

Angela Foster

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From: jane.hamilton@ntlworld.com
Sent: 05 September 2018 10:27
To: TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT
Subject: East West Rail Transport and works Act Order
Attachments: EW Rail consultation response September 2018.docx

Please find attached a submission made on behalf of the Bedford and Milton Keynes Waterway Trust.

Jane Hamilton

Chair, Bedford and Milton Keynes Waterway Trust



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Network Rail East West Rail TWA Order

Representations on behalf of the Bedford and Milton Keynes Waterway Trust

This objection is submitted on behalf of the Bedford and Milton Keynes Waterway Trust who have an interest in the section of East West Rail route in the vicinity of the M1 and Ridgmont Station.

The Trust

The Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Trust was established in 1995 to promote a new 16 mile Waterway Park connecting the Grand Union Canal in Milton Keynes to the Great Ouse in Bedford. The Trust is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity. Its role is one of advocacy for the Waterway Park having successfully established an alignment, now protected by policy in three Local Plans. The Trust works with a range of partners to ensure opportunities to integrate the Waterway into development and deliver local benefits are maximised.

The Trust's trading arm, Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Enterprises Ltd, operates a highly successful boat cruising business in Bedford, run by volunteers, to promote the Waterway and provide an income for the Trust to cover its promotional activities.

The Trust has 600 members and operates through a Board of 9 Trustees. Further information can be found at <http://www.b-mkwaterway.org.uk/>

Comments on East West Rail Consultation 2017

The Trust is concerned that the route for the East West Rail project as shown on the TWA Order plans for Section 2D take no account of the Waterway route which is protected by Central Bedfordshire Local Plan policies SA2 and EE10.

Local Plan Policy SA2:

The development shall maximise opportunities to create Green Infrastructure corridors. The allocation is expected to deliver a multifunctional Green Corridor through the entire length of the site to form the Bedford and Milton Keynes Waterway Park. The development will deliver a water-filled and navigable link connecting Brogborough and Stewartby Lakes and shall deliver a cycleway from Stewartby Lake to Ridgmont Railway Station following the route of the Green Corridor.

Local Plan Policy EE10:

The Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Park Development on the route of the Bedford and Milton Keynes Waterway Park will be expected to deliver the section of the Waterway Park within the development boundary, incorporating a Waterway channel and 'towpath' for non-motorised users within a multifunctional green corridor. Development should be designed to relate positively to the Waterway Park, and should be designed to complement adjacent areas and sites along the route of the Waterway Park. Development that would adversely affect the implementation of the Waterway Park, or that does not provide accommodation for the Waterway and associated infrastructure will not be permitted.

The TWA Order plans do not show the Waterway route as a constraint despite it being protected by Local Plan policy. This leaves the protected route open to being impacted on by the works proposed by the TWA Order. The impacts of the works on the Waterway Route should be clear and should be capable of being objectively assessed.