

## **The Ordsall Chord**

### **A record of the battle to save the Stephenson's Manchester station complex**

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#### **Abstract**

George Stephenson Manchester station complex consisting of 3 grade one and 7 grade two bridges and buildings has been seriously harmed by the construction of the Ordsall Chord. This paper will record the history of the project and the key facts that led to the minister's decision to permit an unprecedented scale of harm to the world's first intercity passenger railway terminus. Central to the opposition to Network Rail's proposals was the promotion of an alternative route that provides the same benefits as the proposed route, without harming the heritage and maintaining the potential for the historic railway station complex to remain viable and connected to the mainline. This route was ultimately dismissed by the inspector on the grounds that, whilst viable, the lost development potential of the brown field site over which it would have been constructed outweighed the damage caused to the engineering heritage. This paper will present the facts put by all parties to the inquiry and serve as a record against which future generations may judge the event.