



The Occupier

Community Relations
Western House
1 Holbrook Way
Swindon
SN1 1BD

**24-hour National Helpline
03457 11 41 41**

5 November 2021

Our Ref: BGL2 101m 75ch

Dear neighbour,

Update: Extension to Ocean railway bridge Christmas programme

We wanted to update you about forthcoming work over Christmas to replace the railway bridge over the canal at Stonehouse Ocean.

This work is being carried out by Network Rail on behalf of the Cotswold Canals Connected Project – led by Stroud District Council and the Cotswold Canals Trust.

As you may be aware, preparatory work is now under way ahead of the demolition and replacement of the bridge during a temporary closure of the railway in late December.

Following a detailed review of our programme, we are taking the opportunity to extend our work over the Christmas period from five days to seven. Our round-the-clock work **will now begin at 10pm on Friday 24 December 2021 and finish at 4am on Saturday 1 January 2022.**

This project is complex, with challenging ground conditions. The extension allows us extra time to plan for risks related to winter weather and managing water flow. The additional time will also help us to introduce any necessary measures to keep the site Covid secure for our workforce as Government advice emerges.

No new activities are planned and the extension does not further affect passenger or freight services as the line between Gloucester and Bristol is closed over this period for work elsewhere.

We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause during the holiday period and we'd like to apologise for any disturbance.

Safety – See something suspicious? Contact British Transport Police 0800 405040.



As before, our normal working hours outside of Christmas week will be **Monday to Friday, from 7am to 5pm**, with completion of the work due in March 2022. Please note that dates/times of work may be subject to change.

There may be other times when we will need to work at night and/or weekends and, if possible, we will inform you in advance.

Some of our work will be noisy, particularly over the Christmas period when we will be demolishing the current bridge and excavating the foundations for the new one and removing and reinstating the railway track. We are aware that we are working close to your home or business and make every effort to reduce noise and light impact from our activities.

This work is all part of the project to restore four miles of canal between Stonehouse and Saul Junction. It will connect the five miles of already restored canal to the national waterway network, making Stonehouse and Stroud canal towns once again. The overall project brings with it tremendous benefits including economic development, leisure, biodiversity, learning, heritage, and health & wellbeing.

You can follow the canal project on Facebook (Cotswold Canals Connected) or online at www.cotswoldcanalsconnected.org

If you do have any issues or concerns, please contact the Network Rail 24-hour Helpline on 03457 11 41 41 or email us at crwest@networkrail.co.uk

If you'd like to find out more about the Ocean railway bridge work, Cotswold Canals Connected (CCC) is holding informal drop-ins at Stonehouse Court Hotel between 5pm and 7pm on Monday 15 November, Monday 29 November and Monday 13 December. Representatives of CCC and Network Rail will be on hand to answer your questions.

We hope this information is useful. Thank you for your patience while this work is carried out.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alina Wolfe Murray".

Alina Wolfe Murray
Sponsor
Network Rail

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