

The **monthly** branch newsletter of **railfuture** in London and the South East

Britain's leading *independent* campaign for a bigger better railway for passengers and freight

East West Main Line latest

In a masterly display of news management, on the day before the Parliamentary recess the Chancellor of the Exchequer unveiled a 'life sciences growth package' and buried deep within the Treasury news story under 'Policy Announcements' was this, unattributed:

"The government has also signalled its ongoing commitment to the transformational new East West Rail line between Oxford and Cambridge. This region is a globally renowned hub of science, research and innovation, and the railway will support job creation and growth at towns and cities along the route. Today it announced its preferred route alignment for the third section of the railway between Bedford and Cambridge, including a direct link to the Cambridge Biomedical Campus, marking a significant step towards delivering the scheme."

Note the penultimate phrase, which could only be interpreted to mean (not un-controversially) a southern approach via the new Cambridge South station – so announced while Parliament was still sitting, but in reality too late for MPs to ask any immediate questions!

East West Rail Co. made the detailed announcement of the route for the Bedford – Cambridge section, by the time Parliament was in recess, on Friday 26 May. Full details here: <https://eastwestrail.co.uk/routeupdate> The London & South East regional branch, and its Herts & Beds Division in particular, will continue to take a keen interest as the unitary authorities of Bedford and Central Bedfordshire are within our area. Note the EWR Co local drop-in events identified overleaf.

What shall we be doing this month?

London and South East regional branch members, and / or committee members, will be:-

- ~ running our "Bridge the gap" campaign stall at Uckfield & District Lions Club's Sunday afternoon Family Fun Day and Car Boot Sale, in Uckfield.
- ~ submitting our response to the Call for Evidence from England's Economic Heartland for a Connectivity Study of Southern East-West Movements covering Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire.
- ~ submitting our response to the City of London Corporation on the planning application for the Liverpool Street station upgrade.
- ~ representing Railfuture in TfSE's Transport Forum.
- ~ holding a regular **online** meeting of the L&SE regional branch committee.

~ holding regular meetings of our Herts & Beds (**online**) and Sussex & Coastway (in-person) Divisions.

~ observing the joint Public Inquiry in Lewes for two appeals against refusals for new homes in Ringmer.

~ joining GTR / Southern in an event to celebrate the collaboration for May 2023's East Coastway timetable.

What has @RailfutureLSE been doing?

Since the early-May edition of **inter-railse** no.59, Railfuture's London and South East regional branch members have, amongst their various other activities:

~ responded to the Transport for London 'engagement' on planned withdrawal of the one-day Travelcard.

~ joined **online** meetings of our Eastern, Herts & Beds and Sussex & Coastway Divisions.

~ run a Kent Division stall, with Southeastern and Kent CRP, at the weekend Faversham Festival of Transport.

~ celebrated with many local residents the return, from the start of the new timetable on Sunday 21st May, of all-day / every day hourly Southern MarshLink services calling at Winchelsea and Three Oaks stations.

~ participated in the alternate-monthly meeting of the Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee.

~ observed the temporary re-branding of Southern's Falmer station, next to the Amex stadium, home of the Premier League's Brighton & Hove Albion 'Seagulls.'



Also in May, regional branch committee members:-

~ held a regular meeting **online** of the L&SE regional branch committee.

~ contributed to Great Western Railway's planning for the North Downs Line's December 2023 timetable.

Our vision for Railfuture: An independent organisation whose views are respected by the rail industry, to which decision makers come for advice, which rail users are proud to join and recommend.

Britain's Growing Railway in London and the South East: June birthdays

- ~ on the 3rd in 2008, Mitcham Eastfields station.
- ~ on the 3rd in 2019, Meridian Water station.
- ~ on the 23rd in 1998, Heathrow Airport Junction <> Heathrow Terminal 4 station (via Heathrow Terminals 1, 2 & 3 station).
- ~ on the 23rd in 1998, Heathrow Terminals 1, 2 & 3 station (later Terminals 2 & 3, now Heathrow Central station) and Heathrow Terminal 4 station.
- ~ on the 26th in 2013, Hitchin ('Down Cambridge') flyover.

Our vision for rail: A railway system that provides services which travellers and freight forwarders want to use, and which offers more journey opportunities to more people and more freight.

Calendar of forthcoming diary dates

Sunday 4 June Railfuture's "Bridge the gap" campaign stall at Uckfield & District Lions Club's



Uckfield and District Lions Club

afternoon Family Fun Day and Car Boot Sale, Uckfield.

Thursday 8 June Sussex & Coastway Division afternoon meeting, in Brighton. [Invite non-members!](#)

Tuesday 13 June Public drop-in event for East West Rail Bedford-Cambridge route, in Bedford.

Wednesday 14 June Herts & Beds Division [online](#) evening meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)

Saturday 17 June East Anglia branch afternoon open meeting, Ipswich. [Invite non-members!](#)

Tuesday 20 June Public drop-in event for East West Rail Bedford-Cambridge route, in Ravensden.

Thursday 22 June "Affordable electrification." Free **hybrid** evening seminar.

Friday 30 June Public drop-in event for East West Rail Bedford-Cambridge route, in Woburn Sands.

Tuesday 4 July Public drop-in event for East West Rail Bedford-Cambridge route, in Lidlington.

Friday 7 July Public drop-in event for East West Rail Bedford-Cambridge route, in Tempsford.

This branch e-newsletter is free, published monthly and distributed to branch members with their GDPR consent
Items for our newsletters, and our branch Local Action column in **railwatch**, to londonandsoutheast@railfuture.org.uk

railfuture

Railfuture's mission: to be the number one advocate for Britain's railway and rail users

Website: [Welcome to Railfuture](#) Twitter: @RailfutureLSE

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Wednesday 12 July Eastern Division [online](#) evening meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)

Thursday 13 July Sussex & Coastway Division [online](#) evening meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)

Saturday 15 July Railfuture's national AGM, in the Woburn Suite of University of London's Senate House, Malet Street, London, WC1E 7HU. It will be followed by presentation of the Member (formerly Campaigner) of the Year Award, then lunch, and then presentation of the Rail User Group Awards.



The Awards and commendations will be presented by our Hon. President Christian Wolmar.

Full details in our [Events](#) and [Rail dates](#) web pages.

Railfuture is '*in the news*' / '*making the news*' / sharing '*news and views*'

- ~ Stay abreast of Railfuture members making, not just watching, things happen in our website [media extracts](#).
- ~ Stay abreast of Railfuture making, not just reporting, the news through our [press releases](#).
- ~ Stay abreast of Railfuture's and others' reports and thoughts published in our [website articles](#).
- ~ Railfuture is active on [Twitter](#) / [Facebook](#) / [LinkedIn](#).

Be in it to win it - join Railfuture's Lottery!

Members – individual, joint, affiliated organisation such as a rail user group or similar, or a business – can support Railfuture by joining our monthly [lottery](#).

Railfuture publications by email

- ~ members – individual, joint, affiliated organisation such as a rail user group or similar, or a business – are being encouraged to receive [Railwatch](#) direct to their Inbox immediately on publication by logging-in at [Member services](#).
- ~ receive Railfuture's regular monthly newsletter [Rail User Express](#) direct to your Inbox immediately on publication by emailing renewals@railfuture.org.uk
- ~ receive Railfuture's occasional [Rail Action](#) bulletin direct to your Inbox immediately on publication by emailing renewals@railfuture.org.uk