

	Question	Answer
1.	When is Botley Road reopening?	Botley Road will reopen to traffic in the early hours of Sunday 20 September
2.	How is the new road different to the old road?	The new road is wider and lower, with two new, four-metre-wide walkways/cycleways running under the rail bridge, one on either side of Botley Road.
3.	Will both new walkways open on 20 September?	The southern walkway reopened in July and the new northern walkway will also open alongside Botley Road on 20 September.
4.	How will the new walkways and cycleways work?	The walkways will be two-way. The cycleways will be one-way, in line with the direction of traffic. To cycle from west Oxford towards the city centre, use the northern walkway (on the station side of Botley Road). To cycle from the city centre towards west Oxford, use the southern walkway (past the Westgate Hotel, on the Becket Street side of Botley Road). The pedestrian walkway is paved and the cycleway is tarmacked.
5.	Will cyclists and scooter users be able to use the new cycleways without dismounting?	Cyclists and scooter users have been asked to dismount on the walkway while construction works have been taking place. When both walkways/cycleways are open, bike and scooter users will be able to cycle/scoot under the bridge on the new cycleways, one-way, in line with the direction of traffic.
6.	What bus services will run on the new road?	Oxfordshire's main bus companies have announced service improvements to coincide with the reopening of Botley Road. From 20 September, all buses using Botley Road will continue through to Oxford city centre. For further information, visit: Reopening of Botley Road, Oxford Oxfordshire County Council
7.	Will my bus stop move?	Some bus stops will move now that buses can run between Botley Road and Oxford city centre. For further information, visit the County Council webpage which includes links to bus company websites: Reopening of Botley Road, Oxford Oxfordshire County Council
8.	Will the Botley Flyer shuttle service still be running?	During the road closure, the Botley Flyer has provided an accessible, free minibus service between west Oxford and the city centre. The final Botley Flyer services will run on Saturday 19 September. From 20 September, passengers will be able to use frequent bus services which will connect the west of Oxford, including Seacourt Park & Ride, to the station and city centre via Botley Road. This includes some new services that Oxford Bus Company and Stagecoach will be operating.

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		For more information, including about bus services from 20 September, please visit the Oxfordshire County Council website: https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/.../reopening-botley-road
9.	Will the rail bridge feature the same height restriction as before?	No. Botley Road has been lowered and the bridge height is now 4.4 metres, meaning all local double decker buses can operate on Botley Road.
10.	Will marshals still be present on site?	Once the road and both walkways open in the early hours of Sunday 20 th September, there will no longer be marshals on the walkways. Marshals were provided to assist walkway users during construction works while there was one walkway in use.
11.	Will the passenger assistance gate at platform 4 still be available?	No. This passenger assistance gate was temporarily made available while Botley Road was closed. This was to provide access to the station for people who required assistance, with a temporary drop off and pick up point next to this gate. When Botley Road reopens on 20 September, the passenger assistance drop off and pick up points at the front of the station will be easily accessible again. The temporary passenger assistance gate at platform 4 will not be available after 2100 on 19 September. Access will be from the front of the station, on Park End Street. The next stage of Oxford Station improvements includes a new western entrance, so there will be a dedicated, accessible entrance to the station once this project has been completed.
12.	Will Thames Water's works on Osney Bridge be completed when Botley Road reopens?	Thames Water has confirmed that the daytime lane closure on Osney Bridge will be removed from 19 September. After this, there will be night time single lane closures to allow completion of the works. The night time lane closures are expected to be in place for 3-4 weeks.
13.	Are there further works taking place after the road reopens?	Yes. Works to complete the project are expected to continue until the end of November 2026. These include: • Creation of a permanent junction from Cripsey Road to Roger Dudman Way • Walkway finishing works • Paving slab reinstatement at Frideswide Square
14.	Will any of these works after the road reopens take place at night?	Yes, some of the work will need to take place at night. For further details, please sign up for digital notifications: Oxfordshire Connect or email oxfordfeedback@networkrail.co.uk

15.	Why has the road been closed for so long?	Botley Road has had to close for a long period of time due to planning and undertaking the complex works associated with diversion of the mains water and sewer. The mains water pipe was sitting on top of the Victorian egg-shaped sewer. Thames Water highlighted the risk of interrupting Oxford's main water supply and sewerage provision was too high. This added significant delay to the programme. As well as this, we discovered a Victorian arch under the rail bridge in July 2023. The arch was originally built to stabilise the ground, and so we could not touch the arch without risking the collapse of the railway lines. Instead, the subterranean support systems had to be redesigned and reengineered. We installed a concrete slab under the bridge, to replace the arch while supporting the groundwater drainage system. The reason for the delay from the August reopening date to September was that during excavation work relating to drainage for the new road, three minor gas leaks were identified on part of the gas network, owned by SGN. In the interests of safety, and to avoid disruptive and unplanned work to repair potential gas leaks in the future, Network Rail has agreed to accommodate work by SGN to replace a section of their network beneath Botley Road, as well as completing existing Network Rail work. We understand the level of frustration at the multiple delays to the project and sincerely apologise for the impact the road closure is having on the people of Oxford. The benefits the project will deliver are vital to the future development of not just the city, but also wider area, so it is important the works are completed to the highest possible standard.
16.	If there was a significant risk of a delay, why weren't the public informed about it earlier?	We believe it's important to communicate based on evidence rather than assumptions. Until recently, our teams were actively working through options to mitigate the risks and maintain the planned opening date. We did not want to announce a delay unless and until we had confidence that it was necessary.

		Regular meetings were set up to brief stakeholders and residents and that information was shared as timely as possible.
17.	Why should local residents continue to trust the project team?	We understand that trust has been damaged by repeated delays, and we do not take that lightly. Residents should judge us by our actions. We are providing regular updates, explaining the reasons for the delay openly, and working with all partners to deliver the project as quickly and safely as possible. We know people want progress, not promises, and rebuilding confidence will depend on delivering the next stages successfully.
18.	What is the total cost increase since the project began?	The project's financial position continues to be reviewed as work progresses. We will provide updated cost information through the appropriate governance and reporting processes once the latest assessments have been completed. The latest estimate for the Oxford Phase 2 project, including the works associated with Botley Road, is £237.4m. This includes some of the costs associated with the fifth platform and construction of the western entrance, but not all.
19.	Was the August reopening date ever achievable?	Yes. The August reopening date was based on the information available at the time and the progress being made on site. Until the recent discovery that a section of gas pipe needed replacing, the project remained on track to meet that target. As with many major infrastructure projects, unexpected issues can emerge as work progresses. In this case, the additional gas network work means more time is needed before the road can safely reopen.
20.	Is the project under control?	Yes. While the need to replace the gas pipeline resulted in a further delay, the issue was been identified, a plan put in place to address it, and the project continues to be actively managed by Network Rail and its partners. This was a challenging situation, but was managed with a clear focus on safety, delivery and transparency.
21.	Did Network Rail's work damage the gas pipe?	No. During excavation work to install new drainage, three minor gas leaks were identified on part of SGN's gas network beneath Botley Road.

		Following further investigation, SGN determined that a section of gas pipe must be replaced. Carrying out this work before Botley Road opened avoided future unplanned repairs and additional disruption once the road has reopened. Network Rail and SGN worked together to complete the gas main replacement alongside the ongoing improvements to Botley Road.
22.	What is going to happen if you miss this deadline?	Our focus has remained entirely on delivering the work required to reopen the road by Sunday 20 September. We fully appreciate that local people's patience has been tested and confidence in the project has been affected by previous delays. Another delay would be unacceptable to many of the residents, businesses and road users who have already been living with disruption for a considerable period. That's why we've worked closely with our delivery partners to manage the remaining risks and keep the programme on track. Our focus is on delivery, not speculation.
23.	Is this part of a larger project?	Yes, the Botley Road project is part of Oxfordshire Connect. We're expanding Oxford station to enable an increase in train services.
24.	What are the benefits of this work?	Our work to upgrade Oxford Station, expanding the railway infrastructure in the area and improving the local road network will bring: • A bigger, better station for everyone • More services with East West Rail and the Cowley Branch Line • Additional rail capacity for the future • An improved and safer road layout. These upgrades will boost the economy in the long term with more rail services to support businesses, residents and visitors to the city. By extending the rail network across Oxford and Oxfordshire, they will also drive sustainability, improving access to fast, sustainable passenger and freight transport.

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25.	What about the other elements of the scheme, including the new platform 5 and Western Entrance?	The next phase of Oxfordshire Connect will see Sheepwash Bridge replaced and a new western entrance and Platform 5 built at Oxford Station. The works are expected to be completed by mid-2029 to support the planned introduction of East West Rail services.
26.	Is there funding for the next phase of work, including the new western entrance?	Yes. The Department for Transport (DfT) has ringfenced funding for the next phase of station improvements and work is already underway.
27.	How are you going to promote the reopening of Botley Road and keep people informed of what will happen next?	Information about the reopening of Botley Road and next stages of the station improvements will be shared in: • The Oxfordshire Connect newsletter. Sign up here • Updates on the Oxfordshire Connect webpage, which you can visit here • The project's Facebook page: Oxfordshire Connect Facebook page • Stakeholder meetings stakeholders – upcoming dates will be added to newsletters and our webpage • Letters to lineside neighbours
28.	How can I get in touch to ask questions and provide feedback?	To ask any questions or provide feedback, please email us at OxfordFeedback@networkrail.co.uk , or call Network Rail's 24/7 national helpline on 03457 11 41 41.