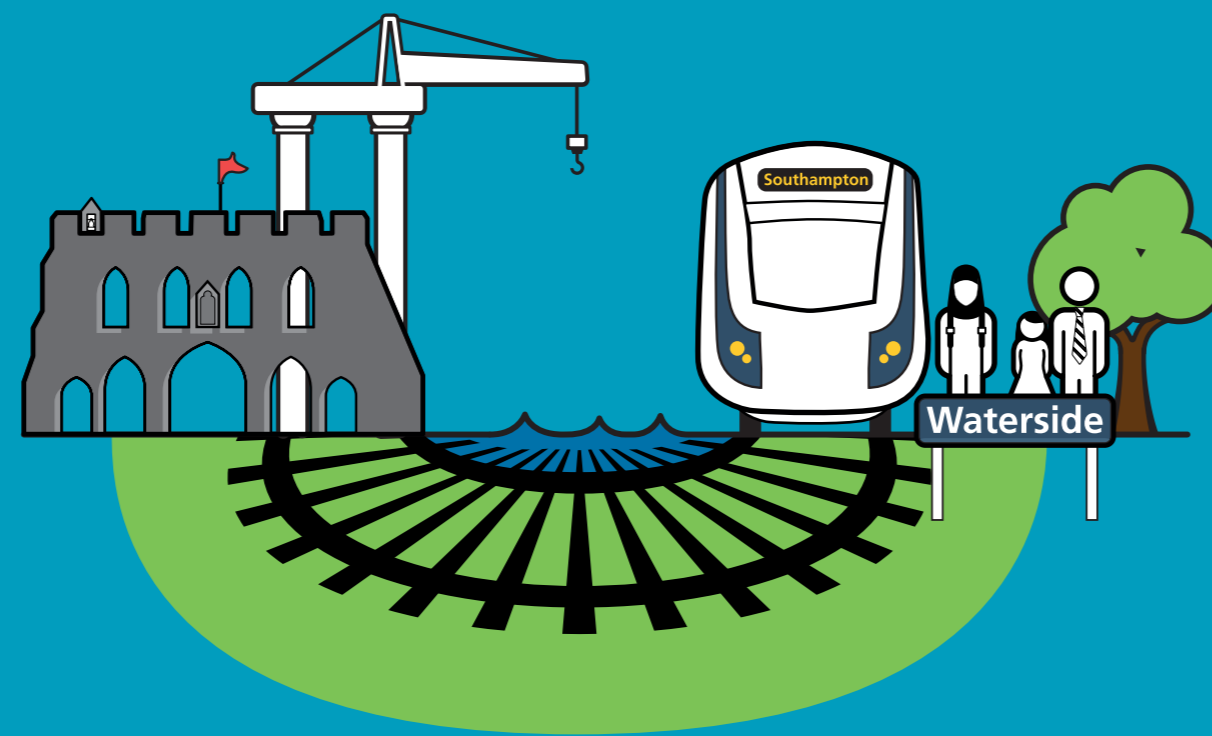


Reintroducing passenger services on the Waterside Line

In February 2020, the government launched the 'Restoring Your Railway' initiative, a £500 million programme to enable opportunities to reopen former railway lines and add new stations to the railway.



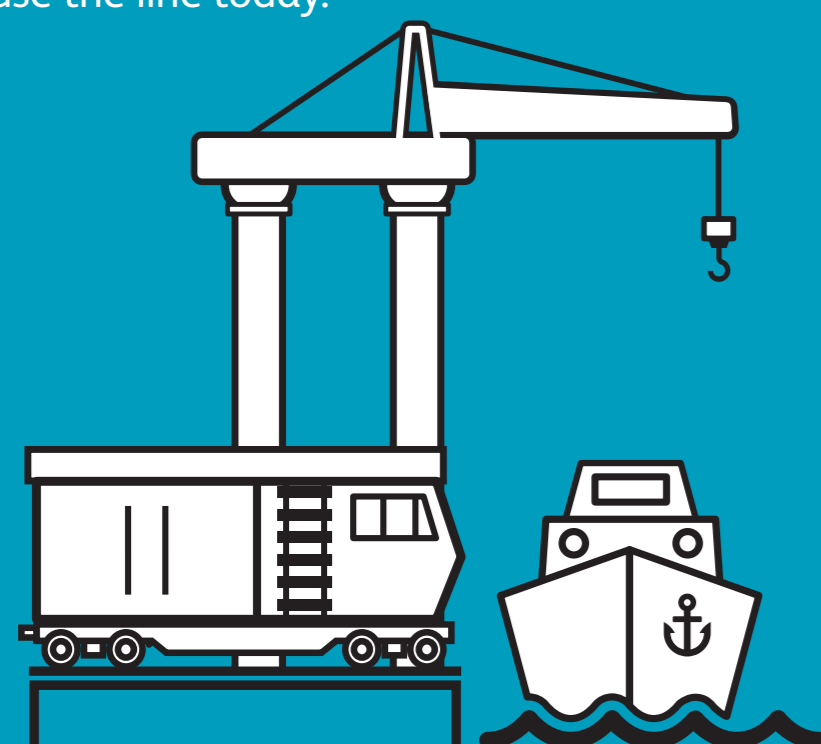
Following an initial exploration of opportunities by Hampshire County Council, we are developing proposals and would now like to seek your feedback.

The Waterside Line

The Waterside Line is located on the western banks of Southampton Water and once connected Totton and the settlements of Marchwood, Dibden and Hythe.

The line opened for passenger services in 1925 but these were relatively short-lived. One of the line's four stations closed in 1965, followed by the other three in February 1966, as part of the 'Beeching cuts' which saw many of Britain's railways close to reduce operating costs.

While passenger services ended after just 40 years, transport of crude oil to Fawley oil refinery ceased in 2016, but freight services still use the line today.



The Waterside rail corridor



Our proposals

Proposed train service

- We anticipate that, in the daytime, up to two passenger services per hour will operate on the line in each direction between Southampton Central and a new station at Hythe
- We anticipate that services could operate at a reduced frequency in less busy times

Track and signalling upgrades

- Improvements are required to the track and signalling and to allow for increasing the line speed up to a maximum of 60mph

Reopening of Marchwood station

- Lengthening the station's platform and potentially adding a second platform
- Refurbishing the station and upgrading station facilities for safe operation
- The provision of a new station forecourt, cycle parking facilities and connections for onward travel

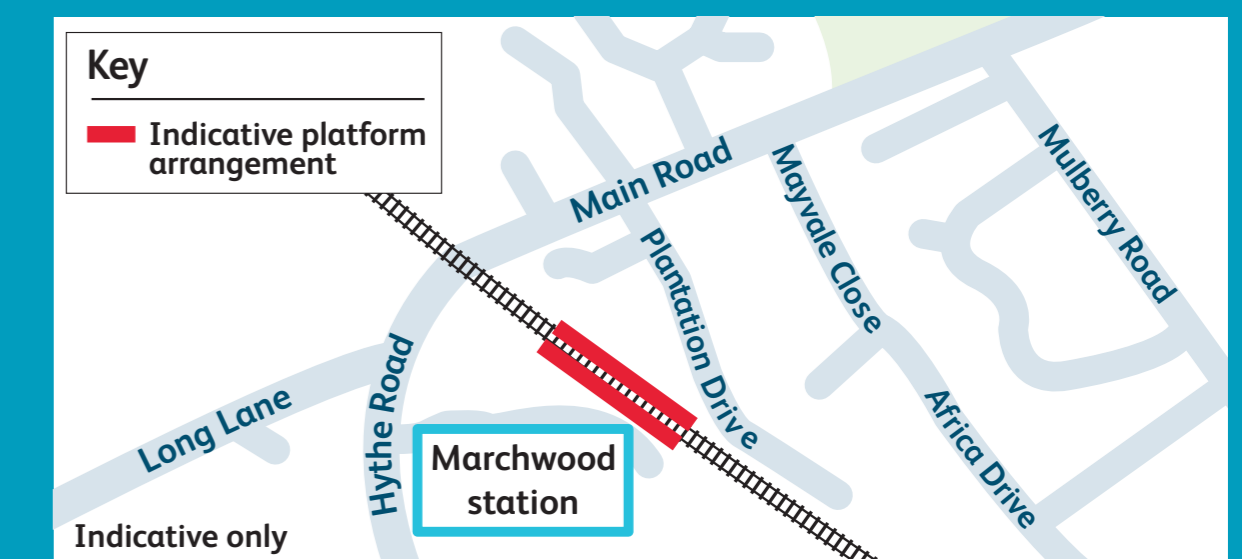
A new Hythe station

- Constructing a new railway station in Hythe town with associated facilities
- The provision of a new station forecourt, cycle parking facilities and connections for onward travel

Level crossing upgrades

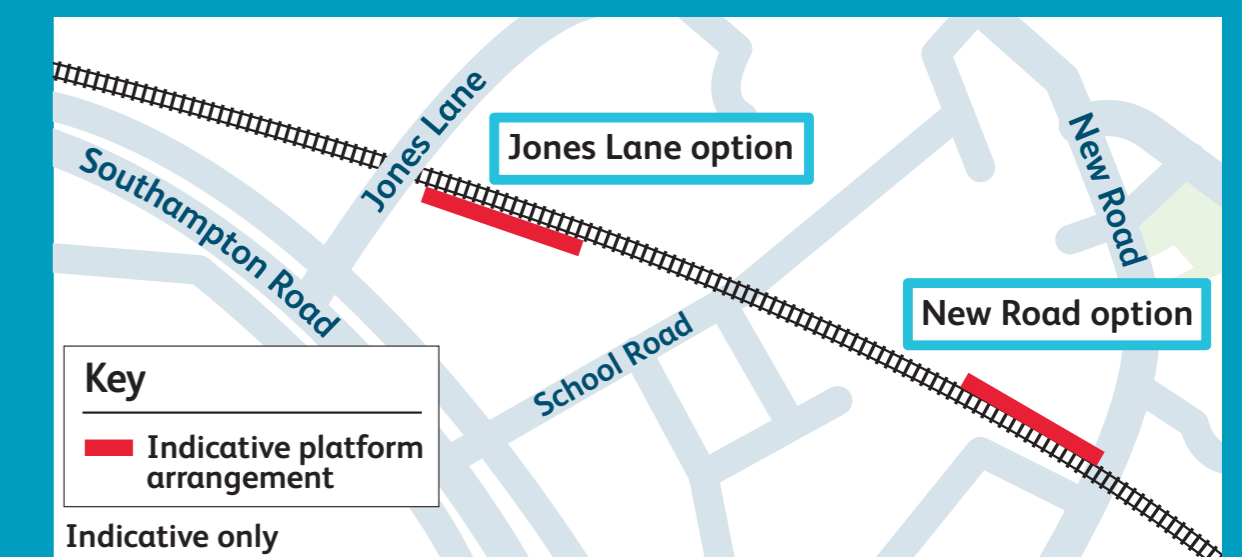
- Upgrade of several level crossings
- Exploring the potential closure of level crossings on private land, subject to further landowner discussions

Marchwood station



The existing station will be reopened and will consider convenience of access, including walking and cycling routes, safe space, impact on road users, access to parking, bus interchange, cost, constructability, operational arrangements and consultation feedback..

Hythe station



Two locations are under consideration. The final preferred location for the station will consider convenience of access, including walking and cycling routes, safe space, impact on road users, access to parking, bus interchange, cost, constructability, operational arrangements and consultation feedback.

Reintroducing passenger services on the Waterside Line

What are the benefits?

Reintroducing passenger services on the Waterside Line would strengthen and improve transport links to and from Waterside communities, support their growth, provide a more sustainable mode of transport and support government and industry objectives.

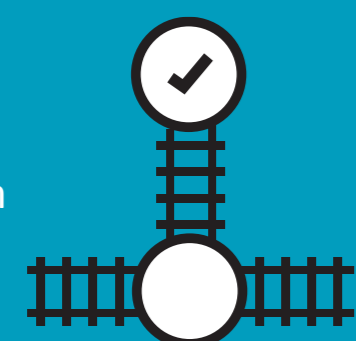
In recent years the communities of Marchwood and Hythe have grown through residential and commercial developments. This has led to increasing congestion on local roads, particularly the A326, making essential journeys longer.

The proposed reintroduction of rail services on the Waterside Line would help alleviate road congestion by presenting a credible alternative with a journey time of around 20 minutes between Hythe and Southampton Central station.

Regular rail services on the Waterside Line would enhance the travel opportunities available to Waterside residents and visitors, to be supported by local buses and with passengers walking and cycling to and from the stations.

Enhanced connectivity

Between the Totton & Waterside area and Southampton, for commuting and travelling further afield.



Encouraging sustainable modal shift

By offering a viable alternative from cars to public transport.



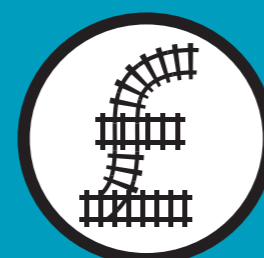
Fostering social inclusion

By improving access to education, employment and key services for those without access to a car.



Supporting economic growth

By providing new opportunities for business and leisure travel, through onward connections to the local area, Southampton Airport, London and beyond.



Consenting the proposals

Our proposals for restoring passenger services to the Waterside Line require work to take place outside the railway boundary. Where we are proposing to use land or build outside of the railway boundary, we may need to prepare an application for a Transport and Works Act Order (TWAO) from the Secretary of State for Transport. A submission

of a TWAO is proposed in 2023 (subject to funding). Should a TWAO not be required, we would still consent the proposal through the planning application process.

We'd like to hear your views on our proposals, which we will consider as the project develops.

Managing impacts

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

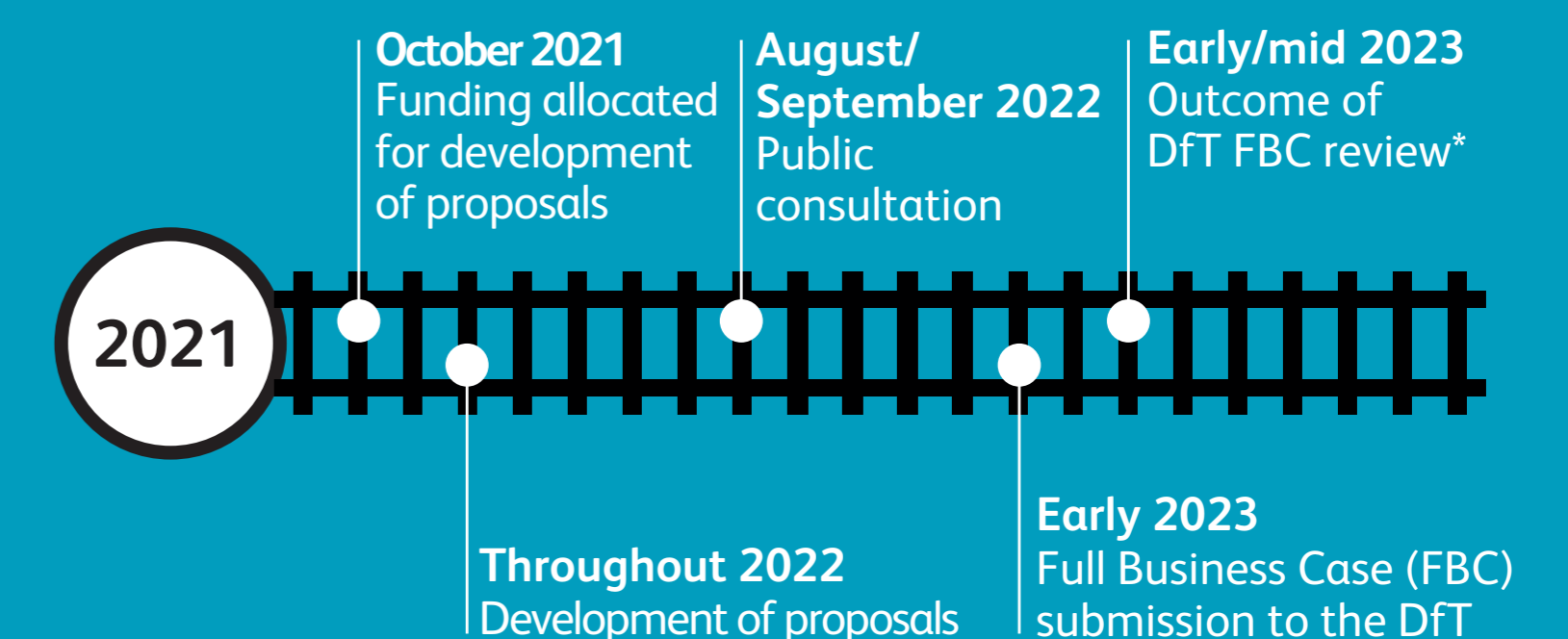
We're carrying out an EIA of our proposals and have begun baseline environmental surveys of the railway corridor and surrounding areas. These surveys are helping to inform our designs.

The EIA will identify impacts to the local community as well as the physical environment, and any mitigation measures we may take to address construction and operational effects of running trains.

The findings of the assessment will be presented in an Environmental Statement that will be submitted with our application for a Planning Application or TWAO. A sustainability strategy is also being prepared to maximise opportunities to contribute to sustainable development focusing on People, Planet and Profit.



Decision timeline



*The decision on whether or not the scheme receives funding to be built

Have your say

We want your feedback to help us develop the detail of our proposals. You can submit your feedback by sending in our Freepost feedback form, or by taking our online survey by Friday 9 September at: [Networkrail.co.uk/watersideline](https://www.networkrail.co.uk/watersideline)

You can also email your feedback to: Watersideline@networkrail.co.uk

For further information you can call Network Rail's National Helpline on: 03457 11 41 41

Follow the Network Rail Wessex route on Twitter at: @NetworkRailWssx

