

**From:** Morgan Barbara [<mailto:Barbara.Morgan@networkrail.co.uk>]

**Sent:** 23 July 2018 09:09

**To:** Close, Roland <[Roland.Close@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Roland.Close@herefordshire.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** FW: Planning Application: 171532

Network Rail

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Ask for : Barbara Morgan

Tel : 0117 3721125

My Ref : P/TP18/0529/BM

Your Ref : 171532

Date : 23 July 2018

Dear Mr R Close

#### **TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990**

**PROPOSAL:** Site for a mixed use development including the erection of up to 625 new homes (including affordable housing), up to 2.9 hectares of B1 employment land, a canal corridor, public open space (including a linear park), access, drainage and ground modelling works and other associated works. The proposal is for outline planning permission with all matters reserved for future consideration with the exception of access.

**Land North of Viaduct, Adjoining Orchard Business Park, Ledbury, Herefordshire**

Thank you for your email dated 2 July, together with the opportunity to comment on this proposal.

Network Rail has no objection in principle to the above proposal but due to the proposal being next to Network Rail land and our infrastructure and to ensure that no part of the development adversely impacts the safety, operation and integrity of the operational railway we have included asset

protection comments which the applicant is strongly recommended to action should the proposal be granted planning permission. The local authority should include these requirements as planning conditions if these matters have not been addressed in the supporting documentation submitted with this application.

The developer must liaise with Network Rail's Asset Protection at the earliest point, with at least 3 months' notice, prior to work starting, to ensure the continued safe operation of the railway. The close proximity of the proposed site could bring a risk to the railway and Asset Protection involvement may be required. The client may need to sign into a Basic Asset Protection Agreement.

Initially the Outside Party should contact Asset Protection through their generic inbox which is [assetprotectionwestern@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:assetprotectionwestern@networkrail.co.uk)

## LIGHTING

The lighting associated with the development (including vehicle lights) must not interfere with the sighting of signalling apparatus and/or train drivers vision on approaching trains. The location and colour of lights must not give rise to the potential for confusion with the signalling arrangements on the railway. The developer should obtain the approval of the Network Rail Asset Protection Engineer for their detailed proposals regarding lighting. Following occupation of the development, if within three months Network Rail or a Train Operating Company has identified that lighting from the development is interfering with driver's vision, signal sighting, alteration/mitigation will be required to remove the conflict at the applicant's expense e.g. a sodium light on third party land can 'wash-out' a driver's ability to perceive a signal set at red: to the train driver the signal would be perceived as yellow and the driver would proceed even though a red signal indicates danger and to stop.

## FENCING

If not already in place, the Developer must provide, at their own expense, a suitable trespass proof steel palisade fence of at least 1.8m in height adjacent to Network Rail's boundary and make provision for its future maintenance and renewal without encroachment upon or over-sailing of Network Rail land. Network Rail's existing fencing / wall must not be removed or damaged and at no point either during construction or after works are completed on site should the foundations of the fencing or wall or any embankment therein be damaged, undermined or compromised in any way. Any vegetation on Network Rail land and within Network Rail's boundary must also not be disturbed. Any existing Network Rail fencing at the site has been erected to take account of the risk posed at the time the fencing was erected and not to take into account any presumed future use of the site, where increased numbers of people and minors may be using the site. Therefore, any proposed residential development imports a risk of trespass onto the operational railway, which we would remind the council, is a criminal offence (s55 British Transport Commission Act 1949). As the applicant has chosen to develop a proposal next to the operational railway they must provide a suitable trespass proof fence to mitigate any risks they have imported. Any fencing installed by the applicant must not prevent Network Rail from maintaining its own fencing/boundary treatment. As Network Rail is a publicly funded organisation with a regulated remit it would not be reasonable to require Network Rail to fund boundary works, fencing and boundary enhancements necessitated by third party commercial development. Network Rail's Asset Protection Engineer will need to review the fencing to ensure that no works to the foundations undermine or destabilise Network Rail land, or encroach onto Network Rail land.

The applicant is reminded that any works close to the Network Rail boundary, and any excavation works are also covered by the Party Wall Act of 1996. Should any foundations, any excavations or any part of the building encroachment onto Network Rail land then the applicant would need to serve notice on Network Rail and they would be liable for costs. An applicant cannot access Network Rail land without permission (via the Asset Protection Team) and in addition to any costs under the Party Wall Act, the applicant would also be liable for all Network Rail site supervision costs whilst works are undertaken. No works in these circumstances are to commence without the approval of the Network Rail Asset Protection Engineer.

## ACCESS TO RAILWAY

All roads, paths or ways providing access to any part of the railway undertaker's land both temporary and permanent, shall be kept open at all times (24/7, 365 – around the clock) during and after the development. The proposal must not encroach onto any Network Rail access road, paths or ways of access to any part of Network Rail land. This also includes emergency vehicles ability to access and exit Network Rail land. The applicant is reminded that Network Rail has a specific right of way and as such any developer is requested to contact the Network Rail Operational Property Services Team to discuss the impact of the proposal upon our access.

## DRAINAGE

Soakaways / attenuation ponds / septic tanks etc, as a means of storm/surface water disposal must not be constructed near/within 5 metres of Network Rail's boundary or at any point which could adversely affect the stability of Network Rail's property/infrastructure. Storm/surface water must not be discharged onto Network Rail's property or into Network Rail's culverts or drains. Network Rail's drainage system(s) are not to be compromised by any work(s). Suitable drainage or other works must be provided and maintained by the Developer to prevent surface water flows or run-off onto Network Rail's property / infrastructure.

Proper provision must be made to accept and continue drainage discharging from Network Rail's property. (The Land Drainage Act) is to be complied with. Suitable foul drainage must be provided separate from Network Rail's existing drainage. Once water enters a pipe it becomes a controlled source and as such no water should be discharged in the direction of the railway.

Full details of the drainage plans are to be submitted for acceptance to the Network Rail Asset Protection Engineer. No works are to commence on site on any drainage plans without the acceptance of the Network Rail Asset Protection Engineers: Network Rail has various drainage standards that can be provided Free of Charge should the applicant/developer engage with Network Rail's Asset Protection Engineers.

## SCAFFOLDING

Any scaffolding which is to be constructed within 10 metres of the Network Rail / railway boundary fence must be erected in such a manner that at no time will any poles over-sail the railway and protective netting around such scaffolding must be installed. The applicant / applicant's contractor must consider if they can undertake the works and associated scaffold / access for working at height within the footprint of their property boundary. The applicant is reminded that when pole(s) are erected for construction or maintenance works, should they topple over in the direction of the railway

then there must be at least a 3m failsafe zone between the maximum height of the pole(s) and the railway boundary. This is to ensure that no pole(s):

Fall into the path of on-coming trains

- Fall onto and damage critical and safety related lineside equipment

The applicant is requested to submit details of proposed scaffolding works to the Network Rail Asset Protection Engineer for review and approval.

## ENCROACHMENT

The developer/applicant must ensure that their proposal, both during construction, and after completion of works on site, does not affect the safety, operation or integrity of the operational railway, Network Rail land and its infrastructure or undermine or damage or adversely affect any railway land and structures. There must be no physical encroachment of the proposal onto Network Rail land, no over-sailing into Network Rail air-space and no encroachment of foundations onto Network Rail land and soil. Any future maintenance must be conducted solely within the applicant's land ownership. Should the applicant require access to Network Rail land to facilitate their proposal they would need to approach the Network Rail Asset Protection Team at least 20 weeks before any works are due to commence on site. The applicant would be liable for all costs incurred in facilitating the proposal and an asset protection agreement may be necessary to undertake works. Network Rail reserves the right to refuse any works by a third party that may adversely impact its land and infrastructure. Any unauthorised access to Network Rail air-space or land will be deemed an act of trespass.

## VIBRO-IMPACT MACHINERY

Where vibro-compaction machinery / piling machinery or piling and ground treatment works are to be undertaken as part of the development, details of the use of such machinery and a method statement should be submitted for the approval of the Network Rail Asset Protection Engineer. All works shall only be carried out in accordance with the approved method statement and the works must be reviewed and approved by Network Rail. The Network Rail Asset Protection Engineer will need to review such works in order to determine the type of soil (e.g. sand, rock) that the works are being carried out upon and also to determine the level of vibration that will occur as a result of the piling. The impact upon the railway is dependent upon the distance from the railway boundary of the piling equipment, the type of soil the development is being constructed upon and the level of vibration. Each proposal is therefore different and thence the need for Network Rail to review the piling details / method statement.

## FAIL SAFE USE OF CRANE AND PLANT

All operations, including the use of cranes or other mechanical plant working adjacent to Network Rail's property, must at all times be carried out in a "fail safe" manner such that in the event of mishandling, collapse or failure, no materials or plant are capable of falling within 3.0m of the boundary with Network Rail. However, where this is unavoidable, Network Rail's Asset Protection

Engineer must be consulted; crane working diagrams, specification and method of working must be submitted for written approval prior to work commencing on site.

## EXCAVATIONS/EARTHWORKS

All excavations / earthworks carried out in the vicinity of Network Rail property/ structures must be designed and executed such that no interference with the integrity of that property/ structure can occur. If temporary works compounds are to be located adjacent to the operational railway, these should be included in a method statement for approval by Network Rail. Prior to commencement of works, full details of excavations and earthworks to be carried out near the railway undertaker's boundary fence should be submitted for the approval of the Asset Protection Engineer and the works shall only be carried out in accordance with the approved details. The Network Rail Asset Protection Team will need to review all excavation works to determine if they impact upon the support zone of our land and infrastructure as well as determining relative levels in relation to the railway.

Furthermore, there must be no general lowering of present ground levels near Network Rail's boundary where the railway is on an embankment or same level as the adjoining land. Further, there must be no excavation into, nor deep continuous excavations near, the toe of embankments or retaining walls or bridge support slopes.

## PARTY WALL

Where works are proposed adjacent to the railway it may be necessary to serve the appropriate notices on Network Rail and their tenants under the Party Wall etc Act 1996. Developers should consult with Network Rail at an early stage of the preparation of details of their development on Party Wall matters.

The applicant is reminded that any works close to the Network Rail boundary, and any excavation works are also covered by the Party Wall Act of 1996. Should any foundations, any excavations or any part of the building encroachment onto Network Rail land then the applicant would need to serve notice on Network Rail and they would be liable for costs. An applicant cannot access Network Rail land without permission (via the Asset Protection Team) and in addition to any costs under the Party Wall Act, the applicant would also be liable for all Network Rail site supervision costs whilst works are undertaken. No works in these circumstances are to commence without the approval of the Network Rail Asset Protection Engineer.

## 2M GAP

The applicant must ensure that the construction and subsequent maintenance can be carried out to the proposed development without affecting the safety of, or encroaching onto Network Rail land and air-space. Any unauthorised access to Network Rail land or air-space is an act of trespass and we would remind the council that this is a criminal offence (s55 British Transport Commission Act 1949). Network Rail requires a minimum 2 metres gap between the development and our boundary fencing for the following reasons:

- To allow for all construction works on site and any future maintenance to be carried out wholly within the applicant's own land ownership and without encroachment onto Network Rail land and air-space.

- To ensure that should the development fail or collapse that it will do so without damaging Network Rail's boundary treatment or causing damage to the railway (e.g. any embankments, cuttings, any lineside equipment, signals, overhead lines) and to prevent the materials from the development falling into the path of trains.
- To ensure that the boundary cannot be scaled and thus used as a means of accessing Network Rail land without authorisation.
- To ensure that Network Rail can maintain and renew its boundary treatment, fencing, walls etc
- To ensure that the applicant does not construct their proposal so that any foundations (for walls, buildings etc) do not end up encroaching onto Network Rail land. Any foundations that encroach onto Network Rail land could undermine, de-stabilise or other impact upon the operational railway land, including embankments, cuttings etc.

Should the applicant require access for construction or maintenance works to the development, then they must firstly receive authorisation from the Network Rail Asset Protection Team:

- 20 weeks notice is required for third party applicant's to submit details of their proposal to the Network Rail Asset Protection Team.
- Any granting of access to Network Rail land would be subject to railway site safety requirements and special provisions with all associated costs charged to the applicant (e.g. provision and costs of railway look-out, asset protection presence, and all possession costs).
- The applicant may be asked to enter into an asset protection agreement and will be liable for all costs incurred by Network Rail.
- Network Rail reserves the right to refuse any third party request for access to Network Rail land.

The applicant is reminded that any works close to the Network Rail boundary, and any excavation works are also covered by the Party Wall Act of 1996. Should any foundations, any excavations or any part of the building encroach onto Network Rail land then the applicant would need to serve notice on Network Rail and they would be liable for costs. An applicant cannot access Network Rail land without permission (via the Asset Protection Team) and in addition to any costs under the Party Wall Act, the applicant would also be liable for all Network Rail site supervision costs whilst works are undertaken. No works in these circumstances are to commence without the approval of the Network Rail Asset Protection Engineer (foundation works on the boundary have the potential to undermine and destabilise Network Rail land). In light of the potential costs to the applicant we would very strongly recommend that applicants ensure that a 2m minimum gap is included as part of the proposal (including the positioning of boundary fences).

## NOISE

Network Rail would remind the council and the applicant of the potential for any noise/ vibration impacts caused by the proximity between the proposed development and the existing railway, which must be assessed in the context of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the local planning authority should use conditions as necessary.

The current level of railway usage may be subject to change at any time without prior notification including increased frequency of trains, night time train running and heavy freight trains.

There is also the potential for maintenance works to be carried out on trains, which is undertaken at night and means leaving the trains' motors running which can lead to increased levels of noise.

We therefore strongly recommend that all future residents are informed of the noise and vibration emanating from the railway, and of potential future increases in railway noise and vibration.

## LANDSCAPING

Where trees/shrubs are to be planted adjacent to the railway boundary these shrubs should be positioned at a minimum distance greater than their predicted mature height from the boundary. Certain broad leaf deciduous species should not be planted adjacent to the railway boundary as the species will contribute to leaf fall which will have a detrimental effect on the safety and operation of the railway. Network Rail's Asset Protection Team would request to be involved in the approval of any landscaping scheme adjacent to the railway. Where landscaping is proposed as part of an application adjacent to the railway it will be necessary for details of the landscaping to be known and approved to ensure it does not impact upon the railway infrastructure. Any hedge planted adjacent to Network Rail's boundary fencing for screening purposes should be so placed that when fully grown it does not damage the fencing or provide a means of scaling it. No hedge should prevent Network Rail from maintaining its boundary fencing. Lists of trees that are permitted and those that are not permitted are provided below and these should be added to any tree planting conditions:

- **Permitted:** Birch (*Betula*), Crab Apple (*Malus Sylvestris*), Field Maple (*Acer Campestre*), Bird Cherry (*Prunus Padus*), Wild Pear (*Pyrus Communis*), Fir Trees – Pines (*Pinus*), Hawthorne (*Crataegus*), Mountain Ash – Whitebeams (*Sorbus*), False Acacia (*Robinia*), Willow Shrubs (*Shrubby Salix*), Thuja Plicata "Zebra"
- **Not Permitted:** Alder (*Alnus Glutinosa*), Aspen – Poplar (*Populus*), Beech (*Fagus Sylvatica*), Wild Cherry (*Prunus Avium*), Hornbeam (*Carpinus Betulus*), Small-leaved Lime (*Tilia Cordata*), Oak (*Quercus*), Willows (*Salix Willow*), Sycamore – Norway Maple (*Acer*), Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus Hippocastanum*), Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea Sativa*), London Plane (*Platanus Hispanica*).

A comprehensive list of permitted tree species is available upon request and any landscaping proposals must be submitted to the Asset Protection Engineer.

Please feel free to get in contact if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Barbara Morgan

Town Planning Technician (Western & Wales)

[www.networkrail.co.uk/property](http://www.networkrail.co.uk/property)

Please send all Notifications and Consultations to [townplanningwestern@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:townplanningwestern@networkrail.co.uk) or by post to Network Rail, Town Planning, 1st Floor, Bristol Temple Point, Redcliffe Way, Bristol BS1 6NL