

1 Grafton Mews
Midsummer Boulevard
Milton Keynes
MK9 1FB

23 February 2021

Dear Sir/ Madam

Regulation 16 Submission Public Consultation - Foxton Neighbourhood Plan

The East West Railway Company ('EWR Co') would like to take this opportunity to submit representations on the above consultation, which are submitted via email in the form of this letter.

As you are aware, on 30 January 2020 we announced the preferred route option between Bedford and Cambridge¹. This preferred option will link existing stations in Bedford and Cambridge with communities in Cambourne and the area north of Sandy, south of St Neots (see Figure 1). The preferred route option is located to the north of Foxton Neighbourhood Plan area extent.

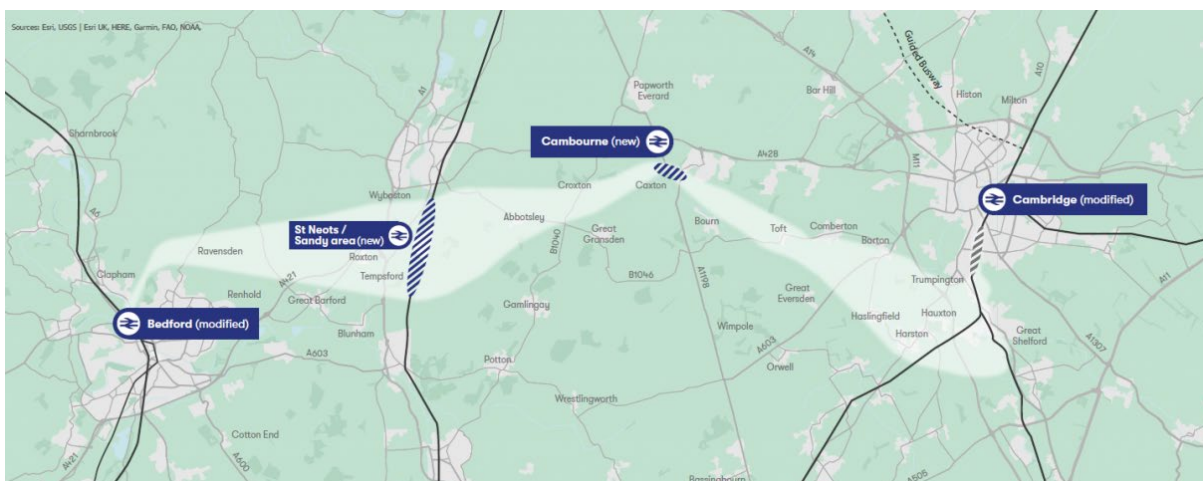


Figure 1: Proposed EWR Central Section route (Image from <https://eastwestrail.co.uk/the-project/central-section>)

It is our ambition to ensure the new railway plays an integral role in unlocking land for housing and job growth, of a scale appropriate to local character and in an environmentally responsible way.

¹ https://eastwestrail-production.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/public/Preferred-Route-Option-Announcement/Files/d09b928460/B_Version_EAS018_Summary_290120_Digital_B.pdf

We know that better connectivity can play a transformative role by enabling existing businesses to be more productive, as well as making areas more appealing for people wanting to start businesses. We are focused on making it cheaper and quicker to get around the area – connecting people to their jobs, homes and families, as well as businesses to their employees, suppliers and customers.

Finally, we understand how important it is that the railway is constructed, operated and maintained in way that minimises negative environmental impacts and in fact realises opportunities for improvement. We aim to become a net-zero carbon railway and are committed to achieving biodiversity net gain.

We would like to work proactively with all authorities to ensure that in developing the preferred railway alignment our work will complement existing and emerging spatial frameworks and have regard to key planning, stakeholder and environmental considerations.

This concludes our representations on the Foxton Neighbourhood Plan. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require clarifications or any further information.

Yours sincerely,

Kirsty Young

Head of Programme Consents
East West Rail Company