



East West Rail

Abbotsley Parish Council meeting

24th April 25



Non-statutory consultation (NSC)

Next steps

- Feedback analysis is currently being carried out and being considered as part of design development, where possible.
- A NSC summary document is expected to be published late April to early May and will provide a summary of how we delivered the consultation, who we heard from and the emerging themes from consultation feedback.
- Outcomes from how we have considered feedback in the design will form part of a **You Said, We Did** report published at statutory consultation.



Project Updates

We will be publishing the NSC3 Interim Update Document in the coming weeks.

- This is a public-facing overview that updates stakeholders and the public about the facts of the consultation, providing a summary of how we delivered the consultation and who we heard from.
- The document is high-level, and it will not discuss outcomes or provide a response to the matters raised. This information will be provided in the You Said, We Did report published at statutory consultation.
- We will be giving you advance notice of the launch date, so you are informed of the update document going public.

Project Updates

Chiltern Railways announced as operator for the first stage of East West Rail.

The Transport Secretary has announced the operator for a new set of rail services along the Oxford-Cambridge Growth Corridor.

- A total of 45 apprentice train drivers have been hired and trained by Chiltern Railways.
- Additional facilities for driver accommodation at Bletchley have been delivered where a new driver depot will be based.
- An additional 30 employees have been hired by Chiltern Railways to support the delivery of the project.

Chiltern Railways will launch services later this year which will connect Oxford, Oxford Parkway, Bicester, Winslow, Bletchley and Milton Keynes Central.



Project Updates

Multi-billion-pound investment secured as Universal theme park and resort set to be built in Bedford, bringing thousands of jobs

- We are engaging with Universal to determine the potential implications of the park for EWR's proposals and for the wider network.
- It has yet to be confirmed what the park/resort may mean for service levels on the MVL or for individual stations.
- We are committed to maintaining close contact with all involved parties including Universal, Network Rail and the Department for Transport to ensure accessibility and connectivity is a core element of the planning process.



Project Updates – Ground Investigations

- Phase 1 ground investigations for East West Rail started in February and are well underway.
- Expected to take around four or five months to complete.
- To find out important information about the soil, rock and groundwater; design EWR in a responsible and environmentally sustainable way; and reduce project costs, construction risks and land take.
- Work ranges from boreholes dug using a drilling rig (typically to a depth of 10m) to trial trenches dug using an excavator (typically to a depth of 5m).
- We are keeping MPs, local authorities and parish councils updated about when we will be in their area.
- A poster provides communities with a link to information on our website and contact details for queries.
- We're working hard to make sure any possible disturbance is kept to a minimum and our contractors follow robust health and safety procedures.
- Working hours are 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday.



Project Updates – Ground Investigations



Local Representatives Groups (LRGs)

Enhanced Local Representative Groups

A series of 'Design Feedback Workshops' were delivered in January 2025 during the Non-Statutory Consultation with the parishes & wards that fall within the **Draft Order Limit Boundary (DOLB)**. This resulted in the restructure of the LRGs.

These new groups will be referred to as **Enhanced LRGs**. Those LRGs outside of the DOLB will now be part of the '**Community LRG**'.

Enhanced LRGS

- Oxford to Bletchley
- Fenny Stratford to Kempston
- Bedford
- Clapham Green to Colesden
- **Roxton to east of St Neots**
- **Croxton to Toft**
- Comberton to Haslingfield
- Foxton to Shelford
- Cambridge

There will be instances where groups are closely aligned to other groups- and we welcome those members joining additional meetings.



Slide 9

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Sarah Jacobs, 2025-04-14T08:37:27.764

Enhanced LRG Engagement- Roxton to East /St Neots

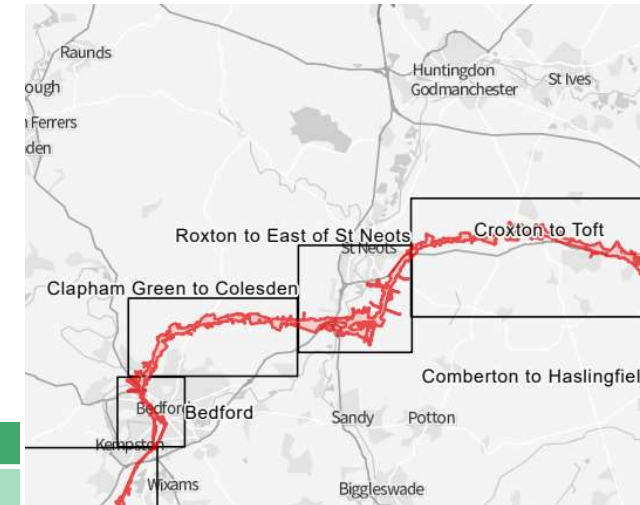
Purpose:

Quarterly meeting to discuss project updates, answer questions and develop an understanding of local issues/ feedback.

This area covers Roxton to east of St Neots, and the Group will have the opportunity to discuss the proposed construction of approximately 10km of twin-track railway and associated infrastructure. A new station at Tempsford would serve existing and future communities, also including an interchange with the East Coast Main Line. There are also considerations such as the best location for a temporary rail logistics hub and the construction of new overbridges, underbridges and balancing ponds.

Elected parishes	Elected Wards
Abbotsley CP Little Barford CP Roxton CP St. Neots CP Tempsford CP Wyboston, Chawston and Colesden CP	Great Paxton Potton St Neots East St Neots East & Gransden St Neots Eynesbury Wyboston

east
west
RAIL



Councillor and community engagement

Forum	Frequency	Purpose	EWR Contact	Attendees
Enhanced Local Representative Groups (LRGs)	Quarterly - the next round of meetings will be in person between the end of April and mid June to account for local elections in May.	Quarterly meeting along the route to discuss project updates, answer questions and develop an understanding of local issues/ feedback.	Sarah Jacobs	EWR, elected officials, Parish and Town Councils inside the RLB.
Community Local Representative Groups (LRGs)	There will be additional ad hoc webinars which will be open to all LRGs and can provide an opportunity to update members on the overall project status.	Open to all LRGs, providing an opportunity to update members on the overall project status.	Sarah Jacobs	EWR, elected officials, Parish and Town Councils outside the RLB.
Community Conversations	Quarterly	An opportunity for community members to talk with us about various topics across the route, including targeted engagement activity, information events and topic focused community engagement.	Gail Buckland	Community groups across the route such as Community Rail Partnerships, active travel groups and charities. Some Community Conversations are open to all.

Engagement structure for local authorities & elected representatives



N.B. This may be subject to change as the project moves forward

Senior Leadership (SLT) meetings from host LAs Stakeholder attendance- SLT members from host LAs

Purpose- To discuss high-level strategic updates, seek feedback and ensure consistency of messaging

LA Forum

Stakeholder attendance- EWR attendance- DCO stakeholder leads
DCO leads and senior councillors from host LAs

Purpose- To provide a platform for host LAs to discuss Project updates and ensure consistency of message

In-person design workshops

Stakeholder attendance- Discipline leads from host LAs
EWR attendance- Discipline leads from EWR Co e.g. Design, PRoW etc
Purpose- To provide an opportunity for LA officers across disciplines to meet with EWR Co. SMEs and examine the Project design in person, in greater detail

Historic Environment Archaeology Forum

Stakeholder attendance- Discipline leads from host LAs

EWR attendance- Discipline leads from EWR Co e.g. Archaeology leads

Purpose- To work with host LA archaeology officers and Historic England to discuss and share information on archaeological survey activities

Historic Environment Heritage Forum

Stakeholder attendance- Discipline leads

EWR attendance- Discipline leads from EWR Co e.g. Heritage Leads

Purpose- To work with host LA Conservation officers and Historic England to provide route-wide updates and discuss matters related to the historic environment

Technical Flood Working group

Stakeholder attendance- Discipline leads

EWR attendance- Discipline leads from EWR Co e.g. Flood leads

Purpose- To work with host lead Flood Authorities, Internal drainage boards and the Environment Agency, on route-wide matters related to flood and water resources

Biodiversity Net Gain Forum (BNG)

Stakeholder attendance- Discipline leads

EWR attendance- Discipline leads from EWR Co e.g. BNG lead etc

Purpose- To work with host LA ecology officers, and other environmental stakeholders, to share and discuss proposals, issues and challenges and ideas on BNG opportunities

Business as usual meetings

Stakeholder attendance- Main host LA contacts, Parish/wards meetings, Land & Property meetings

Purpose- To share information and receive feedback

Local Representative Groups (LRGs)

Stakeholder attendance- Elected officials

EWR attendance- LRG SRO, Discipline leads from EWR Co

Purpose- To provide a platform for elected officials to receive information on the EWR Project and seek feedback

Technical meetings (topic specific)

Stakeholder attendance- Main host LA contacts, Parish/wards discipline leads

EWR attendance- Discipline leads

Purpose- To share information and receive feedback

The DCO process

The DCO process is:

- Open and inclusive;
- Allows stakeholders to have their say at every stage;
- Procedurally driven; and
- Largely a written process.

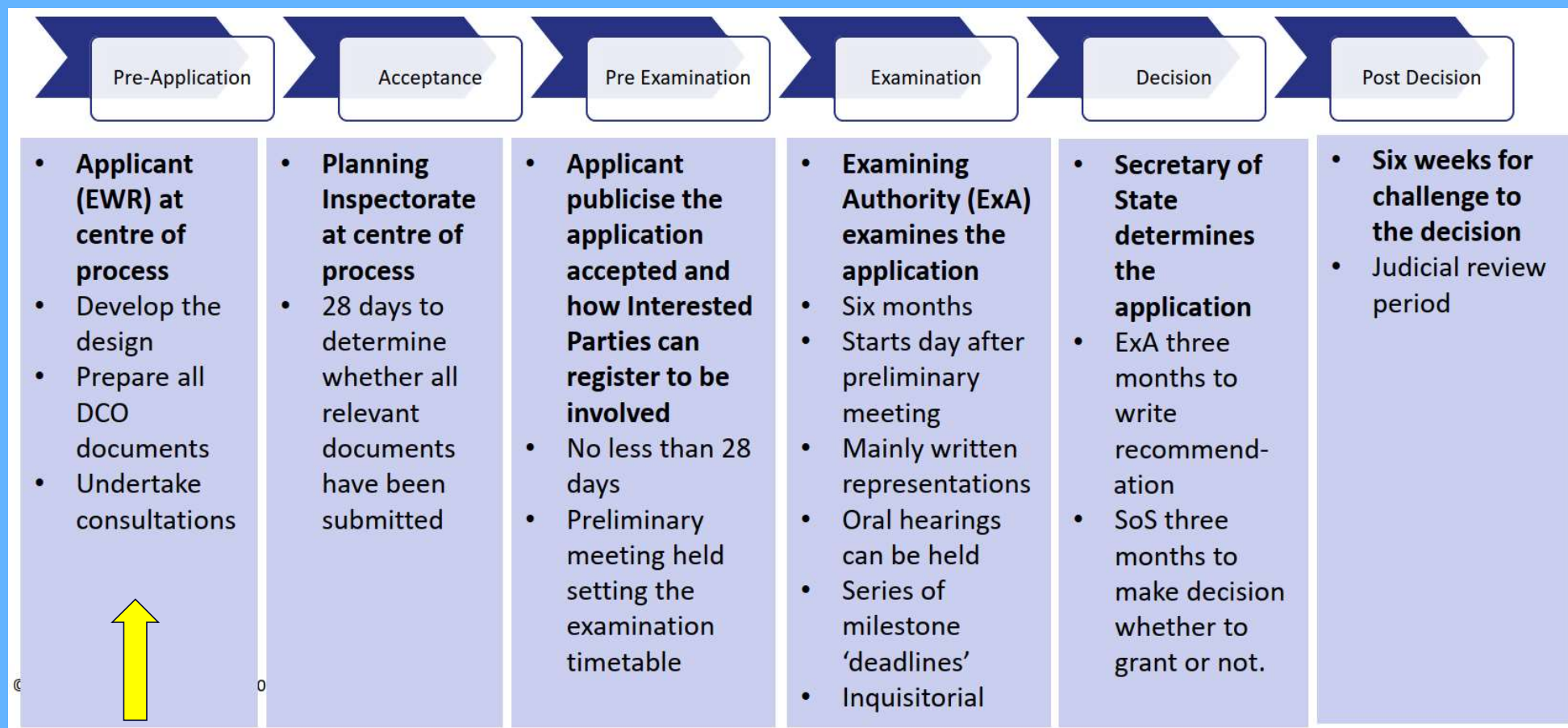


Development Consent Order Process Overview

The key features of the DCO process are:

- Includes many of the other consents required to deliver scheme e.g. compulsory acquisition powers;
- The Secretary of State is the decision maker (Local Planning Authority (LPA) acts as statutory consultee);
- The process has a clearly defined timescale following submission;
- The examination process is less adversarial than a public inquiry - focuses on matters of local impact and mitigation rather than the principle of development;
- The process is front-loaded in terms of the design and consultation;
- National Policy Statements are primary policy compliance test.

Development Consent Order Application Process



Q&A