

**TRANSPORT AND WORKS ACT 1992**

**THE TRANSPORT AND WORKS (APPLICATIONS AND OBJECTIONS PROCEDURE)  
(ENGLAND AND WALES) RULES 2006**

**THE CAMBRIAN RAILWAYS ORDER**

**STATEMENT OF AIMS**

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**Introduction and background**

The applicant for the Order is Cambrian Heritage Railways Limited (“CHRL”). CHRL is a well-established organisation with proven success in operating two sections of restored railway at Oswestry and at Lynclys in the Country of Shropshire.

The branch railway line between the towns of Gobowen and Blodwel in the County of Shropshire was closed to passenger services in the 1960’s but remained in use as a freight line serving the stone quarry at Blodwell until 1988. After that, the tracks were retained in connection with the possibility of future freight traffic serving the quarry.

In 2008, Shropshire Council acquired the land comprising the Gobowen to Blodwel railway line from Network Rail Infrastructure Limited and, in April 2014, Shropshire Council leased the railway land to CHRL for a period of 50 years. The total length of the branch line is approximately 13.5 kilometres.

In anticipation of the future operation of a rail service along the branch railway, Shropshire Council has offered match funding towards the cost of promotion of a Transport and Works Act Order to provide CHRL with the necessary statutory powers to operate the railway.

**Aim of Application Proposals**

The Order would provide for the transfer from Network Rail Infrastructure Limited to CHRL of the statutory rights and liabilities pertaining to the railway with effect from the date upon which the Order comes into force. It would also provide for powers to operate and use the railway and, with the consent of the Secretary of State for Transport, for the transfer of all or part of CHRL’s undertaking.

The Order would pave the way for the restoration of the railway for public use as a community and heritage railway.

The Order does not authorise the construction of any works or compulsory acquisition of land or interests in land.