

East West Rail and the Development Consent Order Process

East West Rail will move through a number of development stages and approvals before we start the next phase of improvement works on the railway between Oxford and Bedford and construct the new railway between Bedford and Cambridge. At every step we seek to involve people so we can deliver the right connections for you and your community.

Stage 01

Choosing the Preferred Route Option

(Bedford to Cambridge only)

- Public consultation
- Analysis and design
- Preferred Route Option chosen

We held a non-statutory public consultation, talking with people living and working across the route corridor, elected representatives and many other organisations and interest groups. Using their comments alongside environmental, economic and technical studies we chose a Preferred Route Option.

→ ✓ Completed

Stage 02

Developing Route Alignment Options and identifying extra infrastructure between Oxford and Cambridge

- Design and test possible route alignments
- Identify potential additional infrastructure needed to run services between Oxford and Cambridge
- Environmental and land surveys
- Second non-statutory public consultation (this consultation)

In this stage we are consulting on the options we have developed for the Preferred Route Alignment. We are also now considering station locations, starting to survey land, and studying connections with local transport networks. We have also established what further additional infrastructure may be required between Oxford to Bicester, Bletchley and Bedford to allow future EWR trains to run all the way through to Cambridge. This will be included in this consultation.

Your responses to this consultation will help us to choose a Preferred Route Alignment and move the Project into the detailed design phase.

→ ✓ Completed

Stage 03

Choosing a Preferred Route Alignment and additional infrastructure

- Analysis and design
- Options for additional infrastructure between Oxford to Bicester, Bletchley and Bedford chosen
- Statutory public consultation

We will choose a Preferred Route Alignment between Bedford and Cambridge, and the options for additional infrastructure between Oxford to Bicester, Bletchley and Bedford. We will base this choice on feedback from two previous consultations and continuing environmental, economic and technical studies. It will be presented to the public alongside other parts of the Project, including the proposed design, in a statutory consultation. The information from this consultation will be used to finalise our proposals for the railway. We will also seek the next stage of funding and approval from government.

→ In progress

Stage 04

Securing development consent

- EWR Co submit application
- Planning Inspectorate holds an Examination
- Secretary of State for Transport makes a decision

We submit the proposals to the Secretary of State as part of an application for a "Development Consent Order". On his behalf, the Planning Inspectorate will carry out a public examination of our application which normally lasts up to six months. People will be able to comment on the application. The Inspectorate goes through a strict process of examination and hearings, before making a recommendation to the Secretary of State on whether our proposals should go ahead. A final decision is usually given within six months of the examination closing.

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Stage 05

Construction begins

- Construction begins

Once we've complied with any initial conditions or requirements included in the Development Consent Order, the government will consider the full business case for the Project to make the final decision to proceed. Following further conversations with the public and stakeholders, can start to construct your new railway.

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