



# Taunton Model Engineers

## WEST BUCKLAND MINIATURE RAILWAY NEWS

### Spring / Summer 2021

By Ian Marks

Now lockdown restrictions have eased, we have taken the opportunity of this and improved weather to restart working parties. In recent weeks these taking place on Thursdays and Sunday Mornings, progress looks to be moving forwards again at some pace... exciting times please do come along and see what's happening for yourselves and help out where you can, will be fantastic to see you all.

#### So how are we getting on

The clubhouse has now fully enclosed and secure with a roller shutter at the workshop end and locked main entrance. Internally we now have power, sockets and temporary lighting. The inside is now sporting a range of long scaffold benches as a makeshift assembly area for the many track sections that we'll be making up, of which we're well over half way for the ground level sections. Assembly areas include rail bending, rail drilling for fishplates, sleeper drilling, rail chair bench press and final assembly area shown below.



The workshop end has also seen the installation of 7 1/4" & 5" rails into the floor



For details of all TME activities at West Buckland, our existing site at Vivary Park and other club events, please see the website [www.tauntonme.org.uk](http://www.tauntonme.org.uk) or telephone David Hartland on 07711 229071





Outside work has continued for the carriage shed.

The area has had the surrounding banks cut back, tidied and the shed area levelled, shown in progress below.

Foundations for the rear and side walls have been put in place and the first

course of the walls laid using some of the reclaimed full-size sleepers recently acquired

Ducting has been installed to supply power from the clubhouse to the shed and shortly after the photo to the right was taken drainage pipework has also been put in place



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In order to provide power to our donated signal box a trench (yes another trench!) has been dug next to the level crossing and ducting laid for power cables, with a spare duct should we need to cross under the track in the future! Work in progress on a very hot day below.



Work has also continued in areas around the track bed and we now have the section curving from the level crossing to the top of the site looking almost complete. With expertly graded sides, subbase and concrete edging in place to retain the ballast we will shortly be starting to lay track in this section. A real milestone to have reached and one to be rightly proud of.

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## What next?

With the lifting of restrictions work has been moving at quite a pace lately. There is still plenty to do, as a brief overview:

- Trees to plant
- Containers to finish painting
- Container contents to further sort, and label!
- Ballast bin to create and fill
- Trackwork to continue with further levelling of earthworks,
- Track section manufacture, soon to be moving to raised 5" & 3½" sections
- Kerbstones to lay at the carpark edges
- Level crossing to finish
- Platform to mark out
- Raised track to mark out
- Carriage shed to build
- Ballast to lay
- Track to transport around the site & lay
- Weeding and grass cutting / strimming

See you all soon!

Ian Marks

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