



Network Rail comments - Exeter Publication Plan

From Grace Lewis [REDACTED]
Date Wed 05/02/2025 14:03
To Planning Policy <Planning.Policy@exeter.gov.uk>

OFFICIAL



Network Rail
1st Floor
Bristol Temple Point
Bristol
BS1 6NL

Date: 5 February 2025

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 (as amended)
PROPOSAL: Exeter Publication Plan

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for consulting us on the Exeter Publication Plan . This email forms for the basis of our response.

Network Rail is a statutory undertaker responsible for maintaining and operating the country's railway infrastructure and associated estate. Network Rail owns, operates, maintains and develops the main rail network. This includes the railway tracks, stations, signalling systems, bridges, tunnels, level crossings and viaducts. The preparation of development plan policy is important in relation to the protection and enhancement of Network Rail's infrastructure.

STC3: Supporting active travel (Strategic policy)

Network Rail are supportive of the aspiration to see the extension of a comprehensive active travel network, linking to railway stations. We would encourage ECC to engage with train operators on opportunities to enhance space for bikes on new/refurbished trains as and when these are introduced.

STC4: Supporting public transport (Strategic policy)

Network Rail welcome the aspirations, which we share, for improved service frequencies on lines into Exeter and to Digby & Sowton; accessibility improvements at the city's stations; and supporting the development of rail freight in the city. We would note the increased role that Digby & Sowton station can play in moving people sustainably into the city and beyond if/when the proposed new East Devon town is developed. Network Rail would welcome additional details from Exeter Council on what is envisaged by improved interchange facilities at St David's station.

SBA3- Red Cow

Network Rail support the allocation of NR land for development and have been working in partnership with Blocwork LLP to bring forward a residential mixed use scheme on part of the site. The Brewery on the land within our ownership is being sold and therefore this part of the site will not be available as part of the allocation for the local plan.

The northern end of the allocated is directly opposite an active freight yard and Strategic Freight Site which it is anticipated will see use intensified to meet ORR freight growth and decarbonisation targets. In light of this, any development here, particularly if residential, should mitigate for future noise and vibration from the operational railway.

Any future development should also give consideration to the operation and use of the level crossing and avoiding any increase in usage, including the potential for alternative means of crossing the railway (e.g. a footbridge).

STC1: Sustainable movement

With regards to tackling climate change and supporting sustainable travel, we would encourage ECC to support proposals from the rail industry to replace diesel trains with modern, lower emission/battery-electric trains in the region.

We trust these comments will be useful in the preparation of the forthcoming plan documents.

Yours Sincerely,

Grace Lewis

Town Planning Technician (Wales and Western)
Network Rail, Temple Point, Redcliffe Way, Bristol

The content of this email (and any attachment) is confidential. It may also be legally privileged or otherwise protected from disclosure.

This email should not be used by anyone who is not an original intended recipient, nor may it be copied or disclosed to anyone who is not an original intended recipient.

If you have received this email by mistake, please notify us by emailing the sender, and then delete the email and any copies from your system.

Liability cannot be accepted for statements made which are clearly the sender's own and not made on behalf of Network Rail.

Network Rail Infrastructure Limited registered in England and Wales No. 2904587, registered office
Network Rail, Waterloo General Office, London, SE1 8SW.

