

OCTW

OCTOBER 2023

One Team Wessex
brings people together.



Welcome



Isayas Tecleberhan
Framework Director

Welcome to the third edition of our OTW update.

As we embrace the final quarter of 2023 and look forward to Christmas and New Year, it is my distinct pleasure to welcome you to the latest edition of our Quarterly Newsletter. This publication serves as a testament to our commitment to continual sharing, open communication, and our OTW shared journey towards excellence in renewing and enhancing Railway Infrastructure.

The previous quarter was marked by numerous achievements and milestones that have shown what we collectively can deliver when hearts and minds collaborate. From hanging scaffolding deck on the Waterloo Roof project to successfully navigating the unique challenges posed by a rapidly changing tidal environment at Ryde Pier. We continue to demonstrate our unwavering dedication to delivering safe and assured top-tier civil engineering solutions.



In this edition, you can look forward to:

- 1. Project Spotlights:** We'll provide in-depth insights into some of our most innovative and impactful projects from Q3, showcasing our diverse capabilities and the remarkable work of our teams.
- 2. Lookahead in the next quarter:** A glimpse into our exciting Q4, including new projects on the horizon and progress on current projects.

Recently our E&P team completed a 5-day and a 9-day blockade at our Farncombe to Petersfield project, installing most notably full track signal Gantries over multiple tracks. This was followed by our Geotech team on a 5-day blockade at Crewkerne, installing over 120 nails utilising a Doosan long reach Railroad Vehicle delivering the works 9 hours ahead of schedule, safely and efficiently.

The successful delivery of the above projects is testament to the meticulous planning and implementation by our teams on effective possession planning supported by our internal Rail Assurance Teams. Following joint lessons learnt undertaken at the beginning of Year 5, in which our joint OTW teams created an effective T-minus possession readiness checklist/tracker and subsequently put into implementation commencing 8 weeks prior to blockades/disruptive possessions ensuring all stakeholders have confidence on the Plan to successfully deliver the works.

All our success is not possible without the collaboration and engagement of our trusted supply chain partners and stakeholders, on behalf of OTW, thank you for your continued support.

Stay engaged, stay inspired, and stay connected. Together, we'll continue to build a better future through civil engineering excellence.

Kind regards

Isayas



What is One Team Wessex?

One Team Wessex (OTW) is the collaborative relationship between Network Rail and Octavius Infrastructure. Together we deliver infrastructure enhancements and renewals in the Wessex route to provide a reliable and modern railway for the traveling public. We cover some of the busiest areas of London including south west, from London Waterloo to the south and west of England.



Safe and assured delivery at Farncombe to Petersfield

A huge well done to all involved for safely and successfully completing a blockade in July and in October, to prepare the line for modern signalling systems between Guildford to Petersfield. Working around the clock to ensure the railway line was reopened on time for passengers.

The preparation works will allow new modern signalling systems to be installed. All part of Network Rail's [major Portsmouth Direct upgrade](#), to renew and replace systems that were originally built in the 1970s.

These works will help to improve service reliability for passengers for many more years.

We would like to thank everyone involved for helping to complete these vital works.

In the July 5-day blockade the team installed:

- 22 piles for signal structures
- 4 concrete bases for signal structures
- 5 STAKKA boxes
- 3 concrete REB bases
- 2 Piled REB bases
- 1 UTX chamber with a retaining wall
- 200m of new buried duct route through the platforms
- 300m of elevated GRP toughing route.



Watch [a short video of the works that took place in July.](#)



Improving isolations so everyone can go home safely



We've begun commissioning NSCDs.

Well done to the E&P team working on installing Negative Short-Circuiting Devices (NSCD) across the network, for finalising designs for seven out of ten sites that we're installing 20 devices at, to make isolations safer and more efficient.

Over the last quarter the team have been busy preparing the sites carrying out various civils works including installing cables, bases, trough routes, delivering and installing equipment. Despite a change in the design scope requested by Network Rail, the team have worked closely with our designer AJMS to successfully redesign the scope to meet our customer's new requirements.

We have begun testing and commissioning the first two sites and will continue commissioning others throughout weekend possessions until the end of the year.

Thank you to everyone involved for overcoming design challenges, your collaborative and efficient efforts means we can complete on programme for our customer and railway operatives will be able to work safer on the network.

What is a NSCD?

NSCD provides protection to people working on or around the conductor rail by electrically shorting an isolated section. In an event of an isolated section being re-energised in error, the NSCDs will prevent the conductor rail becoming live, protecting people from danger of electric shock. It also reduces the need for operatives to access the track to apply straps to isolate the track as it can all be done by a flick of a switch!

Roof renovations to brighten up Britain's busiest station

We've made great progress on the roof renovations on Waterloo Station's 100-year-old roof. The old glazing panels are being stripped along with the associated timber across the first four bays and sections are being encapsulated to prepare for painting works.

The team are currently on track to begin painting the surfaces where timber has been removed and installation of the brand new polycarbonate panels and steelwork in the upcoming months.



A leak free Putney Station roof



Works are well under way to give Putney Station a new leak free lease of life following long suffering water ingress issues during heavy rainfall. Since July, the Building/Enhancements team have been working on refurbishing parts of the roof to help manage flows of rainwater. The scope includes applying waterproof coating to the station concourse roof and upgrading some of the drainage assets to platform level. Work is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

Whilst the team have been on site, they've gone that extra mile, as they've also carried out inspections on the surrounding roofs and identified other defects that were not in the scope; helping to save time and costs for Network Rail. Also, offered the Network Rail maintenance team the use of their access scaffold to help complete the additional works.

Well done to all for going above and beyond and helping to provide efficiencies for our customer!

Future proofing the railway line

Strong and stable at Crewkerne



The Geotech team are making fantastic progress stabilising Crewkerne Tunnel cutting. Following installing 120 bulk bags at the toe of the cutting as a temporary protective barrier to allow the railway line to continue to safely remain operational, colleagues successfully completed a five-day blockade. The team installed 131, 6-metre-long soil nails along the bottom of the cutting; despite several challenges including poor weather conditions and re-planning to prevent disturbing dormice nests discovered at the crest of the cutting (where exclusion zones were implemented, and equipment and plant were delivered via rail instead of road). All thanks to the collaborative effort from all those involved, the site was handed back nine hours early, safely and more soil nails were installed than originally planned.

The team are currently working closely with ecologists to obtain a dormice license to allow the remaining nails to be installed at the top half of the embankment and identify methods to restore habitat loss following the completion of the works.

These vital works will help to improve safety and reliability of the railway during heavy rainfall.

Slip up saved at speed

To help prevent an embankment in Grazeley failing, the Geotech team have been busy carrying out critical stabilisation works since April this year and were able to restore full line speed in less than three months!

As increased movement to the embankment was detected when the team initially mobilised on site, they swiftly transitioned the scheme to a rapid response and Network Rail imposed speed restrictions.

Weekend working was introduced to enable the sheet piling and embankment bench and regrade works to the priority areas to progress quickly. This enabled the team to carry out the tamping operation and allow the line speed to be reinstated. The permanent works to the non-priority areas were carried out simultaneously during normal daytime weekday hours.

Despite facing various design and build challenges, such as overhead HV powerlines and existing deep track ballast all permanent works have now successfully been completed.

Well done to the team for quickly responding. and your excellent collaboration to ensure the railway remains safe and secure for passengers for many years.



We've won a Green Apple Award!



A huge congratulations to the Gomshall Rock Cutting Renewals team who have been awarded a Green Apple Award, recognising their excellent Environmental Best Practice in creating a linear artificial badger sett during the works.

The project team are nearing completion of stabilisation works on the cutting where the presence of a large badger sett had contributed to embankment instability and subsequent failures. To help provide an alternative home for badgers whilst future proofing the network, the team designed and installed an artificial linear sett using cardboard tubes and FSC timber.

We are now awaiting the result of the level of recognition which will be announced at an awards ceremony later this year.

Well done to the project team and our supply chain for looking after the natural habitat and creating greener solutions which removed the need to use single use plastics



Best practice at Barnes

Thank you to the AFA team working at Barnes Station for implementing many excellent environmentally friendly and sustainable measures.

Waste including tarmac and concrete are well segregated; helping to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill. A vacuum excavator machine is being used for piling which is a quicker way of digging ground and minimises the risk of striking any services. Also, to prevent people coming into contact with plant, our supply chain, Keogh, have created a method where tonne bags are held upright using a timber frame. This avoids the need for an operative to manually hold the bag during plant operations.

Thank you for implementing greener good practices and implementing our STOPThink! Prove It! Fundamentals to ensure we can reduce service strikes.

Improvement Opportunities (IOs) help to prevent accidents



August's Close Call of the month winner was Dennis Dunk, Works Manager at Ryde Pier project.

Dennis noticed that there was an exposed electric cable within the area for Ultra High-Pressure jetting (UHP). He arranged for the cable to be protected with split duct and secured with heavy duty cable ties. This prevented the cable from becoming damaged through our works!

Well done Dennis for helping to make the area safe for everyone!

Improvement Opportunities are critical to our learning culture - please do continue to submit them and thank you for recognising the importance of your continued engagement.

We should never be afraid to challenge something when it doesn't look right!

Raise an IO through the [Octavius website](#)

We have been awarded an extension for enhancement works!



We're delighted to share that we have received a three-year extension to the Wessex Southern Multi-Disciplinary Framework (SMDF) for enhancement works across the route.

This extension provides an opportunity for us to continue to utilise our extensive experience and knowledge in developing and delivering multi-discipline enhancement projects such as more Access for All (AFA) schemes and look to secure larger value enhancements such as a new seasonal depot at Eastleigh. We already have an extensive list of enhancement works in the pipeline with more opportunities likely to arise after the Autumn statement.

Some projects include:

- E&P Woking Up Yard - Power Supply Upgrade PACE2 - Stage 1
- ENH Eastleigh New Seasonal & Rail Delivery Depot GRIP 4&5 - Stage 1
- ENH Wandsworth Town AFA & Second Entrance GRIP 6-8 - Stage 2
- E&P Woking Up Yard - Power Supply Upgrade PACE3&4 - Stage 2
- ENH Eastleigh New Seasonal & Rail Delivery Depot GRIP 6-8 - Stage 2.

This has only been achieved due to everyone's hard work to deliver high quality works, safely and efficiently that delight our customers, well done!

Ryde Pier received top scoring site for Period 5 and 6 in the Route to Gold initiative.

The exciting Ryde continues

Since our last update, the team successfully completed major refurbishment works in July in Zone 4 and reopened Ryde Pier Head Station to trains for the first time since October 2022. The team are now carrying out refurbishment and renewal works on the first 11 bays on the substructure under the pier. This includes cleaning the columns that have become rusted and dirty over time, preparing them for application of protective coating and repainting which will give another zone of the pier a new lease of life.

As a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) the team have thought differently to carry out this major task efficiently and without impacting the environment by implementing a non-traditional method discharge method of Ultra High-Pressure jetting (UHP). Working closely with the Environment Agency the team obtained a water discharge license agreement which allows 10m³ of water per day to be discharged into the sea.



To ensure that the sea doesn't become contaminated, independent checks are regularly carried out to test the sea water for changing metal levels or any adverse effects to the pH levels and saline levels.

Jetting and painting works are nearing completion and the team will demobilise before Christmas.

Well done to everyone involved for thinking differently, implementing better and more efficient solutions that protect our environment and with minimal disruption to members of the public.



Watch [a video of the first train arriving when the station was reopened.](#)

Making the railway accessible for all

- **Barnes** – The team mobilised on site in September and have begun preparing for piling works. Excellent good practice has already been implemented on site. Read more on page 10.
- **Motspur Park** – Due to a safe and successful 52-hour possession which allowed significant number of piles to be installed on the island platform, all piling works have now been completed on the west and east site. Half of the existing footbridge and staircase has been demolished and the team will soon begin the permanent works.
- **Stoneleigh** – Within a 52-line block 10 piles were installed on the island platform and a section of the canopy and platform building was demolished. Preparations are now underway for installing lift pits on the east and west side of the platform.
- **Isleworth** – Following two successful four-hour line blocks in one weekend, the team were able to achieve two critical milestones including delivering both lift shafts, installing two link lobby, walkways and trestles. Preparations are now underway to install the two lifts.



Works at Barnes Station



Works at Motspur Park



Lift shaft installation at Isleworth Station

We're delighted to add another site to our AFA portfolio. We have mobilised at Farnborough North, where we will also be closing the 4th most dangerous level crossing in the Wessex route to help make the whole station safer for everyone.

The project will transform the existing access to the station. The current Farnborough North level crossing, a public right of way, is used as an access route to and between platforms by daily commuters (both station and non-station users). Local users include dog walkers, local walkers/cyclists, elderly users, school children and students. The project scope includes constructing a new bridge with lifts to the north of the current crossing in the station platform area. The new segregated route will provide a safer route for passengers over the railway, allowing them easier access to platforms.

Work is expected to continue until June 2024.

You can read more about the works on [the Network Rail website](#).



3D visualisation



3D visualisation of crossing



Works in progress

Rail Wellbeing Live 2023



Thank you to everyone who joined Rail Wellbeing Live on 7-9 November. Over 50 experts including celebrity guests hosted over 40 fun and enlightening sessions on many different topics, from gut health and exercising to financial wellbeing and coping with stress.

If you missed the event (or just want to see the sessions again) you can [watch on-demand](#) until Thursday 23 November. Check out the highlights video below.

What did you think of the event?

Please do take a moment to share your thoughts, your feedback directly influences what the next event will look like.

Everyone who completes the survey will be entered into the prize draw for a chance to win a £100 Decathlon voucher!

What's next?

Wellbeing Wednesday webinars will continue on the first Wednesday of each month. [Sign up to the next webinar](#) on Wednesday 6 December, which will focus on Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD).

Collaborating with our partners



Thank you to Rachana Gautam, Health and Safety Manager, for hosting the latest Supply Chain forum with Network Rail and many of our key partners across the framework.

This quarterly meeting allows all key teams across our projects to come together to discuss our recent successes, SHEA performance and lessons learnt. Providing an opportunity to focus on proactively resolving any issues and what we can collectively do to ensure everyone who works on or near our sites can go home safely every day.

Thank you to everyone who attended, we look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.



Looking after the communities we work in



Social value delivered between May to end August 2023



Over 470 students supported through educational engagement activities with schools.



£3.7m in Social Value created through spend with SMEs.



96.6% of non-hazardous waste diverted from landfill



£11m in Social Value created through spend with local suppliers.



The team volunteered **100 hours** of their time to support the community



44 weeks of apprenticeships completed through support of the team

Inspiring the next generation



Thank you to Chris Bates, Social Value Advisor, and Catherine Whitehead, Development Lead, for spending time with a local Beaver Group in Woking, teaching them civil engineering, level crossing safety and the construction works that we undertake.

They noted that one Beaver even said he wants to be a Civil Engineer when he's older!

Revitalising Southampton



Well done to E&P colleagues who offered a day of their valuable time to help restore Woolston Station Community Garden, for Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership, ahead of completing our NSCD works.

Throughout the day the group worked hard to trim hedges and overgrown vegetation, repair raised beds, planted new apple trees and much more!

Social media spotlight

Network Rail Wessex @NetworkRailWssx · Aug 3
 🚧🔨 Work has begun on a £4.5 million improvement scheme at Grazeley embankment between #Reading and #Basingstoke stations

🚧🔨 We recently removed a temporary speed restriction on the line through adding more track ballast, but we've come back for a permanent fix



01

Network Rail Wessex @NetworkRailWssx · Jul 31
 🚧🔨 Our 5-days of work between #Guildford and #Petersfield was successfully completed early Saturday morning

👷 With hundreds of engineers working round the clock for 5-days, here's a quick look at what we got up to...



02

Social Media Captions

01. Grazeley embankment – Network Rail, Twitter.

02. Guildford to Petersfield blockade – Network Rail, Twitter.

03. Ryde Pier opening – Rail Business Daily, LinkedIn.

04. Ryde Pier opening – Isayas Tecleberhan, LinkedIn

05. Volunteering day at Woolston Railway Station – Eamonn Keogh, Southampton Council

06. Crewkerne blockade – Network Rail, Twitter

07. Next phase of Portsmouth upgrade – Network Rail Twitter

railbusinessdaily.com
 24K followers
 3mo · 📍

03

Network Rail and South Western Railway (SWR) have announced that Ryde Pier Head station has reopened to customers on Monday 10 July, following a programme of vital upgrades.



Railway line between Ryde Pier Head and Ryde Esplanade reopens | RailBusinessDaily

Isayas Tecleberhan BEng MBA · 1st
 Framework Director at Octavius Infrastructure Ltd
 3mo · 📍

04

Ryde Pier OPEN to Passenger trains this morning Monday 10 July.

The 143-year-old pier, has been undergoing a large programme of heavy ...see more



Network Rail Wessex @NetworkRailWssx · Nov 8
 Our engineers are working round the 🌐 between #Yeovil & #A

06

🚧 Last night we broke out the RRV with a soil nailing rig attachment to complete earthworks. This work will reduce landslips for @SW_Help passengers

👷 Please check before you travel as buses replace trains



Network Rail Wessex @NetworkRailWssx · Oct 26
 🚧 Yesterday, our teams were busy installing the new signalling gantry at #Haslemere which aims to bring the signalling system up to modern standards.

This will improve reliability on this key stretch of line and provide better journeys for @SW_Help customers.



07

Councillors Eamonn Keogh & Simon Letts Peartree Ward
 8 August · 📍
 Very grateful to Mark Miller director of the Hampshire Community Rail Partnership for engaging staff from Octavius to undertake a make over of the Woolston railway station community garden. The results are fantastic and have transformed the space. If you would like to get involved in helping at the Woolston station community garden, do get in contact either with me or through the three rivers rail partnership at www.threeriversrail.com



05

What's next?

- Complete waterproofing works and drainage upgrades, carry out water testing and demobilise at Putney Station.
- Complete the reconfiguration of Clapham Junction Brighton Yard congestion relief scheme.
- Begin painting works and installing steelwork and new glazing panels on the roof at Waterloo Station. Complete New glazing to Bays1-4 to meet National Milestone in Year5.
- Recently awarded project on a cutting at risk at **Gillingham**, the team have site set up soon and will start to begin permanent strengthening works including installing soil nails, mesh and drainage works. The Team are looking forward to a 9-day blockade in early December.
- Complete Honiton permanent works and demobilise from site.
- **Access for all Schemes:**
 1. Barnes – Commence piling works, complete signal and telecoms service diversions and install working platform
 2. Stoneleigh – Progress with pile caps, ticket office construction, drainage and lift pit works. Also, install steelwork for lift shafts and associated staircases.
 3. Motspur – Begin permanent works, commence lift pit excavation works on east and west side. Also start steelwork for lift pit and open the temporary passenger footbridge.
 4. Isleworth – Complete preparations for lift works and install lift.
 5. Farnborough North - Complete setting up the compound including the removal and installation of 1200 – 1500 tonnes of stone. Demolish an outbuilding next to the site and install 32 piles (16 on each platform).
- Continue to work with Natural England to manage dormice at Crewkerne and complete remaining soil nails from the crest using terra-pin rigs.
- Complete painting and cleaning works at Ryde Pier and set up for the remaining Zone 1-3.
- Complete multiple possessions and Christmas works between Guildford to Petersfield to prepare the line for modern signalling systems.
- Test and commission several NSCD sites and progress with installation works at several sites.

If you have any feedback or if you would like to contribute to the next issue please contact: anjni.thakrar@octaviusinfrastructure.co.uk