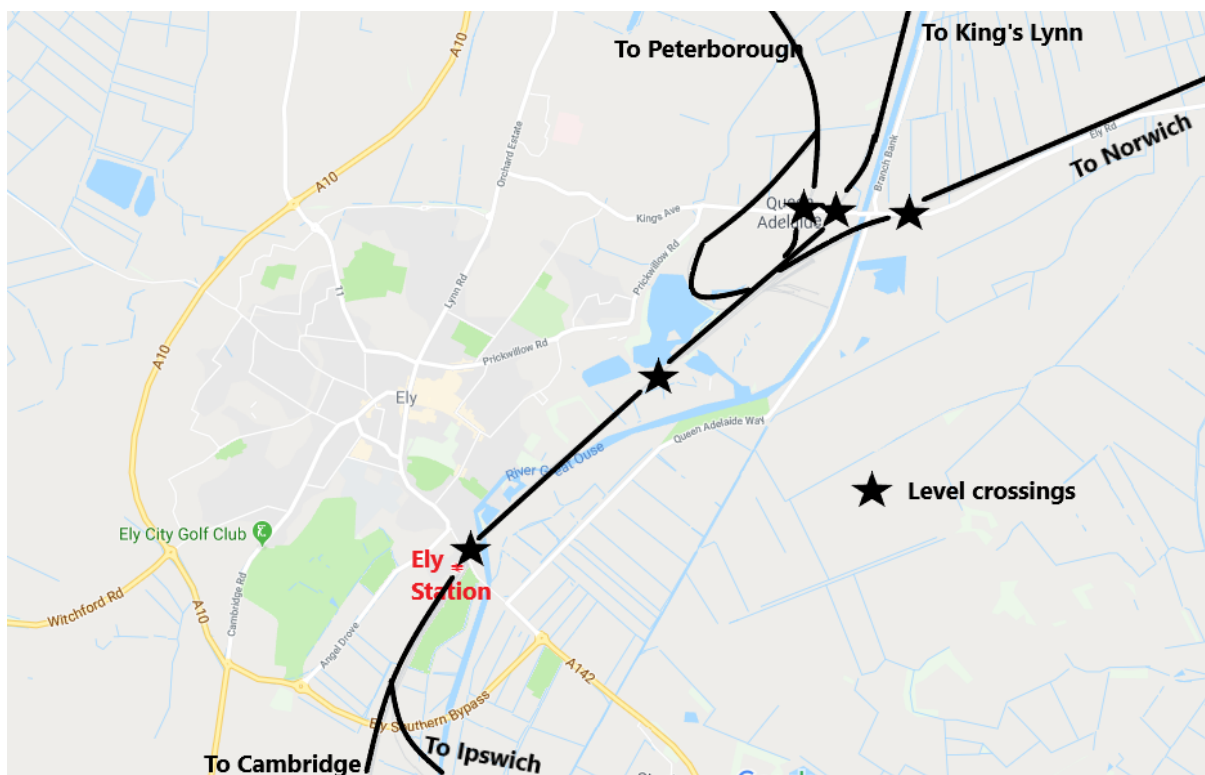


**Greater Thetford Development Partnership Board  
Ely Area Enhancements Update  
November 2018**

Ely is at the convergence of passenger lines linking Norwich and Cambridge, Norwich and Peterborough, Ipswich and Peterborough, Birmingham and Stansted, and King's Lynn and Cambridge as well as on the freight route from the Port of Felixstowe to the Midlands. The rail infrastructure is at capacity and is the reason why the train operator is unable to fulfil the franchise requirement to run half hourly services throughout the day from King's Lynn to Cambridge; as well as being a blockage to any increase in frequency of the services listed above.



The Ely Task Force brings together DfT, Network Rail, local authorities and the local enterprise partnership. It is overseeing project work, funded by (the former) GCGP LEP, New Anglia LEP and the Strategic Freight Network (part of Network Rail), to identify a scheme option to unlock additional train paths through the Ely area. In tandem with this Cambridgeshire County Council is leading on a road-based study centred around the village of Queen Adelaide where there are three level crossings on the B1382.

Currently technical work is being undertaken to develop a Strategic Outline Business Case. This is assessing how to address the issues and identify preferred road and rail option(s). This stage of work is due to be completed in late spring 2019. At this point, if further funding is secured, the preferred option(s) will be taken forward. The current timetable envisages that – subject to successfully securing funding at each stage to take the scheme(s) forward and successful development of the scheme(s) through consultation and the statutory processes, the Secretary of State could sign off funding in 2022, allowing delivery shortly thereafter.