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PRESS RELEASE

2 March 2011

RAIL PASSENGERS REACT POSITIVELY TO NEWS OF FURTHER ELECTRIFICATION

“Confirmation that the Great Western main line will be electrified as far as Bristol and Cardiff is very welcome” said Mike Crowhurst of the campaign group Railfuture. “This is great news for rail passengers because it will mean faster and more reliable trains, and this investment is long overdue. Britain has one of the lowest proportions of electric lines in Europe, and Wales has none at all, so we have a lot of catching up to do. However, we're disappointed that it won't be going as far as Swansea yet. We believe that there's a strong case for electrifying other lines and we hope that this is not just a one-off project but the start of a rolling programme of electrification. Once this is complete we can move onto the Midland main line.”

Rowland Pittard of Railfuture Wales added: "The valleys electrification is something we've been pushing for over many years so this is good news. However, we're concerned about Cardiff-Swansea services. Network Rail says that the track here is full to capacity, yet apparently there is no case for electrification. Electric trains enhance capacity, so allowing electric trains to run beyond Cardiff makes sense to us, and is something we'll continue to press for"

Notes for editors:

Railfuture is the campaigning name of the Railway Development Society Ltd (a not for profit) Company Limited by Guarantee. Registered in England and Wales No. 5011634. Reg. Office: 24 Chedworth Place, Tattingstone, Suffolk IP9 2ND

Railfuture is Britain's only completely independent voice on railway development. We are not affiliated to or sponsored by any political party, trade union, or private industry. We are funded almost entirely by our members.

Rail is a vital part of an integrated efficient transport system serving a modern, vibrant, environmentally sustainable economy. We are pro-rail but not anti-road. Railfuture maintains that investment in rail travel and rail freight is vital to the future of the UK economy and environment.

For more information please contact:

Bruce Williamson, media spokesman

Tel: 0117 927 2954

Mobile: 07759 557389

media@railfuture.org.uk

www.railfuture.org.uk

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