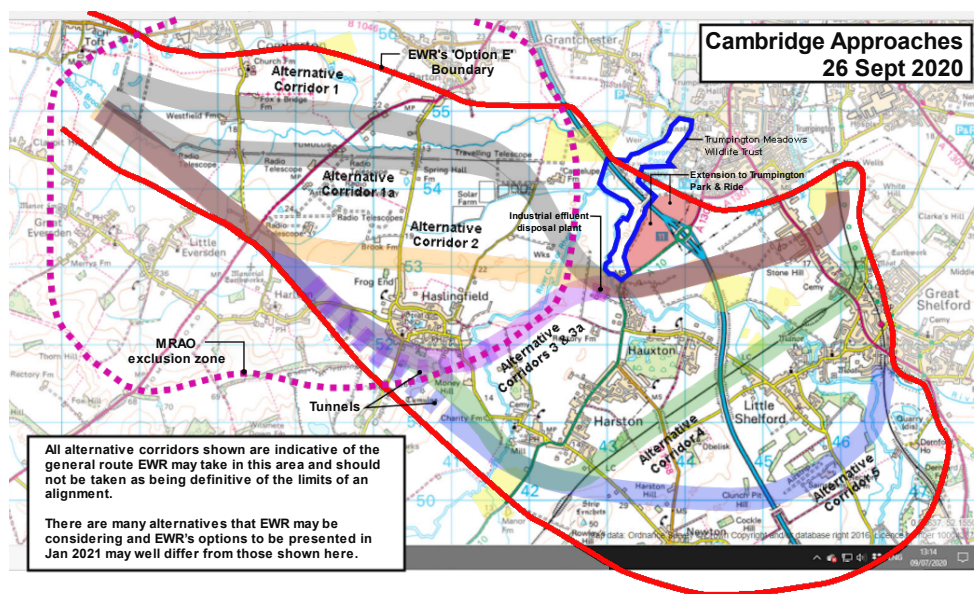


# East West Rail Update, October 6th 2020

On October 1st Harlton Parish Council attended a Zoom meeting with other parish councils (Toft to Great Shelford) to discuss comments on the alternative route alignments proposed in Route E by Cambridge Approaches (formally known as East West Rail Cambridge Approaches Action Group). There was also a vote on each alignment looking at the route as a whole, not just a parish-centric view using local information and the impact assessment charts (looking at proximity to property, noise, air pollution, visual impact, ecological impact, archaeological impact, roads and footpaths crossed) formulated by David Revell (chair of Cambridge Approaches).

Below is Harlton Parish Council's response to the alternatives, plus a map of the alignments. We support Route 6 (see separate map with grey route) primarily, as this sites the railway station north of Cambourne - supported by Cambourne village and Anthony Browne. Within Route E, we support Routes 1 and 1A.

Of the parish councils that voted last night (seven), Route 6 came out as the most favourable option, followed by 1A and 1. Routes 3 and 5 were the least favourable.



## **Harlton Parish Council responses to alternative corridors**

As a village we support alternative corridor Route 6, followed by 1/1A. These routes would also be the least damaging to the greatest number of people, including the Eversdens, Harlton, Haslingfield and Harston.

We feel that the argument against route 1/1A in terms of planned housing developments is not weighty enough compared with existing housing. We also feel that if the route happened to go by a recreation ground, Country Park or Park and Ride, this would be far better than going by houses or entire villages.

All of the other alignments (2, 3, 4, 5) would have a severe negative impact on Harlton, including:

### **Visual and noise impact**

The landscape to the north and east of the village is fairly flat and a train line will not only be visible but also audible.

### **Air pollution**

Air quality is bound to decrease, especially if diesel trains are initially used and alignments 3, 4 or 5 are chosen which come very close to the east side of the village.

### **Vibration**

This could be an issue on alignments 3, 4 and 5.

### **Impact on roads**

Alignments 2, 3, 4 and 5 could see the closure of Wash Pit Lane, which is one of three routes out of our village. It connects to the A603 and is close to Comberton Road, but perhaps not close enough for one single bridge over the lot.

This would create a lot more traffic going through the entire village, especially farm vehicles.

### **Intrinsic link between Harlton and Haslingfield**

Alignments 3, 4 and 5 go across the road between Harlton and Haslingfield. A bridge or cutting would need to be built as level crossings are not an EWR priority. If Haslingfield Road/Harlton Road is cut off (3, 4, 5) this would cause a devastating impact to the village. Harlton children go to Haslingfield Primary, villagers use the amenities in Haslingfield, the churches are connected, Harston surgery is used, plus there is an intrinsic link between the two villages.

### **Access to farms/fields**

We are a rural village and surrounded by farmland. Alignments 2, 3, 4 and 5 would cut through fields belonging to Harlton farmers. This in turn creates access issues, especially if Wash Pit Lane is closed. Farm traffic would increase and have to use the A603 unless bridges or cuttings are incorporated into the plan.

### **Possibility of houses being demolished**

Alignments 3, 4 and 5 come very close to the edge of Harlton. This could result in house demolition.

This Thursday, 8th October, Cambridge Approaches, parish council representatives from Toft to Shelford, Anthony Browne (MP for South Cambs), Bridget Smith (leader of South Cambs District Council), Ian Sollum (District Councillor), Ben Hatton (journalist) and EWR will be discussing the voting, voicing concerns and issues of Route E and highlighting defects in EWR's business case.

If anyone would like to comment or has any questions regarding Harlton's stance please get in contact with me (Isabel Robinson: [isabel.robinsonm@gmail.com](mailto:isabel.robinsonm@gmail.com)) or contact Cambridge Approaches ([cambridgeapproaches.org](http://cambridgeapproaches.org)) for an in-depth view of Route E. Or, as others have done, lobby Anthony Browne MP.

Keep looking at Cambridge Approaches website - they update it regularly. There is a particularly good post, posted October 6th, suggesting topics for lobbying Anthony Browne.