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RAIL

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Buckinghamshire Local Representatives Group

Meeting 5

Thursday 29 June 2023

01. Welcome and today's agenda

Today's agenda

- 01. Welcome and today's agenda**

- 02. Housekeeping**

- 03. General Updates**

- 04. Topic – Route Update Announcement**

- 05. Review of actions from meeting #4**

- 06. Closing remarks, future meetings & topics**

02. Housekeeping

Housekeeping

Thank you for joining

This is a virtual meeting.

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).



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

Since our last meeting

- East West Rail Accessibility Advisory Panel met for their first session in April.
- **On 26th May**, we published the route update for East West Rail (EWR)
- We have now published a range of **Factsheets** and **Your Question's Answered videos** that you may also find useful:

<https://eastwestrail.co.uk/routeupdate>



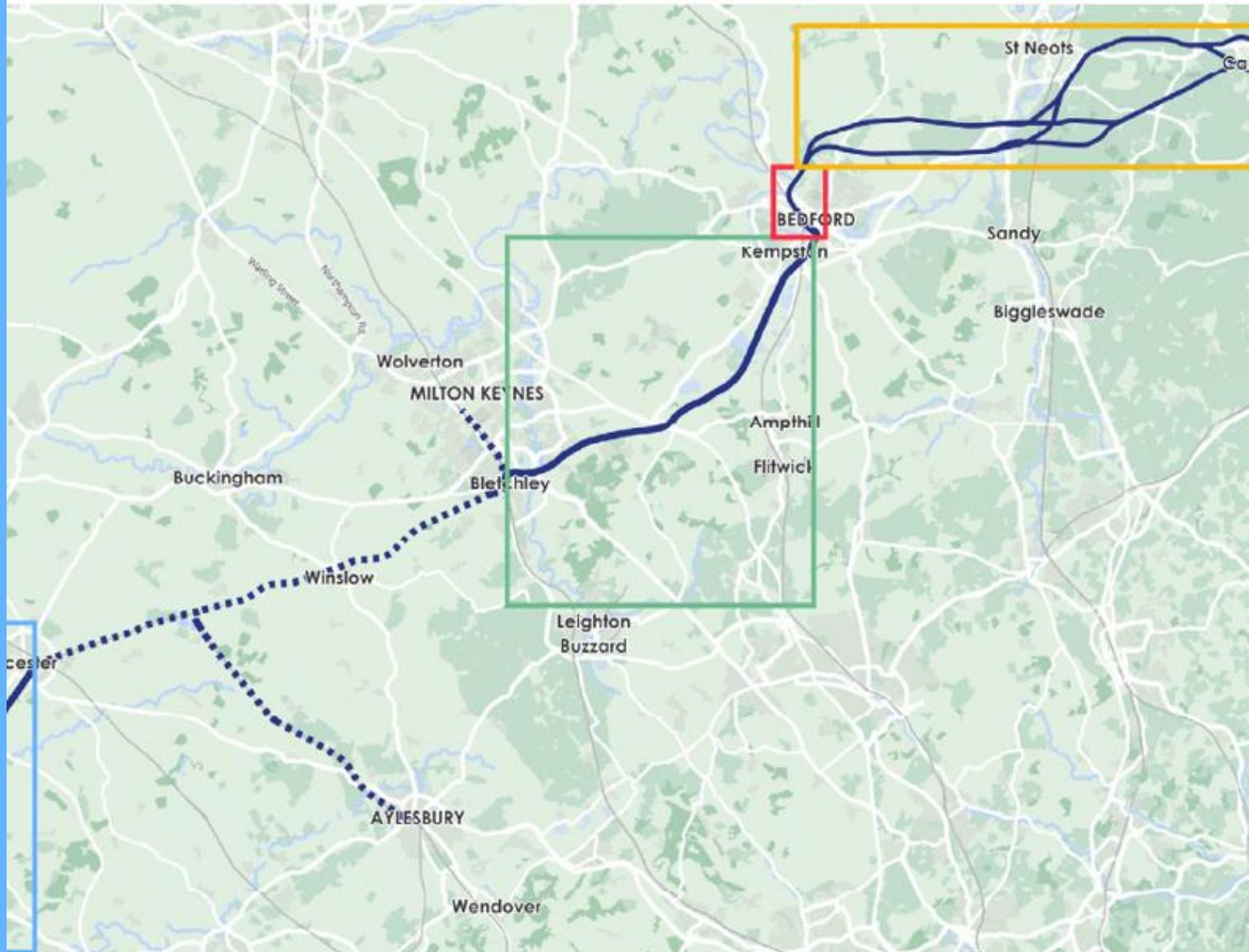
Introduction

Since the non-statutory public consultation on East West Rail in 2021, we've carefully reviewed feedback and used it, alongside a strategic review of the Project, to guide our developing plans to design a railway that meets the needs of communities between Oxford and Cambridge.

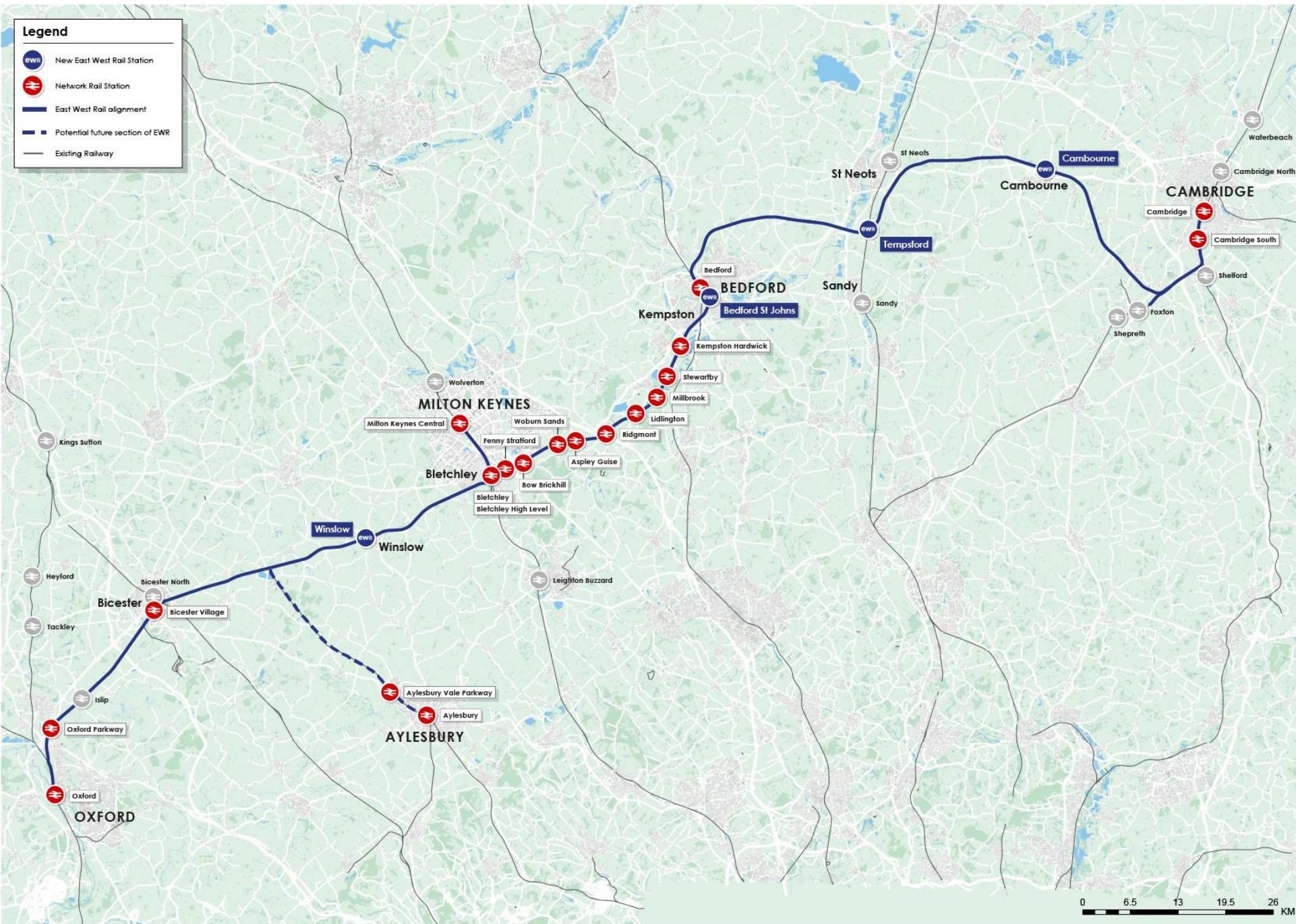
We've made some changes to the proposals we presented in 2021, which take account of:

- Feedback received during and since the 2021 consultation
- Further technical and environmental work
- The analysis undertaken as part of the Affordable Connections Project

Following that work, we are now sharing a number of updates about EWR.



- Project section A: Oxford to Bicester
- Project section B: Bletchley & Marston Vale Line
- Project section C: Bedford



What have we announced?

Route Update Report

The report describes how the proposals for EWR have developed since the 2021 consultation and what our preferred plans for certain sections of the railway are, including:

- Route preferences
- Route-wide matters
- What happens next



Associated Reports

Alongside the Route Update Report, we're also publishing:

- The 2021 Consultation Feedback Report
- The EWR Economic and Technical Report
- The 2023 Need to Sell Property Scheme



04.

Topic- Route Update Announcement

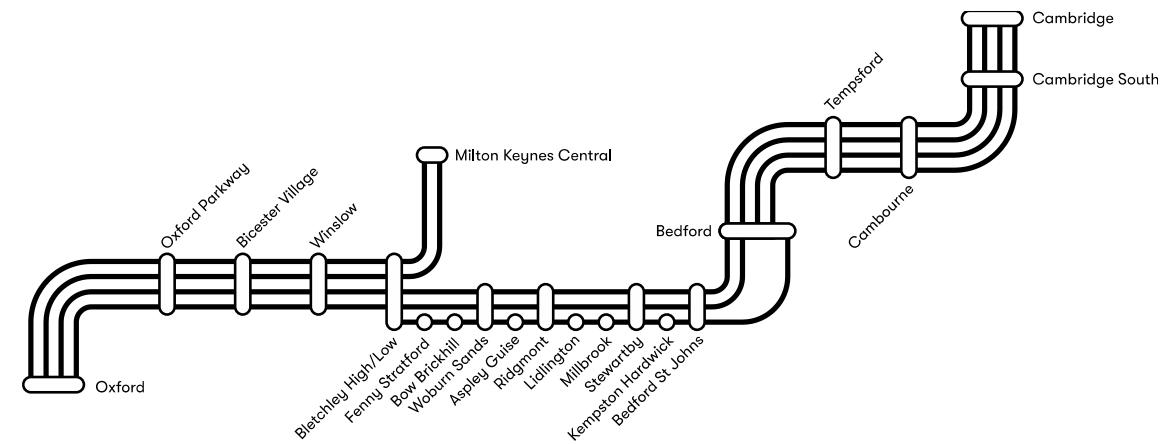
Shaun Fisher, Programme Manager – Oxford

Updated service pattern

Updated service pattern

We've established an updated service pattern for EWR, which will provide:

- Four trains per hour from Oxford – two progress to Milton Keynes, two continue to Cambridge
- A further two trains per hour travelling between Bedford and Cambridge
- An additional service between Bletchley and Bedford



Oxford station

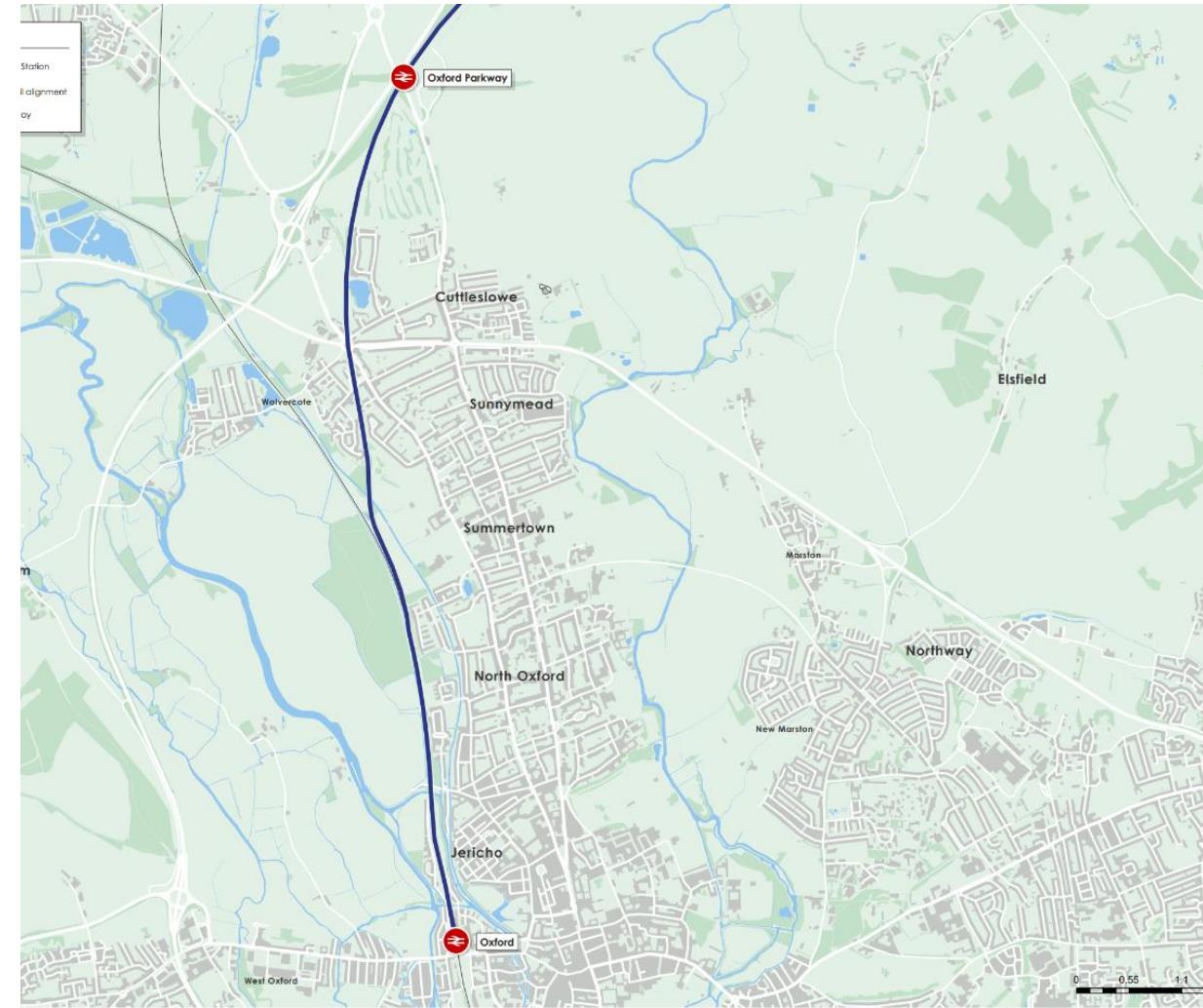
Oxford station

Four EWR trains per hour will depart Oxford station: two to Milton Keynes and two to Cambridge.

Work is already being carried out at Oxford station by Network Rail, but further work will be needed to enable the full EWR service.

In 2021 we talked with Oxford communities about our plans to:

- Add new platforms so more trains can use the station
- Build new infrastructure south of the station
- Make improvements to the station itself



Oxford station

Oxford station

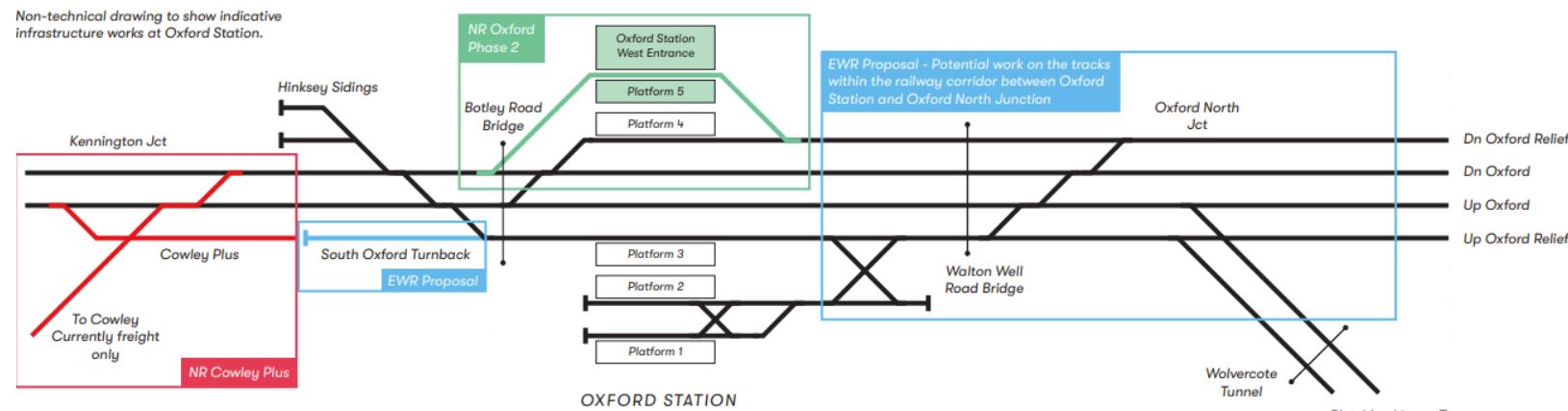
Network Rail is planning for a new platform and entrance on the western side of Oxford station

It may also reopen the Cowley Branch Line to passengers – meaning trains could turn back south of the station

If this doesn't proceed, we'll develop 'turn back' capabilities for EWR services

We'll also explore if more trackwork is needed to boost capacity between Oxford Station and Oxford North Junction

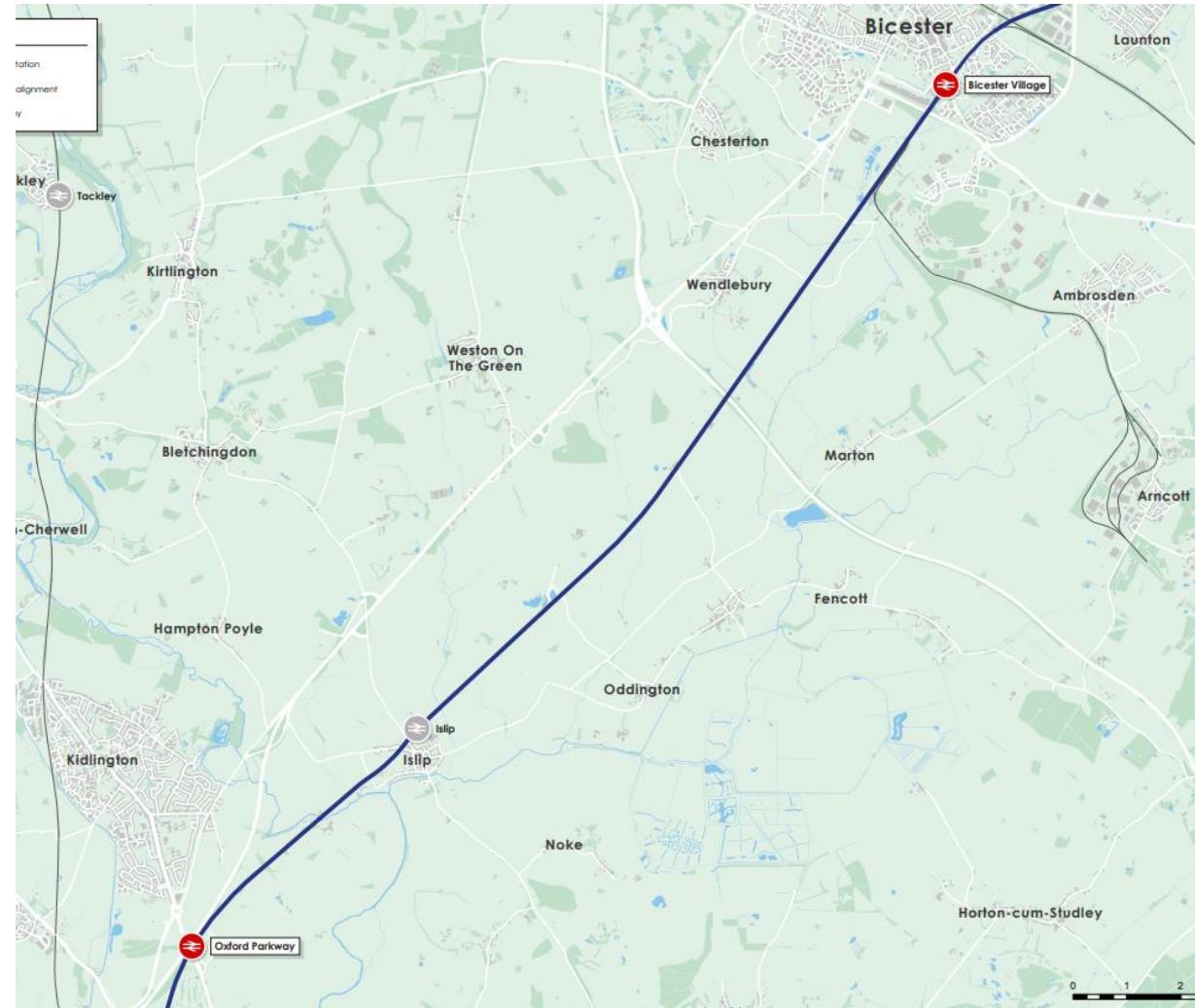
We'll present additional information about the particular works we propose to undertake at the statutory consultation.



Oxford to Bletchley

Oxford to Bletchley

- Work to construct the railway between Bicester and Bletchley is underway
- DfT is currently in the process of procuring an operator to run these services from 2025
- We're considering what work is required at Oxford Parkway and Bicester Village stations
- We're also conducting further work to identify the best option for London Road level crossing in Bicester
- We're continuing work to identify the most suitable locations for passing loops between Oxford and Bletchley to allow faster trains to overtake slower stopping services safely.



What happens next?

We still have work to do and are carrying out more surveys and investigations to help us design the Project in more detail.

These will be vital in providing information for our assessments, which will underpin the information presented at the statutory consultation our subsequent DCO application.

We'll develop our design based on feedback received from the two previous consultations and continuing environmental, economic and technical studies.

There will be further opportunity for you to comment on our proposals during the statutory consultation.



Questions or comments

04. Review of actions from meeting #4

Completed actions

Meeting	No.	Action	Owner	Status
#4	1	Provide usage data for Winslow station.	EWR Co	Complete
#4	3	Look into meetings with EWR Alliance and advise members on how they can participate.	EWR Co	Complete
#4	4	Share a diagram of EWR Co and EWR Alliance relationship	EWR Co	Complete
#4	5	Pass on actions to EWR Alliance	EWR Co	Complete

Outstanding actions

Meeting	No.	Action	Owner	Status
#4	2	Reconsider approach to group meeting.	EWR Co	Ongoing

07. Closing remarks, future meetings and topics

Next Steps



Topics for future discussion

Meeting #6 onwards:

Agreed frequency: Quarterly meeting

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

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

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

contact@eastwestrail.co.uk

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