Meeting: EWR/Bedford Borough Council – Fairhills switching station plans introduction – summary note

Held on: Tuesday 31 March (9am – 9:30am)

Location: Microsoft Teams

Attendees:

- Joanne Branson-Budd (JBB)
- Aiden Hugill (AH)
- Andrew Prigmore (AP)
- Sarah Combes (SC)

Representatives from EWR Co also present

Meeting objectives: To provide Bedford Borough Council (BBC) with an overview of the requirement to move the UKPN switching station in the Fairhills area north of Bedford.

Meeting minutes:

Item	Text	Action
1.	**Welcome and Introductions** • Objective of the meeting – to advise BBC officers that the 123kv UKPN switching station north of Bedford has to be moved.	
2.	**Fairhills switching station** • EWR Co gave an overview of what the switching station is and where it is located, with maps of the location and its relation to Bedford and the EWR alignment. • EWR Co confirmed that work has ongoing with UKPN (since 2022) to avoid moving the switching station, including realigning the tracks, but this hasn't been possible. • EWR Co confirmed that the existing switching station will stay live while the new one is built and commissioned before the existing one is switched off and decommissioned. EWR Co noted that this switching station serves 150-200,000 people. • EWR Co outlined the main factor for the move of the switching station is safety, and UKPN need enough space to safely reconfigure.	

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