

Save the *Woodhead* tunnel!

The Woodhead Manchester-Sheffield rail route, closed since 1981, is under threat of permanent extinction. But it can still be saved with your help.

Against the wishes of the Peak District National Park and local MPs, National Grid are proposing to re-cable their power lines through the (new) 1954 Woodhead tunnel and eliminate forever this low carbon, trans-Pennine freight and passenger route. We're calling for National Grid to find an alternative and campaigning to re-open the Woodhead rail route.

We all now understand the need to fight climate change yet this move will see a cheap, simple solution irretrievably lost.

5 reasons why the Woodhead Tunnel shouldn't be used by National Grid for cabling

1. It makes sense in Climate Change terms

The Woodhead line could save *100,000 tons of CO₂ emissions* per year by carrying freight that would otherwise go by road. The gradient on the line means a carbon neutral system of regenerative braking power can be used.

2. It would be simple to do

Not only is there a clear demand for a trans-Pennine rail link but much of the track infrastructure still exists. All that is needed is the will to make it happen.

3. It would be cheap

Re-opening the rail-freight link would cost an estimated £139m – an amount that will be re-couped in just one year of operation.

4. There are simple alternatives open to National Grid

The National Grid is a multi-million pound company which can afford to seek an alternative solution, such as refurbishing the existing smaller (Victorian era) tunnel at Woodhead. It's the least they can do considering their significant carbon footprint.

5. Re-opening the line will benefit everyone

Another Manchester-Sheffield line will transfer freight from road to rail and create a passenger line that would take people from Hadfield-Sheffield in just 15 minutes.

Good for the environment, good for the local economy.

4 simple things you can do to change this now!

1. Visit our website at <http://savethewoodheadtunnel.blogspot.com> and sign the online petition.
2. Write to National Grid asking them to reconsider their decision and back the re-opening of the tunnel for rail.
National Grid, Lakeside House, The Lakes, Northampton NN4 7SN
3. Get involved in the *Save the Woodhead Tunnel Campaign* and help make your voice heard.
4. Write to your MP asking them to sign Early Day Motion 459 and pass your comments onto Ruth Kelly.

