

Our approach to the environment

At each stage of planning and developing East West Rail we work to ensure nature has a central place in our plans. We want to change the environment for the better, including delivering biodiversity net gain.

We are committed to delivering 10% biodiversity net gain for the project. Providing a biodiversity net gain means that the development will have a measurably positive impact ('net gain') on biodiversity, compared to what was there before the development. Achieving a biodiversity net gain means taking action to improve and increase the level of biodiversity rather than simply replacing what is lost.

We will also continue to take a proactive approach to avoid, reduce and mitigate negative environmental impacts to deliver a sustainable railway.

Since 2021, we've updated our Environmental Sustainability Strategy in response to the government setting out its environmental goals.

You can read more about our Environmental Sustainability Strategy in <https://eastwestrail.co.uk/planning/environment-sustainability>

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We are here!

The Environmental Update Report, which has been published as part of this consultation, sets out how environmental considerations have been, and will continue to be, reflected in the evolving design of our proposals. It highlights the key sensitivities and potential environmental impacts of the project, as well as opportunities for mitigating these impacts and effects.

The Preliminary Environmental Information Report, which will be published at the statutory consultation, will include more detailed preliminary environmental information about predicted impacts and likely significant effects and proposals for environmental mitigation.

The Environmental Statement, which will be submitted as part of our DCO application, will set out the full results of our Environmental Impact Assessment.

The six pillars of our Environmental Sustainability Strategy are:

