

The Planning Inspectorate
National Infrastructure Planning
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30 July 2021

Your ref: TR010044

BY EMAIL ONLY: A428.Blackcat@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Dear Madam

**Proposed A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet Road Improvement scheme
East West Railway Company Limited: notification of attendance at preliminary meeting and
examination hearings, and nomination of sites for accompanied site inspection**

We refer to the above application (the "Application") for the Highways England A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet Road Improvement Scheme (the "Scheme"). We are writing in response to your letter dated 9th July 2021 specifically in relation to Rule 6 (notice of preliminary meeting), Rule 13 (notification of hearings) and Rule 9 (notice of procedural decisions).

East West Railway Company Limited (EWR Co) are seeking to register and notify the Examining Authority of its intention to:

- attend the preliminary meeting scheduled to be held on Tuesday 10th August 2021;
- attend and take part in the virtual issue specific hearings scheduled for:
 - Wednesday 18th August 2021; and
 - ff necessary, Tuesday 24th August 2021.

EWR Co would like to reserve the right to make oral submissions regarding the draft Development Consent Order. In addition to the above, we would also wish to reserve our right to attend any other hearing(s) which may be conducted as part of the examination process.

EWR Co wishes to nominate the following sites for accompanied site inspections:

- The area around the A428 proposed Black Cat roundabout;
- Sites where EWR Co's preferred alignments 1 and 9 interact with the proposed A428 highway alignment, including north-east of Tempsford, east of St Neots and west of Caxton Gibbet; and

- The potential EWR station locations north and south of Camborne, including the potential approaches that the railway would use west and east of the settlement.

As set out in our previous correspondence, EWR Co has been tasked by the Government with the delivery of the East West Rail project (“Project”). The Project will connect Oxford and Cambridge by rail, linking them with Bicester, Bletchley, Milton Keynes, Bedford and many communities in between.

The section of the Project between Bedford and Cambridge was designated as being of national significance by the Secretary of State on 29th August 2019. Accordingly, EWR Co intends to make an application for a Development Consent Order to authorise the construction, operation and maintenance of the Project in due course. The Project is registered on the Planning Inspectorate’s website¹. The two emerging preferences for EWR’s proposed alignment both run alongside the proposed Scheme. Other potential alignments would also be located close to the Scheme. Given that the Scheme and the Project would be in close proximity to each other, there are likely to be significant engineering interfaces between them. As such EWR Co wishes to take part in the examination of the Scheme meaningfully in order to seek appropriate protection for the Project.

We would be happy to provide any further information that the Examining Authority requires in order to consider our request.

