



Network Rail Consultation Response

To	Canterbury City Council
Date	04/09/2023
Application reference	CA/23/00484
Location	Land At The Hill, Bekesbourne Lane, East Of Bekesbourne Hill, Bekesbourne, Canterbury, CT4 5EA

Dear Andrew,

Thank you for consulting Network Rail on the above planning application.

Network Rail is the statutory undertaker for maintaining and operating railway infrastructure of England, Scotland and Wales. As statutory undertaker, NR 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 public funded company, Network Rail has responsibilities to spend public funds efficiently which consequently means we do not have the funds available to mitigate the impact of third-party development on railway stations.

Following an internal consultation, which included Southeastern Railway team, we would like to make the following comments.

Network Rail encourage the developers of the scheme to consider the impact, not only on the railway itself, but also on the first and last mile element of passengers' journeys. This factors in access to and from the railway, as well as how other transport modes are integrated and how well communities are connected. In relation to this, it is noted that the path down to Platform 2 from Bekesbourne Hill requires some improvements as the current

OFFICIAL

situation is very poor with no lighting. Improvements to this path will provide safe walking and cycling connections to Bekesbourne Railway Station. Also, an improved bus service to the station should be considered.

Currently, there are no cycle parking facilities at the station. The cycle parking facilities would encourage active travel for future residents of the proposed development. Therefore, Network Rail request that the development provides a contribution towards providing cycle parking facilities to enhance passenger experience and promote sustainable travel. The estimated cost of these works is approximately £ 18,000.

Additionally, it should be noted that there is step-free access to the London bound platform. However, there is no interchange between the platforms without steps.

I hope the above is clear, please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Yours faithfully,

Seda Guillen Izuma
Town Planning Technician
Network Rail Southern