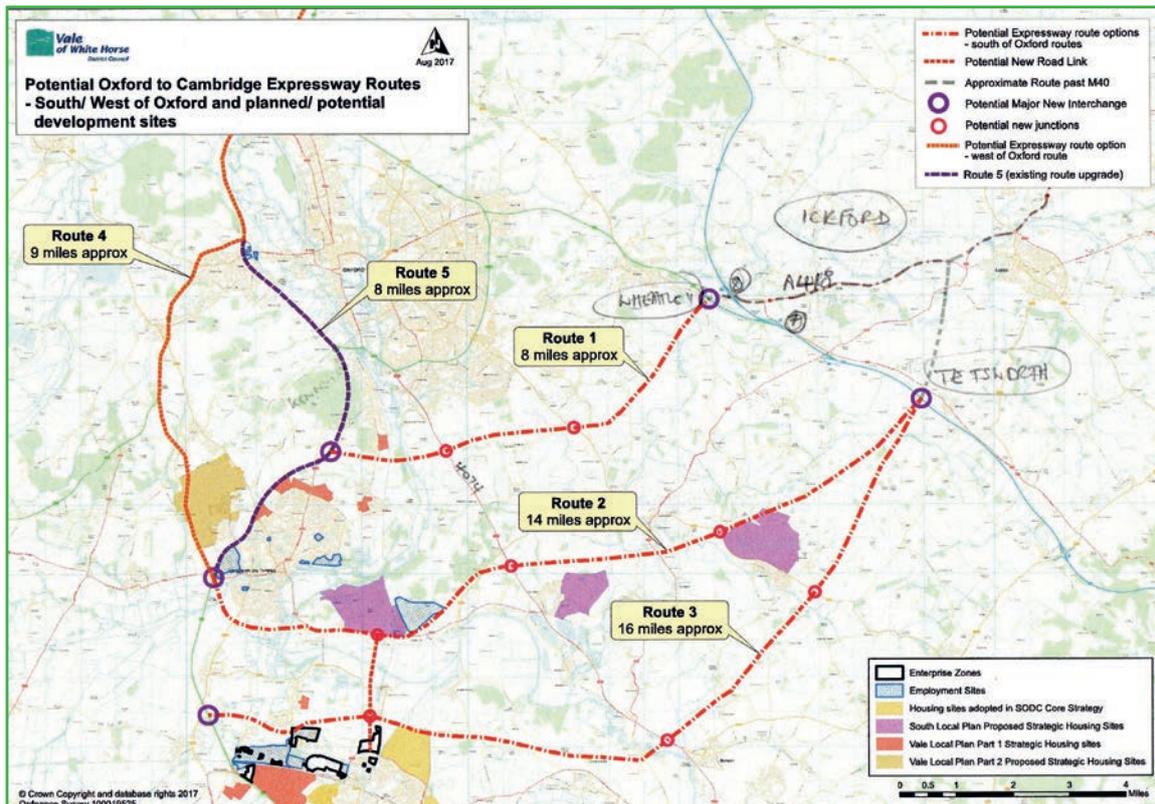


OXFORD TO CAMBRIDGE CORRIDOR



EXPRESSWAY ACTION GROUP – INFORMATION QUESTIONS

Q – Is the EAG against a particular route?

We don't know the exact routes, all we have is outlines of what they call the proposed 'corridors'. When they decide in July along which corridor the Expressway will go – they will then start mapping out the actual route.

But, yes, we're especially concerned about 2 of the 3 Expressway corridors that run along Oxford's Green Belt and across **REALLY IMPORTANT WILDLIFE** areas and flood plain – they would do enormous damage to the countryside used by thousands of Oxfordshire residents - our green lands and valleys are integral to the well-being of people who live and work in the county, and once they're gone, they're gone for ever.

EAG believe that the least damaging corridor for the environment, the wildlife, the communities of Oxford and the most beneficial for its economy; is the corridor following the existing dual-carriageway A34 – the Northern Route. It will maximise the benefits of the East West Rail line, it will also be cheaper, quicker and deliver benefits more speedily. The Southern and Central corridor options would cost £400m more, do more harm, be further from the hi-tech Oxford - Cambridge Arc than a Northern Corridor option, and miss a unique opportunity to 'unload' a strategic road, add affordable housing, and link the Arc to the M4 and the West, via Swindon, and to East-West Rail.

Q – Why are you not opposing the Expressway as a concept, when rail is best and new roads only create more traffic and pollution.

We are gravely concerned regarding the risks that this project poses to our communities and the environment. Our demands for a public enquiry are going unheard. We now know there will no proper public consultation until after the corridor is selected in July 2018. We are taking the view that as the OxCam Expressway is almost certainly going to be built, we must try and influence the outcome. We want the least harmful (least worst) corridor for the environment. And there is no doubt that some of the corridors being considered by Highways England are more damaging than others. If we don't enter the debate, we cannot influence it. We think it would be beneficial to maximise the benefits of the East West Rail Link and follow its path closely to encourage rail rather than road usage.

Q – Where do you think it should go?

There's little doubt that Government intends to press on with this scheme, and if they do then EAG believe that improving the existing roads and taking out the bottlenecks would do far less damage than carving a new road across the green belt.

In this context we recognise that if an Expressway is to be developed, that the A34 already largely has that status; Highways England have assured us it is in principle fit for purpose from end to end through Oxfordshire; and that the impact of any upgrades necessary will be far less than the impact of a brand new ten mile Expressway across the countryside.

Q – Are people getting a fair say on where the route should go?

Absolutely not: our local councils and their officers have failed to consult Oxfordshire's residents, and have not released any information on routes or on the 300,000 extra houses that this project would bring to the county. EAG has been pressing for a proper debate on all this, and OCC Councillors have voted by 49 to 5 to call for a Public Inquiry into the Expressway project so people can have their say.

Q – How I can let Highways England know of my objections to this road?

The email address we have is info@highwaysengland.gov.uk.

Q – Why was the Expressway Action Group (EAG) formed?

EAG was formed to oppose by all means available, any new Expressway route across open countryside, especially Green Belt, to the South of Oxford, in the interest of preserving the character of our primarily rural County. Its membership comprises parishes opposed to or threatened by such development. Any parishes subscribing to our stated aims is welcome to join, as we recognise that the wish to protect the countryside from unacceptable development spreads wider than just our founding communities.