

*Rail*21

Submission to BMAP
re. objection BMAP2917-1

**Protection of the Former Railway
Trackbed from Kingsbog to
Ballyclare**

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Protection of the Former Railway Trackbed from Kingsbog to Ballyclare

1. *Rail21* consider that any former railway trackbeds in the BMAP area which remain free from major development should be protected for possible future public transport use.
 - 1.1 We have identified three former railway routes which fall into this category – Hollywood Arches – Comber, Monkstown – Greenisland and Kingsbog – Ballyclare.
 - 1.2 Hollywood Arches – Comber has been protected in previous area plans and will be protected in the new plan for a rapid transit service.
 - 1.3 Monkstown – Greenisland is protected by virtue of the fact that this section of railway line was never formally or legally closed or abandoned and all development adjacent to this route must take account of this.

2. We suggest that the 4-mile long former railway trackbed from Kingsbog (on the Bleach Green – Antrim line, about one mile west of Corr's Corner) to the centre of Ballyclare should also be protected from any further development.
 - 2.1 Such protection would enable future reopening of the railway line should the future growth of commuter traffic from the Ballyclare area justify alternatives to road transport.
 - 2.2 In our objection BMAP2917-2 we are proposing a new railway station at Corr's Corner with a major Park & Ride facility plus feeder bus services, including one from Ballyclare. A reinstated rail link into Ballyclare would be a logical development of this service.
 - 2.3 An additional rail service from Belfast to Ballyclare would provide extra services to and from Corr's Corner Park & Ride thereby eliminating the need for Inter-City services from Londonderry to stop at this station, saving several minutes journey time on these trains.

3. Although there is no immediate requirement to reinstate this section of railway line, nor likely to be in the duration of the plan, we think that BMAP has a duty to look to the longer term and protect routes such as this for possible longer term use.