



Network Rail
1 Puddle Dock
London
EC4V 3DS

Via email: [REDACTED]

23 June 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

NETWORK RAIL RESPONSE TO WINCHFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Thank you for providing Network Rail (Southern) the opportunity to make comment on the Winchfield Neighbourhood Plan. We would like to commend those involved in putting together the NP which is very comprehensive.

Network Rail is the statutory undertaker for maintaining and operating railway infrastructure of England, Scotland, and Wales. As statutory undertaker, Network Rail is under license from the Department for Transport (DfT) and Transport Scotland (TS) and regulated by the Office of Rail and Road (ORR) to maintain and enhance the operational railway and its assets, ensuring the provision of a safe operational railway. As a matter of course, proponents of sites which are close to the railway boundary or sites which could affect the railway asset directly are required to engage with our Asset Protection and Optimisation team (ASPRO).

Network Rail (Southern) notes that the Neighbourhood Plan identifies a settlement boundary around Beauclerk Green/Station Road. The proximity of this settlement, and potential for additional development within this, to the rail network will require consultation with Network Rail. In addition, we believe that this could provide an opportunity to secure improvements to the rail network and its surrounds to aid current and future residents.

Network Rail (Southern) believe that it would be of great benefit to Winchfield by incorporating the potential to secure such improvements and that the Plan could include wording, either in a new policy or as an addition to an existing. Improving access to the

station, in terms of pedestrian/cycle ways as well as any identified needs within the station itself could be of benefit. It does not appear that any survey or evidence-based work has been carried out to seek residents' views around the use of the rail station. As part of encouragement to shift transport modes away from the private vehicle to sustainable and active travel uses, the provision of cycleways and cycle storage facilities at the station would allow for this. Any such improvements would be within the context of the heritage and character of the existing building as far as possible.

Network Rail (Southern) believe that reference to the potential for securing access improvements could be made within existing Policy P&C1. However, Network Rail would also encourage a standalone Policy that highlights local transport issues and improvements, especially in the context of the rail station. By doing so, this could cover a suite of possible improvements to benefit residents and users of the station and Network Rail could work with residents and the Neighbourhood Plan to secure these.

I trust the above is of use and please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss any matters raised in our response.

Yours Faithfully,

Craig Hatton MRTPI
Senior Town Planner

Network Rail (Southern)