

News Release from Network Rail

Wednesday 21 January 2009 10:00

MORE VALUE FOR MONEY SOUGHT IN TRACK RENEWALS

- **High levels of investment continue over the next five years**
- **Volume phasing to be adjusted to help deliver more value for money**
- **More enhancement work available**

Network Rail today outlined its plans for achieving better value for money from its track renewals programme.

Over the next five years, high levels of investment in track renewals will continue with almost £4bn being invested. Total outputs for the five years will remain as previously planned although adjustment in phasing in the early part of the period will result in less volume of track renewals in the first year to allow time for new, more efficient ways of working to take effect delivering the value for money needed to meet tough ORR output targets as well as being less disruptive to passengers and freight users.

Simon Kirby, director infrastructure investment said; "We are committed to continue to invest in our railway to deliver ever higher levels of reliability for the passenger and freight users. But we must deliver value for money for this work and it makes sense to take advantage of new, more efficient methods of working in our future planned work."

With almost three times the investment being made in growing and expanding the rail network over the next five years, the work available in the field of track enhancements - around £800m - has increased significantly. Following a recent tendering exercise looking for contractors to be involved in a good proportion of this work, seven have been selected, including all the current track renewals contractors.

Mr Kirby concluded: "With smarter and more mechanised ways of carrying out track renewals coming on stream in a few years time, reducing volumes next year and ramping up in the years that follow will help to deliver the savings we need if we're to meet ORR output targets."

Notes follow

Notes to Editors:

- The seven contractors selected to undertake a good proportion of the c£800m track enhancement work (for example line-speed and junction improvements and work on big projects such as Thameslink and Reading) during CP4 are: Amey Colas, Babcock Rail, Balfour Beatty, Carillion, Grant Rail, Jarvis, Trackwork

About Network Rail

Network Rail is the 'not for dividend' owner and operator of Britain's railway infrastructure, which includes the tracks, signals, tunnels, bridges, viaducts, level crossings and stations - the largest of which we also manage

We aim to provide a safe, reliable and efficient rail infrastructure for freight and passenger trains to use

Our website: <http://www.networkrail.co.uk>