

Land and Property

Farm Business Interviews: What do you need to know?

Over the course of the project, we will be carrying out Farm Business Interviews with landowners and occupiers to better understand the conditions of the land in and around East West Rail.



What is East West Rail?

East West Rail is a proposed new rail link, which would connect communities between Oxford, Milton Keynes, Bedford and Cambridge. By making it cheaper and quicker to get around, by making it easier to develop more homes for people and by boosting local economies, the new railway line aims to create a range of opportunities for people right across the area and to help spread prosperity across the UK, by supporting opportunities for economic growth in towns and cities outside London.

The East West Railway Company (EWR Co) is responsible for developing the East West Rail Project and was created to plan a railway with customers and communities at its core. The project is being delivered in stages. Trains are already running between Oxford and Bicester, and we aim to have trains running the full length of the line between Oxford and Cambridge by the end of the decade. Further information about East West Rail can be found on our website: www.eastwestrail.co.uk.

Land and Property

Farm Business Interviews: What Do You Need to Know?

What is a Farm Business Interview?

Farm Business Interviews (FBIs) are carried out to understand the agricultural land and practices which may be affected by the EWR proposals in order to identify possible solutions to mitigate these potential impacts. This allows effects on individual farm holdings to be assessed as part of design development and ongoing environmental assessment. FBIs also inform the future design of the EWR proposals, particularly in respect of potential private access requirements and other mitigation.

Will we pay for your, or your land agent's, time to undertake a FBI? How long will the FBI take?

Yes, we will pay £250. This will cover the time required for you, or your land agent, to undertake the FBI and provide relevant information. The interview will be carried out by telephone, or via computer using Microsoft Teams, and will last up to 90 minutes depending on the size and complexity of the holding. Once restrictions to control the spread of Covid-19 have been lifted, we aim to carry out FBIs in person.

We will make payment by bank transfer once the interview has been completed. The EWR Land team will contact you shortly after the interview, via your preferred method of contact, to confirm the bank account details for payment.

Who will carry out the FBI and what questions will they ask?

The FBI will be carried out by our Agricultural Partner, who specialise in providing expertise and advice on agricultural, environmental and countryside issues. The exact details of who will be carrying out the interview will be confirmed when we make contact to confirm the arrangements. Questions will be based on the following outline themes:

- Size, location and use of farm and forestry holdings, including links with other farms or land in the locality
- Scale, nature and sensitivity of agricultural and non-agricultural enterprises based on farm holdings
- Details of agri-environment schemes and other environmental land uses, as well as opportunities for scheme-related environmental mitigation
- Details of farm infrastructure, including buildings, drainage, tracks and so on.

Land and Property

Farm Business Interviews: What Do You Need to Know?

Who will we speak to if the land is occupied by a tenant?

Where the land is occupied by a tenant, we will want to interview the tenant to provide information on the day-to-day operations of the farm. However, we may in some cases, also want to speak to the landowner to understand the effects of our proposals on them and any wider estate holding.

Who should you speak to if you have any questions or concerns?

Our specialist Land team are available to talk to you about our proposals, to listen to your views and to answer any questions you may have and can be contacted as follows:

- Email us at: **land@eastwestrail.co.uk**
- Call us on: **0330 838 7583**
- Send us a message online at: **www.eastwestrail.co.uk/get-in-touch**

If you have any issues, concerns or wish to make a complaint, please get in touch with us via the above details so we can work with you to investigate and quickly find a resolution.