

**east**  
**west**  
**RAIL**

**[eastwestrail.co.uk](http://eastwestrail.co.uk)**

A photograph of a town scene in Bedfordshire, featuring a white metal bridge over a river, with a church spire and other buildings in the background. The image is partially obscured by a blue diagonal overlay on the left and a yellow diagonal overlay on the right.

# Bedfordshire Local Representatives Group

Meeting #11

25 July 2023

**01.**  
**Welcome and today's**  
**agenda**

# Today's agenda

01.  
Welcome and today's agenda

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02.  
Housekeeping

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03.  
General updates

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04.  
Review of actions from meeting #10

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05.  
Review of Terms of Reference

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06.  
Q&A

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07.  
Closing remarks, future meetings and topics

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# 02. Housekeeping

# Housekeeping

## Thank you for attending

**This is a hybrid meeting.**

We will provide opportunities for questions at the end of each slide/section as appropriate.

### **If joining via Zoom:**

Please display your full name as when you registered to attend – this can be done through the ‘Participants’ section.

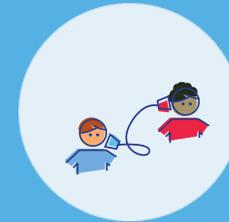
To help everyone feel part of the discussion, please feel free to turn your camera on during the meeting if you can.

Please use the ‘Raise Hand’ function to raise a question during the meeting, found in the bottom ribbon (under the ‘Reactions’ option).

**This meeting will be recorded.**



Display your full name in username



Please use the mute function



Use the ‘Raise Hand’ function if you want to raise a point during the meeting



Please do put your camera on if possible

# 03. General updates

# General updates

- **12 community events held across June and July**
- **2 of these events in Cambridge and Bletchley added following feedback**
- **Over 2200 attendees to date**

# Where we are in the process



- Our current focus is on planning for the statutory consultation

# 04. Review of actions from meeting #10

# Completed actions

Meeting	No.	Action	Owner	Status
#10	1	<b>EWR Co to send a poll to Group members to confirm number of attendees from a parish council who should be able to attend each meeting.</b>	EWR Co	Complete- The vote concluded that two representatives from each parish council should be able to attend each meeting. This can either be two councillors or one councillor with a technical expert. See results on next slide.
#10	6	<b>EWR Co to share details about soft landscaping on CS1 (Meeting #9 Action 1) with Group members via email with Meeting #10 materials.</b>	EWR Co	Complete- was provided in email following meeting #10.
#10	7	<b>EWR Co to circulate a poll on topics to be discussed at future meetings.</b>	EWR Co	Complete- was included as part of poll above.

# Update on Terms of Reference- results on vote on number of representatives per parish

Which Parish or Town Council / Ward / Electoral Division will you be representing?	Preferred number of representatives to attend from each parish
<b>Colmworth Parish Council</b>	Keep at one councillor per parish
<b>Milton Ernest Parish Council</b>	Keep at one councillor per parish
<b>Willington Parish Council</b>	Keep at one councillor per parish
<b>Wyboston, Chawston &amp; Colesden Parish Council</b>	Three councillors per parish
<b>Wilden Parish Council</b>	Three councillors per parish
<b>Ravensden Parish Council</b>	Three councillors per parish
<b>Ravensden Parish Council</b>	Three councillors per parish
<b>Brickhill Parish Council</b>	Two councillors per parish
<b>Roxton Parish Council</b>	Two councillors per parish
<b>Renhold ward</b>	Two councillors per parish
<b>Renhold ward</b>	Two councillors per parish
<b>Renhold Parish Council</b>	Two councillors per parish
<b>Thurleigh Parish Council</b>	Two councillors per parish

# Completed actions

Meeting	No.	Action	Owner	Status
#10	2	EWR Co to provide answer to why a train cannot follow the road south of Bedford.	EWR Co	To be covered during this meeting.
#10	5	EWR Co to provide further information on the Alignment 1 (Tempsford variant) and reasons for this alignment preference.	EWR Co	To be covered during this meeting.

# Outstanding actions

Meeting	No.	Action	Owner	Status
#10	3	<b>EWR Co to arrange a conversation between EWR Co's and BFARe's geotechnical experts to cover their findings on ground conditions north and south of Bedford.</b>	EWR Co	Ongoing.
#10	4	<b>EWR Co to review information provided by attendee and provide an overview of how EWR Co has considered the costs of Route E and other options to inform decision making to date.</b>	EWR Co	Ongoing.

# 05. Q&A

# Thank you for providing your questions

## Videos

**Your questions answered**



**Beth West**  
Chief Executive

**#13**



**Your Questions Answered 13**

**Your questions answered**



**Hannah Staunton**  
Head of Communications

**#12**

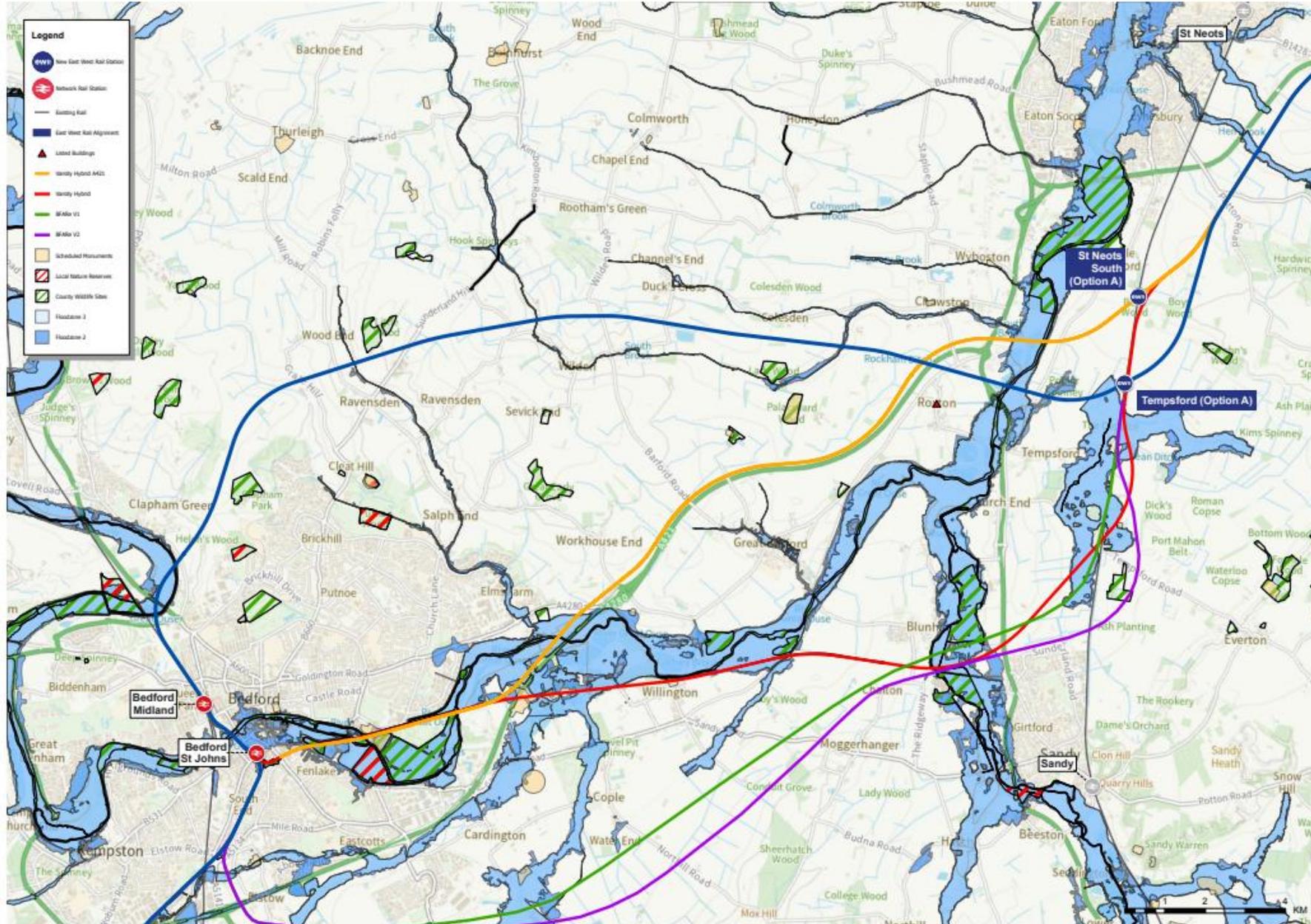


**Your Questions Answered 12**

**Question: Meeting #10 action 2- EWR Co to provide answer to why a train cannot follow the road south of Bedford.**

The main road between the south of Bedford and the Tempsford / St Neots area is the A421. An EWR route following this route would be required to cross through large areas of floodplain as well as directly impacting scheduled ancient monuments east of Bedford. It is also noted that following this route would require EWR to approach Bedford from the south which is not the preferred option.

# Varsity Hybrid alignments – Environmental risks/constraints



The line marked as "East West Rail Alignment" is indicative and is only provided for general reference purposes. It may be subject to changes, including, but not limited to, alterations in alignment.

## **Question: Meeting #10 action 5- EWR Co to provide further information on the Alignment 1 (Tempsford variant) and reasons for this alignment preference.**

Using feedback from the last consultation and further studies, we've concluded that one of our emerging preferences in 2021, Alignment 1 (see Figure 15 of RUR), provides the best option for the majority of its length. We believe the identified environmental impacts can be mitigated and that this alignment would have the least visual impact for local communities. It would also serve a new station at Cambourne North, maximising economic opportunities for the town.

Our analysis also showed us that a station near Tempsford (part of Alignment 9- see Figure 15 of RUR) would have greater advantages compared to a station at St Neots South (part of Alignment 1). A Tempsford station would be better located to enable a new community to grow, including opportunities to improve biodiversity and give more people access to green spaces. There would also be more opportunity at Tempsford to design the railway so that it could be at the centre of the local travel network including good walking, wheeling for those using mobility aids and cycling routes.

Considering the above points, we've concluded that the best option is to follow the route of Alignment 1 for most of the route, but we have an emerging preference for a local variation so we can provide a new station at Tempsford. We refer to this new route as Alignment 1 (Tempsford variant).

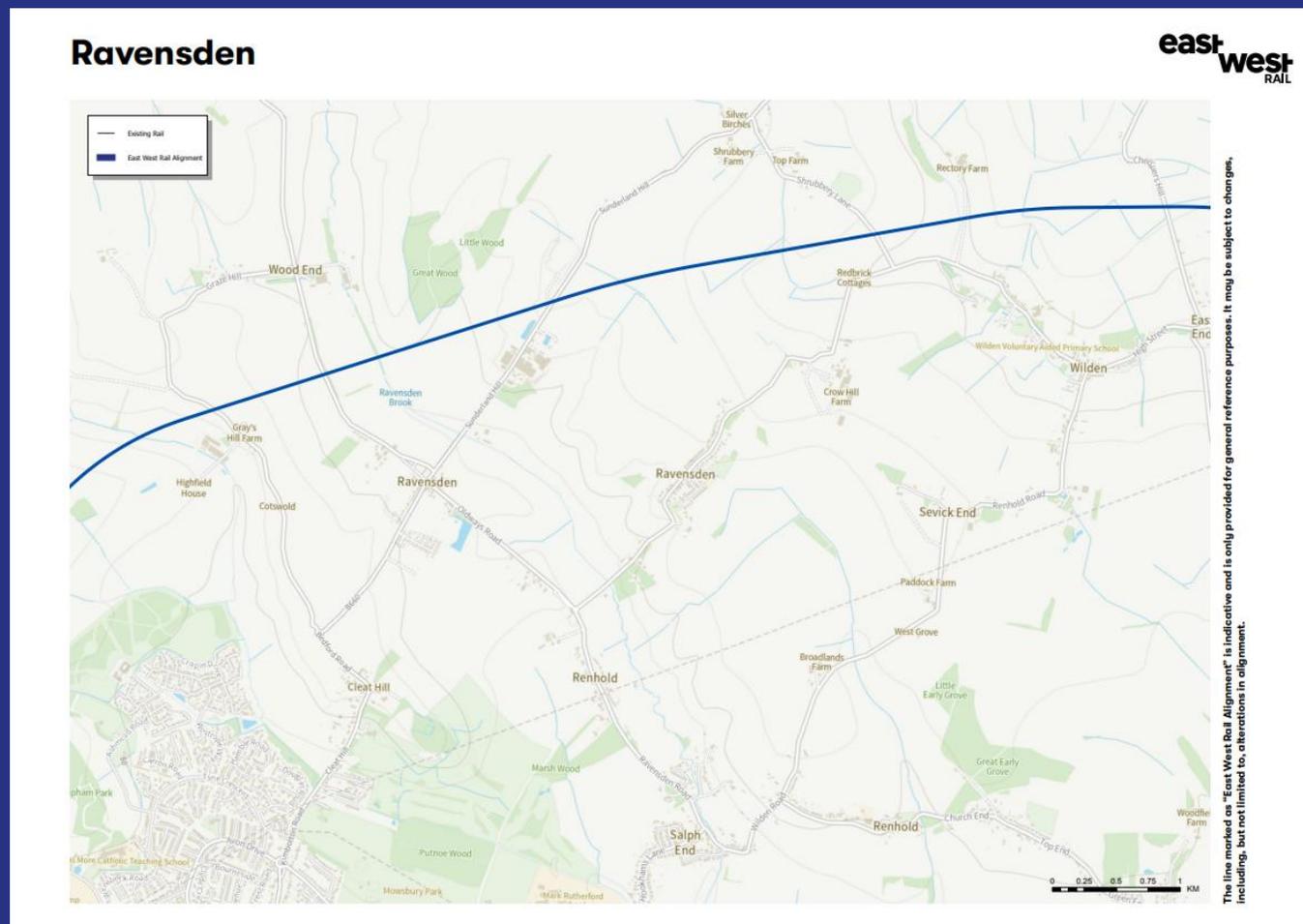
**Question: why have the engineering long section drawings for alignment 1 not been updated to show the changes introduced by the alignment adjustment over approximately 3.5km to the north of Wilden and the Tempsford variation so as to match the level of detail provided for each alignment option at the 2021 Non Statutory Consultation?**

**Question: With regard to the new maps for Ravensden updated on the website:**

**-is the change in alignment at properties near Wilden correct?**

**-Will the lines now go slightly further North, away from these buildings? If so have any steps have been taken with regard to informing the occupants, the people notified back in 2021 of the impact upon their properties?**

Question: In relation to the maps, has there been a shift of Route Alignment 1 to the north whilst passing Wilden?



***Question: Please clarify how the existing Transport and Works Act Order which was approved in Jan 2020 and covers section 2D along the MVL to the centre of Bedford Station sits with the proposed Statutory Consultation and DCO application due next year.***

***The last Non Statutory Consultation included significant options for infrastructure changes to the MVL and its likely service pattern – which are still undecided. Will the Statutory Consultation be limited to the changes to Bedford Station and the onward route to Cambridge or be mixed in with matters affecting the MVL which were effectively concluded with the issue of the TWAO?***

***From what western point will the DCO and likewise the prior Statutory Consultation actually take effect?***

***Question: Why are EWR so reluctant to concede that more than 4 freight paths per day in each direction would be eminently possible?***

**Question: Please can you supply the technical justification for the claimed flood risk in Bedford?**

## **Flood Risk in Bedford - Bedford North and the Varsity Hybrid Option Exploratory Modelling Outputs**

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### **Summary**

The River Great Ouse catchment is at risk of flooding and a quarter of properties and people at risk are in Bedford.

The current extent of the 1 in 100-year event (1% AEP) with climate change encompasses over 200 properties in Bedford, with a number of community and energy infrastructure facilities potentially affected.

Both a northern (Viaduct) and eastern (Varsity Hybrid) approach to Bedford represent potential flood risk challenges. Through the consenting process, EWR will need to demonstrate that new infrastructure does not result in increased flood risk elsewhere and until now only Baseline flood risk modelling has been available, with no quantification or qualification of potential impacts (pre-mitigation) from either option

**Question: Could the wording of acknowledgements sent in response to emails to the LRG or EWR contact addresses be updated as the standard response:**

- a. Doesn't positively link to the message sent in and**
- b. States that a reply could take 10 days**

**Question: Please can you consider the choice of options in the poll on preferences for meeting attendance? At present the options drive recipients to favour one method of engagement. Suggested update to wording could be:**

- a. I would prefer to attend in person**
- b. I would prefer to attend in person but could do so virtually**
- c. I would prefer to attend virtually**
- d. I am not available to attend on that day**

# Any further questions or comments

**06.**

**Closing remarks, future  
meetings and topics**

# Next Steps

Topics for future discussion:

Meeting #12 onwards: Approach to consultation

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Agreed frequency: Every 6 weeks

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Meeting notes circulated within 10 days, feedback requested within 10 days. 5 working days amending process, posted on Hub

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# We're always here

All the Group's relevant documents will be available on its **Community Hub** site.

We will notify you when available.



# Got a question?

If you have any questions about the Group, please email:

[localrepresentativesgroups@eastwestrail.co.uk](mailto:localrepresentativesgroups@eastwestrail.co.uk)

If you have any questions about the project, please email:

[contact@eastwestrail.co.uk](mailto:contact@eastwestrail.co.uk)

Or you can also call us on **0330 134 0067**