

Embankments and viaducts across the East West Rail route

Following the 2021 non-statutory consultation, we have been working to reduce the height of the proposed embankments and bridges/viaducts and remove them altogether where possible.

During the 2021 non-statutory consultation, we presented outline details about where the new railway might need to be in a cutting or on an embankment or passing over a bridge

or viaduct. In the early stages of planning, much of the route was designed to be on embankments with bridges or viaducts to cross over roads and other infrastructure.

Our work to date has removed or reduced the height of embankments and viaducts for over half the route between Bedford and Cambridge compared to what was shown in the 2021 consultation.

For example:

- From Cambourne to south of Toft and Comberton, the majority of the route has been lowered from being on embankments and bridges to being at ground level or in cuttings.
- Further south, the railway is now proposed to pass under Harlton Road, instead of over it, before entering a tunnel beneath Chapel Hill.

- We are proposing tunnels beneath Bourn Airfield near Cambourne, and Chapel Hill near Haslingfield.

As the proposals progress, we will continue to refine our design to minimise potential impacts whilst maintaining our requirements.

Illustration showing how lowering the route to pass under rather than over a road can reduce visual impacts.

