



return to **KESWICK**

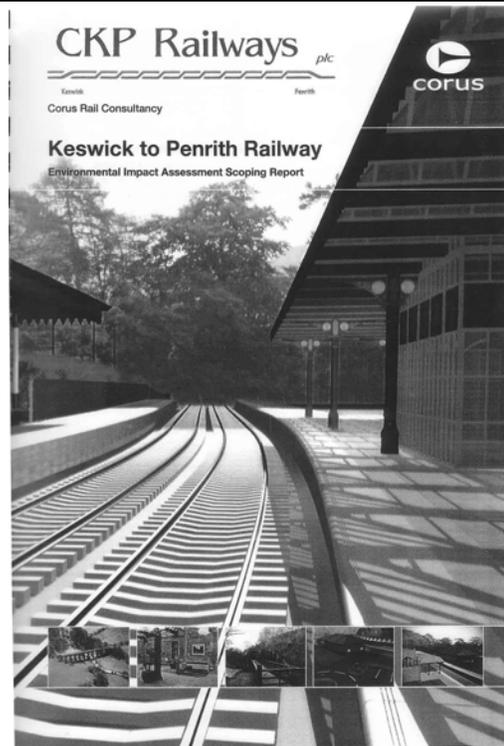


...on a modern train from your station!

UPDATE NUMBER 26.

SPRING 2004

FIRST STAGE OF CONSULTATION COMPLETED



Sorry, but we can not supply copies of this report at the moment.

Please watch for further news at a later date.

The Scoping Report, the first stage of the Environmental Impact Assessment, is now being prepared for Government scrutiny. This report examines all the environmental challenges which may arise from construction and operation of the Railway, collates existing information, and assesses whether positive or negative consequences are likely.

Where there are potentially serious impacts, the needs for further study are identified.

The Report also identifies planning policies which affect the line, and any impact which the Railway may have on those policies.

A draft of the report was circulated to about 60 organisations including local authorities, conservation bodies, users of the countryside and other national organisations for comment. Many positive reactions were received.

Nothing can be taken for granted - effects on landscape, wildlife, people, archaeology, heritage features, buildings, traffic and air quality all have to be assessed and quantified.

This is a major exercise, but selected specialists are being used to ensure a professional result.

www.ckp-railways.co.uk

KESWICK - A BEACON TOWN

Keswick has been named as a 'Beacon Town' by the Countryside Agency – one of just six across the whole country. Keswick is already in the Market Towns Initiative and will provide information about tackling challenges in rural areas. Keswick will aim to be a leader in business improvement.

A partnership led by the Countryside Agency, the Northwest Development Agency (NWDA), local authorities and business people, test the suitability of Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) and find out how they could help other market towns.

This follows interest shown by John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, who identified two key factors in regenerating the area as affordable housing and improved transport links (see Update 23).

COMMUNITY RAILWAYS

The Strategic Rail Authority (SRA) has announced proposals to change the management of parts of the existing National Rail network to allow it to more accurately reflect local needs.

The proposals include locally controlled timetabling and maintenance.

These proposals largely reflect the work done over the last few years by the Transport Research and Information Network (TR&IN), who have shown that local management and community involvement can produce a service which people actually want to use, turning round the fortunes of lines which were previously considered uneconomic.

This is the kind of Railway which CKP Railways aims to create for Keswick - as part of the community serving everyday transport needs. In many ways it is ahead of its time - the SRA is now beginning to catch up with it !

The Keswick to Penrith project is the first to be funded entirely by investments directly from people who want a proper transport link reinstated. Local residents, businesses, and supporters further afield have now invested almost £300,000 in design and development - which is progressing steadily. Grants and commercial funding for the later stages, including construction, are being pursued.

PROGRESS WITH FLUSCO

At Flusco, between Penruddock and Blencow, Inglewood Properties is creating an Industrial Park. The trackbed of the Keswick to Penrith line crosses the site diagonally. Inglewood Properties Ltd. submitted plans for an internal access road which would cut through the Railway trackbed.

This could make the line more difficult or unduly expensive to rebuild, or hazardous to operate.

There has been considerable correspondence with Eden District Council to ensure that the constraints on building and operating a fast modern Railway are properly understood.

Eden District Council also sought independent opinions on legal and technical aspects.

CKP Railways, its designers (Corus Rail Consultancy) and planning advisors (AXIS) are hopeful that a solution can be devised which accommodates everyone's needs. There is no need to have one project blocking another, but understanding and communication are essential.

Anyone interested in the future of the Keswick to Penrith Railway should express their concerns to Eden District Council at Mansion House, Penrith, CA11 7YG.

It is also possible to send comments by e-mail to Eden's Chief Executive: chief.exec@eden.gov.uk
Eden's Planning Reference number for the scheme is 03/0378.

Please also send a copy of any correspondence to CKP Railways plc at the address above.

Objectors are offered an opportunity to speak at Planning Committee meetings.

Please help to demonstrate that this project has strong public support.

BONDS - NEARLY £300,000 ALREADY SOLD

The Third Offer for Bonds is still open.

Bonds are offered in multiples of £100 and pay interest each year at the rate of 4% gross.

In the year 2010 they will be redeemable or may be converted into shares in CKP Railways plc.

This is the main source of funding for all the development work. Almost £300,000 has been raised so far, about half the total needed to get the Transport and Works Order from Government.

With that Order, construction can commence with external funding and be completed very quickly.

CKP Railways plc normally issues Bond Certificates at the end of each month.

To get a copy of the Prospectus for yourself, a friend, colleague or relative, write to

CKP Railways plc,

1 Solway Park,

Carlisle,

Cumbria,

CA2 6TH

Or request by e-mail on: ckp@cmartindale.fsnet.co.uk

To comply with investment Regulations, the Prospectus can only be issued as a paper document.

The Offer of Bonds will remain open a while longer, but don't wait too long !

Bonds can be bought on behalf of children or grandchildren, or as a gift for anyone else.

AN EXPENSIVE PROJECT ?

About £200,000 has been spent on design, development, environmental and legal work over the last three years or so. Almost £300,000 has been raised from the sale of Bonds, supplemented by £1,000 to £1,500 each year from commissions on sales of books, videos, prints, greetings cards, phonecards and rail tickets. Commissions, occasional small grants and donations cover administration costs.

The North West Air Ambulance (which covers Cumbria) needs £60,000 every month to remain operational. It also receives no funding from public bodies.

CARDS, VIDEOS, BOOKS ALWAYS AVAILABLE

Greetings Cards, Fine Art Prints, Videos, Books and Phonecards are always available, but please order well in advance if you want any of these items as presents for friends or family !

Iceni Enterprises Ltd. will send out every item as fast as possible, but please allow 14 days for delivery, especially towards holidays such as Easter.

The "Lakes Express" greetings cards are blank inside, so you can insert any greeting or message that you want, for any occasion. We have even seen them framed - the print is excellent quality.

The original artwork is by Eric Bottomley, a member of the Guild of Railway Artists.

MAILING LIST REVIEWS

Each year we go through the mailing list to make sure we are sending information to people who actually want to receive it. Anyone whose mail has been returned by the Royal Mail is deleted.

If you move - please tell us so that we can keep in touch with you !

If you know anyone else who would be interested in the project, please let us know.

Thank you to everyone who has written to us with details of address changes.

In November and December 2003 we had some problems with mail received and sent, so please accept our apologies if we have not amended your details recently.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

1. If you have not already done so, please subscribe to Updates (£10 per calendar year).
25% of every subscription goes to CKP Railways plc to help fund development work.
2. If you have access to email, we can send Updates electronically - saving time, money and paper.
Please tell us if you change your e-mail address - we can not contact you otherwise !
3. Visit the website - www.ckp-railways.co.uk. This site has information about the project, reasons why the scheme has been developed in this particular way, and lots of photographs of the line and surrounding countryside in all the seasons. The text of several earlier Updates is kept on this site. Latest news is also posted when there are significant developments. There is also a linked site devoted to the history of the Cockermouth, Keswick and Penrith Railway (the original CK&PR).

OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT THE PROJECT

1. Buy a re-chargeable phonecard for discounted calls from any land-line in the UK and 48 other countries. Minimum call charge is only 3 pence, and no coins are needed in BT phoneboxes! Cards cost £10 each, post free, supplied with £10 credit.
Top up the card at any time from a credit card using a telephone keypad on a free call.
15% commission on every sale and recharge goes into the reconstruction project.
2. Book your rail tickets through "Chester-le-Track" for any journey on the whole National Network, including discounted fares for Railcard holders, etc. Phone Chester-le-Track on 0191-387-1387, quote "CKP Offer" and they will pay 3% of the total sale as commission to CKP Railways plc. The total sale must be at least £25 and must be paid for by credit card. Chester-le-Track also sells tickets "on-line" but these do NOT qualify for the CKP offer.
3. We collect and sell used printer and fax ink-jet and laser cartridges for recycling.
Please contact the address below if you are interested in collecting in your area.
There are no costs and no money to handle - postage is free and packaging is supplied.
4. A professionally produced video "Trains to Keswick" records the history and people along the line. It was filmed in the last few months before closure in 1972. Buy from us at £12.99 per copy (post free) and 25% of the price goes to the reconstruction project.
5. The report "Return to Keswick - the case for a New Railway" is available at £20 per copy direct from us (post free), or order through bookshops by quoting ISBN 1-902543-02-5.
£5 from every copy sold goes into the reconstruction project.
6. For a little nostalgia, Fine Art prints and greetings cards featuring a stunning winter view of the steam hauled "Lakes Express" near Bassenthwaite Lake station, painted by Eric Bottomley of the Guild of Railway Artists, are available from us.
Prints (24" x 16") are £18 each, cards (6" x 8") are £1.40 each with envelopes. All post free.
25% of the price of every order placed with us goes into the reconstruction project.

Cedric A. Martindale. BSc.Hons, AUS, CEng., MIMechE, CMILT. - Director

No. 26, Mar 2004.

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