

Questions from meeting chat- LRG

Webinar 26.03.25

Name	Question	Response
Adrian Moss	Will the slides be shared?	They will be available to download via the LRG pages along with the recording of the webinar.
Rupert Gould	Will the attendees be shared	Lists of parishes/wards will be listed but not names or email addresses.
Dawn Seaward	EWR still seems keen to close the level crossing at London Road, Bicester, with little concern about the impact that will have on local traffic. Given the chaos caused around the town and the alternative routes as London Road was closed due to Thames Water works, how can EWR still say it will have little impact? With the additional closure of the M40 yesterday, it shows just how much of an impact a road closure will have every day. Let alone when there is another issue on the local roads! Sorry - on work laptop as working late - actually from Ambrosden Parish Council	After the 2021 non-statutory consultation, we reviewed feedback on the proposals between Oxford and Bletchley. This feedback was used to inform revised proposals for this section of the route which we shared at the route update announcement in May 2023. This included plans for further infrastructure in the Oxford area to increase the capacity of the railway. We also confirmed we were carrying out further analysis to identify the best option for the London Road level crossing in Bicester

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Mark Fitzpatrick	Could you please confirm what you mean by a 'railway depot'?	A main infrastructure maintenance depot and several smaller satellite depots would be needed for the storage of spare parts, tools and equipment. Again, these would take the form of a fenced compound and would include offices and welfare facilities for staff, as well as car parking.
John Riches	Why are EWR Agents speaking to Landowners in our Parish yet they are not talking to us? Middle Claydon Parish Council	We have been meeting with landowners across the route of the railway on a one-to-one basis to understand and discuss their individual circumstances and the impact our proposals could have on their land. Whilst these meetings are private, at the non-statutory consultation (which we held from 14 November 2024 to 24 January 2025), we shared the proposals that showed the extent of land that has been identified at this stage as potentially needed to build and operate East West Rail. The map showing this for your area can be seen here: https://eastwestrail.co.uk/consultation2024/route-section-plans].
Peter Brown	Why is EWR Co refusing to answer many outstanding Fol requests? Some are way past the statutory response period and I note that one has now gone to the Secretary of State. Why is EWR Co not complying with its legal obligations? This is completely contrary to public statements saying you want to engage. NB I am not a party to any Fol requests, but I am a very interested viewer	<p>As a public body, EWR Co is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("FOIA") and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 ("EIR"). EWR Co is obligated to provide information following a request from a member of the public in accordance with statutory timescales. The East west Railway website - https://eastwestrail.co.uk/about-us/transparency provides the ways in which you can contact us. In terms of wider engagement, EWR Co has a number of contact channels including the Local Representative Groups (Senior Engagement Manager- Sarah Jacobs) localrepresentativesgroups@eastwestrail.co.uk and our general contact email: contact@eastwestrail.co.uk</p> <p>Once we've processed your request, we will either provide you with the information we hold or tell you why we are not providing the information you have requested, which can be subject to exemptions that prohibit disclosure of information.</p>

Tracey Wye	Is operational and embedded CO2 being addressed?	Achieving a state in which the activities within the supply chain of a company result in no net impact on the climate from greenhouse gas emissions. This is achieved by reducing supply chain greenhouse gas emissions, in line with 1.5°C pathways, and by balancing the impact of any remaining greenhouse gas emissions with an appropriate amount of carbon removals.
Tracey Wye	Is the route through Tempsford decided? When will it be shared?	No decisions have been made yet. More information will be shared during the consultation.
Alex Poppleton	Do we have any idea of construction schedule/ timeline if it was to go ahead ie is Marston Vale going to be done before Bedford - Cambridge?	Not at this current stage. More information on this will be available after the project has gone through the development consent order.
David Newman	Will you be supporting any Rail 200 events, sharing stories from people who had travelled on the old line between Oxford and Cambridge?	EWR are working with the Rail 200 comms and media team to support events and an online presence. More information will be shared on our website over the year.
Eric Cooper	Can you give an update on the redesign of the alignment from 1:80 to 1:100 gradient? This will have an effect on the what is proposed around Clapham; so keen to know when will you hope to share the outcome of this work? Thanks	We are continuing to review the gradient and have made changes which has reduced the gradient to a max of 1:120 in most areas. More information on this will be available at the statutory consultation.

John Chilver-	Do you have any update on the delivery of superfast broadband alongside the line and how local communities can benefit ?	Following the announcement made in February which shared that 5G will be introduced on a section of track that will form part of the East West Rail route, we are continuing our discussions with Vodafone, Virgin Media & Openreach about diversionary works which will be fed into the designs shared at the statutory consultation. Regarding new connections, telecoms and data connections are required by the railway at various points on the route and Work is ongoing to confirm requirements, points of connection to the telecommunications networks, and possible networks upgrades that may be required.
Roy Adams	Once the Oxford - Milton Keynes part of the line is operational will you co-ordinate timetables with other rail services so that passengers have a speedy onward journey to say Bedford from Bletchley or Wolverton and points northwards from Milton Keynes, and will you be speaking to bus providers to co-ordinate links from Milton Keynes Station to other parts of the city?	Yes.

Immy Blackburn-Horgan	Would it be possible to share these slides with Queen Ediths Community Forum the leading grassroots organisation in QE, so they can circulate in their weekly email newsletter to residents?	Yes
Tracey Wye	Why have you taken Tempsford out of the title and called it 'east of st Neots'?	<p>We appreciate your patience while we reviewed the membership lists. To recap, the recent changes to the LRGs are based on the new red line boundary. The red line boundary is made up of land that would need to be permanently acquired, and land that would be used temporarily for the construction of EWR.</p> <p>As part of our commitment to effective community engagement and communication, this restructuring of the LRGs reflects the section areas presented at the most recent consultation. The Enhanced LRGs are made up of those wards and parishes which fall within the red line boundary and will allow for more focused and effective communication and collaboration between EWR Co and local stakeholders. The Community LRG is for those that were a part of the previous LRG structure but now fall outside of the red line boundary allowing members to remain informed on the project and part of the conversation.</p>
David Newman	Where is there a map of the red line?	<p>During the non-statutory consultation all of the maps were published on the website. Please click here for more information:</p> <p>eastwestrail.co.uk/consultation2024/route-section-plans</p>

Mark Fitzpatrick	Could you clarify please: have you sent out any emails to Brickhill Parish Council about the 'Clapham Green to Colesden' LRG yet?	Emails have gone out about the webinar only.
Alex Poppleton	I understand that parishes/ councillors may not want to come to more than one set of meetings, but if you only have Marston Vale LRGs without Bletchley and Bedford you are missing the key links to other lines. This means that you are prioritising the Oxford-Bletchley and Bedford-Cambridge elements and isolating Marston Vale	<p>We appreciate your patience while we reviewed the membership lists. To recap, the recent changes to the LRGs are based on the new red line boundary. The red line boundary is made up of land that would need to be permanently acquired, and land that would be used temporarily for the construction of EWR.</p> <p>As part of our commitment to effective community engagement and communication, this restructuring of the LRGs reflects the section areas presented at the most recent consultation. The Enhanced LRGs are made up of those wards and parishes which fall within the red line boundary and will allow for more focused and effective communication and collaboration between EWR Co and local stakeholders. The Community LRG is for those that were a part of the previous LRG structure but now fall outside of the red line boundary allowing members to remain informed on the project and part of the conversation.</p> <p>We have aimed to design the meetings to reflect the recent non statutory consultation documents, and where the main optionality and feedback has been shared.</p>
Jenni Ferrans-	Can we all have a regular list of what meeting minutes have been published recently so that if we have a minor interest in an area we can track whats going on.	All copies of meeting summary notes and slides will be available on the community hub.

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Alex Poppleton-	Bletchley, Fenny Stratford, Bow Brickhill and Woburn Sands need to be in the same LRG as they are all in MK	Bletchley and Fenny Stratford, Bow Brickhill, and Woburn Sands Parish Councils are all part of the Fenny Stratford to Kempston LRG
John Chilver -	Your red line map seems to show about half of the Aylesbury Arm running south of Claydon Junction. Why ?	The maps outline areas which may be needed for utilities, compounds, diversions etc Updated boundary maps will be shared during the consultation.
Steve Arnold	We need to be able to agree EWR attendees for each Enhanced LRG meeting so we - and you - can fully engage on relevant issues - e.g. PROW's, ecology, flooding, construction access etc	We will share a draft agenda with groups which outlines the topic and which EWR expert will be attending.
Paul Bartlett	When the Bletchley to Oxford route opens, will there still be involvement of members of this group whose route is complete and operating?	Although part of the route will open, there is still works planned under the DCO, so the group will remain open and active until all construction is completed- or until such time that members do not wish to attend any longer.
Nicola Prichard	Do your number responses include emails where actual forms were not completed but people submitted feedback by email or letter etc.	For information on the consultation feedback please read our most recent post here- eastwestrail.co.uk/news/latest-stories/thank-you-for-taking-part-in-our-third-non-statutory-consultation

Steve Arnold	6000 feedback forms but a lot of reps were made using other media? Have you included these?	For information on the consultation feedback please read our most recent post here- eastwestrail.co.uk/news/latest-stories/thank-you-for-taking-part-in-our-third-non-statutory-consultation
Alex Poppleton-	@Brent Fielder (Unverified) Woburn Sands was previously the highest replies. This time our consultation was the last one, giving people only 3 days to respond, and not enough space to include everyone who wanted to attend presentations.	The consultation was open for 10 weeks, with 16 in person events between Cambridge- Oxford, and 3 online events. Information on the consultation was available from the launch of statutory consultation.
Peter Deer	Good news that you are coming to talk with local communities. Is there any realistic chance that we can be involved (as well as the District Council) when Local Opportunity Plans around new stations are being developed?	We are delivering LOPs in partnership with Homes England, England's Economic Heartland and crucially local authorities. The route in will generally be through local authority involvement in the LOP station working groups. As elements of LOPs are developed, parishes can expect to be involved

Sarah Walker	Not a question, but a request: In Clapham we are concerned about falling into and between two key areas, the Bedford and the Clapham Green to Colesden area - in the past we have fallen between the gaps. We would like to make sure Clapham is kept engaged on issues which impact us in our parish and in the wider Bedford area.	Members can request to attend other groups where they border or share similar concerns. In addition, summary notes and slides for all meetings will be available on the community hub.
Steve Arnold	Will you be engaging with LRG's about route wide issues - e.g business case; housing development, alternative route options etc? The groups seem to have be set up to talk about mitigation, local issues etc, but how can we engage before the SC and the DCO about the big picture issues	The LRG sessions will be an opportunity for you to discuss with EWR your thoughts, concerns, suggestions around the existing plans which were shared during NSC. Feedback from these sessions will be taken away and logged for further review.

Penny Absolom-	<p>I do not understand why you have changed the LRG meetings. The last meeting I attended with EWR on teams was specific to the immediate villages around my parish, had specialists from EWR design and transport departments present and was really useful and productive. This meeting seems to be more of a box ticking exercise as the representatives from EWR at this meeting do not seem to have the answers people need. [answered in meeting – “this meeting is an update on the groups and activity since the close of NSC. The LRG meetings will have the area managers in attendance with maps to tackle the questions for the project in that area]</p>	<p>The webinar was an opportunity for us to share updates with you since the end of the non-statutory consultation and update you on the changes to the groups. The planned Enhanced LRG sessions between April- June will be an opportunity for you to discuss with EWR your thoughts, concerns, suggestions around the existing plans which were shared during NSC. These meetings will have the programme managers, and engineers and other experts to address your questions.</p>
David Hopkins	<p>What are the opportunities for ad hoc meetings with parishes as and when specific local issues arise?</p>	<p>We are happy to arrange meetings with you- please contact sarah.jacobs@eastwestrail.co.uk</p>

Andrea Vincent	Will all the stations have disability access ? [Ben Foley responded to this : “Legally they will have no option. However, the question is whether it will be legal minimum or actually good.”]	The stations will all be accessible.
David Hopkins-	Modern Railways magazine reported that the hourly service from MK and Oxford would be starting in June and a half hourly enhanced service in December? Where did they get that from?	Chiltern Railways will launch services later this year which will connect Oxford, Oxford Parkway, Bicester, Winslow, Bletchley and Milton Keynes Central
Penny Absolom	The NSC came at a very difficult time over the Christmas period and that felt contrived so January would be better.	The consultation paused for 2 weeks over the Christmas period and resumed in the new year to accommodate for the holiday period.
Penny Absolom	2 freight per 24 hours??? [answered during meeting – does not run a 24 hour service]	EWR will not be running a 24-hour service for passengers or freight.

