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PRESS RELEASE

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100 MPH OXFORD - CAMBRIDGE RAIL LINK

Rail campaigners are calling for a 100 mph Oxford - Cambridge rail link. Fast train services would connect Oxford to Cambridge via Bicester, Aylesbury, Milton Keynes and Bedford, and go beyond to connect Ipswich and Norwich to Swindon. The plan involves a combination of existing, upgraded and reopened lines to complete the link.

"This scheme has a number of advantages" said Peter Lawrence of the rail pressure group Railfuture "we want to link some of the fastest growing communities in the country without causing road congestion or the hassle of crossing central London."

"We believe it will encourage inward investment from industry and tourism, as well as providing much-needed additional capacity for passengers and freight. At a time when environmental concerns are top of the agenda, it's more important than ever to invest in green transport such as rail. "

"In Wales and Scotland miles of new railway are being built. Why not in England? We're calling on the East of England Assembly and Development Agency to work with their colleagues in the South East and continue to press for this strategic rail link".

Railfuture have produced a leaflet on the scheme which can be downloaded from www.railfuture.org.uk/Ox-Cam

Please see also www.eastwestrail.org.uk.

Notes for editors:

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Railfuture is Britain's only completely independent voice on railway development. We are not affiliated to or sponsored by any political party, trade union, or private industry. We are funded almost entirely by our members.

Rail is a vital part of an integrated efficient transport system serving a modern, vibrant, environmentally sustainable economy. We are pro-rail but not anti-road. Railfuture maintains that investment in rail travel and rail freight is vital to the future of the UK economy and environment.

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