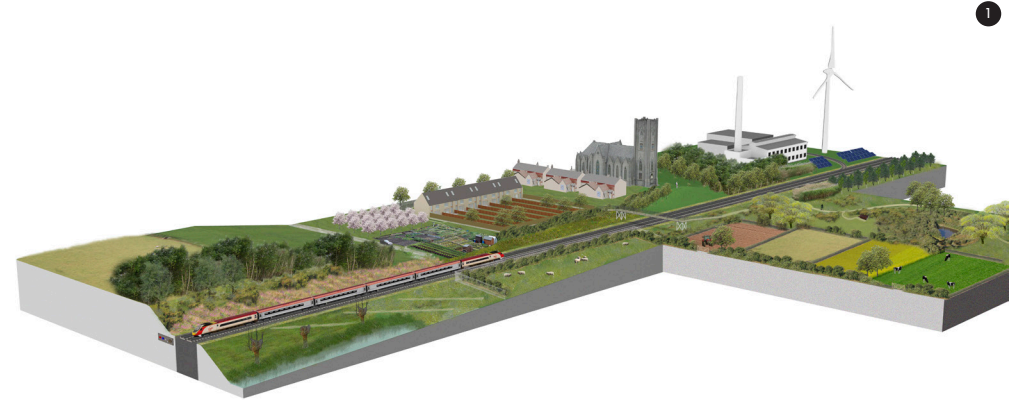


# Network Rail Lineside Management Strategy: Making lineside work harder

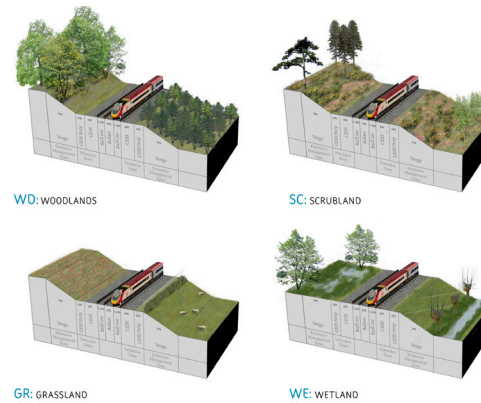


Management of the lineside estate has primarily focused on the clearance of vegetation and felling of trees within a fixed safety strip adjacent to the rail lines. Whilst this vegetation has become ecologically rich in certain areas, it offers limited value and functionality.

Network Rail posed the challenge to retrofit a more productive working lineside landscape that is planned, designed and managed to ensure that a wider range of environmental services and benefits from this underutilised resource can be gained, whilst maintaining the highest standards of safety and operational performance.

LDA Design worked in collaboration with Network Rail and a panel of expert advisers to establish a management strategy that transforms the existing lineside landscape, which is a costly management liability. The strategy creates a fully-functioning environmental and ecological asset capable of increasing biodiversity and improving land use. It establishes more constructive partnerships with communities and responds to low-carbon economy opportunities, helping to meet the challenge of climate change.

The Network Rail Lineside Vegetation Management Strategy won the Strategic Landscape Planning category at the annual Landscape Institute Awards.



**Client**  
Network Rail

**Location**  
UK lineside estate

**Partners**  
Peter Neal Consulting, John Hopkins, Anne Jaluzot, Brian Mark, Mott MacDonald, Nerys Jones, Paul Nolan The Mersey Forest Team, BSG Ecology, Sheffield University

**Services**  
Environmental Planning

**Area**  
Equivalent to 380 km<sup>2</sup>

**Schedule**  
2011 - 2012

<sup>1</sup> Axonometric diagram of proposed lineside working landscape

<sup>2</sup> Example Management Codes

<sup>3</sup> Creating biodiversity rich habitats