

Network Rail - Timeline of GWR electrification and associated events

Item	Detail	Tags	External links if applicable
14-Jan-16 Meeting with NR		RAG, meeting	
02-Jan-16 Telegraph article	Sets out Chilterns AONB concerns (and Cotswolds) with RAG input.	RAG, media, AONB	http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/road-and-rail-transport/12078265/Rail-electrification-ruining-English-counttryside.html
01-Dec-15 DT publishes latest Transport Analysis Guidance	Contains definition of "large adverse" and other impact categories affecting EIA (p43). Highlights "serious conflict with government policy".	AONB, EIA	https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/487684/TA_G_unit_a3_enve_imp_app_dec_15.pdf
20-Nov-15 Public Accounts Committee report (text)	2015-19 CPS deliverables never achievable but still signed off by DT and ORR. Says then CEO knew in 2014 plans were "unbalanced and unrealistic" (Evidence 082). Pressure on NR from reclassification as public body and in having to pay for new trains in 2018 even if electrification incomplete.	Parliament, Budget	http://www.publicaccounts.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmselect/cmoubaac/473/473.pdf
06-Nov-15 Latest in series of legal challenges to Manchester Odsal Chord	Example of another project with a series of options risking damage to heritage site (and a determined campaigner who is ex-NR consultant engineer). Also a project where bespoke OLE has been considered but for other reasons.	Legal, Other Areas	http://www.manchesterconfidential.co.uk/news/exclusive-odsal-chord-to-be-challenged-8681
01-Nov-15 Bowe Report	Focus on planning rather than delivery (Hendy) or funding (Shaw). But still highlighted that GWE suffered from design being carried out in tandem to delivery. Also notes a tendency to over-design and for specifications to be inconsistent. Also mentions in passing that an Environmental Action Plan is an example of a GRIP stage deliverable but does not state that NR mandated this for GW.	Report, Bowe, Planning	https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/479560/bowe-review.pdf
01-Nov-15 Hendy Report	Admissions of poor management but pointed commentary on obstacles of seeking planning permissions with a case study	Report, Hendy, Planning, Budget	http://networkrail.wpengine.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/hendy-report.pdf
23-Oct-16 Public Meeting in South Stoke	Details on RAG website; 700 attended.	Meeting, RAG	
21-Oct-15 Public Accounts Select Committee evidence from NR and regulators	Mark Carne (NR), Philip Rutman (DT), Richard Price (ORR). Focus on overspend, poor planning, inadequate risk assessment. See also 20 Nov report. Just 2 hours before meeting Carne (CEO) gave letter that GW costs had increased from £1.6bn in 2014 to £2.5bn-£2.8bn.	Parliament, CEO, Budget	http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence/evidence/committees-committee/network-rail-20142019-rail-investment-programme/oral/23330.html
19-Oct-15 Statement of Intent	Letter from NR to AONBs announcing review of viable design, consultation in early 2016 and possibility of retrospective works.	AONB, consultation	
16-Oct-15 ORR puts NR in breach of licence due to delivery risks	See PAC evidence and 20 Nov report. Admitted they could have done this in 2014 and had investigated NR 5 times since then for breach (2/3 of evidence onwards)	Parliament, Budget	http://orr.gov.uk/news-and-media/news-and-announcements/2015/network-rail-is-taking-immediate-action-to-improve-planning-and-delivery-of-rail-enhancements
14-Oct-15 Meeting in Goring between RAG and NR managers	3rd meeting in total, preceded by letter to CEO on 13th Oct setting out legal position in detail	Meeting, CEO, RAG	
25-Sep-15 Article published by Chilterns AONB	Article on website (in Docs & Links)	AONB, Article	
16-Sep-15 Public Accounts Committee announces inquiry	Inquiry into NR's rail investment programme for 2014-19	Parliament, budget	
10-Sep-15 Report by National Trust on development in AONBs	Follows research by planning consultants Green Balance; aim is assisting correct application of policy	AONB	
24-Aug-15 NR Media Centre reports mitigation work at Bath	Track lowering in Sydney Gardens	Heritage, Other Areas	http://www.networkrailmediacentre.co.uk/news/orange-army-enters-final-week-of-work-to-prepare-bath-railway-line-for-electrification.htm_t=0_0_0_0
20-Jul-15 Transport Select Committee evidence from Sec of State, DTI	Evidence on performance of NR and decision to pause 3 projects	Parliament, DTI, Budget	http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/transport-committee/news-parliament-2015/department-for-transport-and-rail-policy/
15-Jul-15 Meeting, NR, RAG, SODC Planning, CPRE	Included CCB presentation (in Docs & Links). Leader of SODC vent apologies and comments in commitment to do "all that is necessary".	Meeting, Presentation, RAG	
25-Jun-15 Sec of State for Transport sent to Parliament	Suspending work on 2 projects; Great Western a priority; 3 reviews launched (Hendy, Bowe, Shaw) plus ORR Western.	Parliament, Hendy, Bowe, Shaw	http://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-committee/public-accounts/written-evidence/2015-20-Parliament/NAO-memorandum-Planning-and-delivery-of-the-2014-2019-rail-investment-programme.pdf
06-May-15 Meeting, NR, RAG, GPC, MP for Goring, CCB	Notes issued to NR, reply on 21st promising report with mitigation options and further meeting with CCB and local councillors	Meeting, RAG	
15-Apr-15 Meeting in Goring	Cancelled by NR. Letter from RAG to NR Comm Relations Mgr on 14th.	Meeting, RAG	
15-Apr-15 Surrey Hills AONB report	AONB support for North Downs electrification subject to it not being overhead	AONB, Other Areas	Surrey activity report re. electrification
31-Mar-15 ORR writes to NR announcing its investigation into Planning and Delivery of Enhancement Projects	TOR published 22 Apr (link). Catalogue of poor budget submissions and missed milestones. See point 3 under Project Development: "unavoidable capture of relevant legislation... does not have a process which ensures all the relevant legal requirements are identified and understood at the outset" though possibly in context of safety breaches.	Budget	http://orr.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0017/18053/tor-orr-investigation-into-rr-planning-and-delivery-of-enhancement-projects.pdf
06-Jan-15 Planning permission granted for OLE at Mouldford Viaduct	Ref P14/53583/B Decision and report still available	Planning, SODC	
06-Jan-15 Planning permission granted for OLE at Gatshampton Viaduct	Ref P14/53582/B. Decision and report still available	Planning, SODC	
01-Dec-14 Final design approved: Furrer + Frey Series 1	(according to Richard Turner response to Chilterns Conservation Board on RAG website). Even this design choice seems to comprise 3 options and ours is the most intrusive. The design goals appear to emphasise simplicity and speed of installation but do not mention environment.	OLE, AONB	http://www.furrerfrey.ch/en/systems/Series-3.html
01-Sep-14 NR reclassified as a public body	Implication is that it now has a Government loan capped £30.3bn where it could previously borrow on open markets without limit but with Govt. guarantee. Now also subject to parliamentary scrutiny.	Parliament, budget	
04-Aug-14 Bath FAQ	Mentions a bespoke design solution through Sydney Gardens	Planning, Heritage, Other Areas	https://www.networkrail.co.uk/bath-faq.pdf?cd=10
07-Jul-14 ORR Network Rail Monitor still highlights GW as a project at risk	States ORR first questioned NR about deliverability in Aug '13. Mentions a NR programme now in place to "reconfigure governance" and project mgmt. Also that ORR is commissioning an independent review.	ORR, Budget	http://orr.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/13792/network-rail-monitor-2013-14-q4.pdf
06-May-14 FAQ on NR website covering mitigation of appearance of electrification	(Date comes from file properties). States "we have appointed heritage specialists 'Alan Baxter Associates' to advise on sensitive area design solutions for electrification"		http://www.networkrail.co.uk/great-western-electrification/great-western-electrification-faq.pdf Projects : Alan Baxter
01-Oct-13 NR, DTI, ORR agree budget for CPS 2014-19	£38.3bn in total. Later to be criticised by Public Accounts Committee ORR, Parliament, Budget as unrealistic.	ORR, Parliament, Budget	
30-Jul-13 Ofgem report on undergrounding	Scheme to replace overhead pylons with underground cabling to conserve natural beauty	AONB, Other Organisations	https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/sites/default/files/docs/2013/07/visual_amenity_factsheet_final_eniship_0.pdf
28-Jun-13 NR Technical Strategy	Contains section on Energy setting out current work and future requirements for OLE in general terms. No mention of environmental constraints.	OLE	http://www.networkrail.co.uk/publications/technical-strategy/
25-Apr-13 Atkins for NR ES Wales Non-Technical Summary	Differing OLE designs according to local conditions (with photos) even the 4-track portal version is less intrusive (not solid masts) even without being in an AONB. Also has useful flowchart of statutory EIA process highlighting mitigation phase	EIA, OLE, Other Areas	http://www.networkrail.co.uk/browse%20documents/projects/great%20western/electrification/20Environmental%20statements/wales/pwm%20electrification%20-%20wales%20-%20environmental%20statement%20on%20electrical%20summary.pdf?cd=3
06-Dec-12 ORR quarterly monitoring report highlights GW as a project at risk for the first time (and in nearly all subsequent quarters)	Reasons are 18-month slippage of design phase, NR review that technology will deliver required performance, and Sec of State increase in scope.	ORR, OLE	http://orr.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0013/3055/network_rail_monitor_1213q2.pdf
Nov-12 Atkins for NR Environmental Statement	General ES and region-specific consultation responses with NR's responses. For AONBs, only general mitigation of lineside planting (not practicable); no region-specific measures. No attempt to "avoid" the adverse effects, which the EIA scope states should be the first priority.		http://www.networkrail.co.uk/browseDirectory.aspx?root=1/projects/Great%20Western&dir=1/projects/Great%20Western/Electrification%20Environmental%20Statements/England
Nov-12 Atkins for NR Proposed OLE designs	All front of document in Appendix A are photos of several different OLE designs described as "proposed".	EIA, AONB, Listed Buildings	http://www.networkrail.co.uk/browse%20documents/projects/great%20western/electrification/20Environmental%20statements/England/pwm%20electrification%20-%20wales%20-%20environmental%20statement%20on%20electrical%20summary.pdf?cd=3 http://www.networkrail.co.uk/browseDirectory.aspx?dir=1/project%20Environmental%20statements/England/pwm%20electrification%20-%20wales%20-%20environmental%20statement%20on%20electrical%20summary.pdf?cd=3
Jul-12 NR accept new design for Great Eastern from Furrer Frey	Same firm that provided design for GW but different system and possibly less intrusive according to slideshow.		http://www.slideshare.net/NDdolphin/ee-ole-renewals-project
Jul-12 Sec of State's High Level Output Specification for CPS	Para 32 "Wider environmental impacts". Industry to provide evidence... of how it is taking into account... "protecting and enhancing the natural environment". This is a Railways Act 2005 stmt.	EIA, AONB, Parliament	https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/3641/railway-act-2005.pdf
31-Oct-11 Atkins for NR EIA Scoping Document	Large amount of detail on EIA legislative framework and best practice, national planning policy, mitigation methods, all the different categories of environmental impact. Vol 2 Appendix A has photos of several different proposed OLE designs.	EIA, AONB, Listed Buildings	http://www.networkrail.co.uk/uploadedFiles/networkrail/Content/Improvements/Electrification/Great_Western_electrification/Images/GWR%20Electrification%20Environment%20Impact%20Assessment%20Scoping%20Report.pdf?cd=8
20-Apr-11 Railnews interview with Peter Dearman, NS's Head of Network Electrification	Asked specifically about heritage sites. Said not only were supports more widely spaced but in the past has engaged architects to make the structure more sympathetic as well "more aesthetically pleasing than lumps of H section". "Our aim is to deal with all listed structures as sensitively as possible". Cites Royal Border Bridge and Durham Viaduct.	OLE, Listed Building	http://www.globalairnews.com/2011/04/28/electrification-delivering-the-transformation/
20-Apr-07 ORR's Policy on Sustainable Development	Cites s4 Railways Act 1993 (as amended) which includes ORR's own duty to "have regard" for environmental impact. Many of the linked documents are not available now since move from rail-reg domain.	ORR, AONB, EIA	http://orr.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0014/4541/pol-susdev-csmk_200407.pdf