

We are writing to you on behalf of the residents of the civil parish of Kingston, to raise our concerns about the proposals from the East West Rail company (“EWR”) for a railway line through our parish. The construction will transform the local landscape, in a manner we consider to be detrimental to all in the local community.

Our parish is directly affected by the section designated by EWR as “Project Section D: Clapham Green to The Eversdens”. Within this section, proposed route alignments 2, 6 and 8 pass within a few hundred metres of the village – most of which is a conservation area and includes a Grade I listed church and 16 other Grade II listed buildings.

We have sent requests to EWR for further information on the suggested alignments, particularly in respect of the potential impacts on Kingston and its surrounding area, but have yet to receive a response.

To summarise the main points of concern that affect our parish:

- The line will be carried on a mix of embankments and viaducts c.10m high as it passes Kingston, creating an eyesore in the rural village landscape.
- The height of the line will exacerbate the problems of noise and pollution spilling out across the countryside and affecting local homes and wildlife.
- Alignments 2, 6 and 8 cross the local Bourn Brook Valley nature reserve which is run by the Wildlife Trust. The brook is home to water voles (a protected species) and otters, and will likely be severely impacted by the railway.
- It is planned that the line will carry diesel trains, creating more noise, and more pollution. This is in flat contradiction to the government’s target of zero carbon emissions.
- Local communications and links with neighbouring villages are under threat, and country footpaths may be blocked by the embankments which will run for many kilometres across the countryside.

There is a suitable alternative route which would avoid the destruction of so much of south Cambridgeshire: a northern approach into Cambridge, linking the proposed new Cambourne North station with the recently built Cambridge North Station. We urge that this route be fully and fairly evaluated by EWR which they have not done up until now. It should also be included as an option in the consultation process.

In conclusion, we wholeheartedly oppose the southern approach into Cambridge, and especially route alignments 2, 6 and 8. We request that you support the case for a proper evaluation of the northern approach.

Yours sincerely

Kingston Parish Council

Sent by email 7 June 2021 to:

Simon Blanchflower CEO EastWest Rail simon.blanchflower@eastwestrail.co.uk

Anthony Browne MP Anthony.browne.mp@parliament.uk

Grant Shapps MP Secretary of State for Transport POCorrespondence@dft.gov.uk

Chris Heaton-Harris MP Transport Minister shappsg@dft.gov.uk