromham Road bridge, noise will be mitigated as far as practicable, and lineside neighbours will be notified of particularly noisy or disruptive works 2 weeks in advance.</p>
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Ends