Outlook

manchester PLA-2026-000312 Charles Street Multi-Storey Car Park Plot H Sister Charles St 3 blocks 8-10-38 storeys

From [redacted]
on behalf of
Town Planning NWC [redacted]
Date Mon 24/08/2026 18:45
To Jennifer Atkinson [redacted]

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OFFICIAL

Application number: PLA-2026-000312

Description: Erection of three interconnected blocks (T1, T2 and T3) of 8, 10 and 38 storeys including ground, plus basement and plant, comprising purpose-built student accommodation with ancillary internal amenity space (Sui Generis) together with flexible commercial uses (Use Class E); landscaping works, highways, access, servicing, infrastructure and other associated works.

Location: Charles Street Multi-Storey Car Park Plot H Sister Charles Street Manchester M1 7AR

Applicant: RG Real Estate, ID Manchester Ltd & The University of Manchester

Network Rail has some initial comments for the developer/LPA – can you ask the developer if they have approached Network Rail's asset protection team on this proposal – if so what is the ASPRO ref number and who has been assigned as the interface manager????

To the council / applicant / developer - an interface with Network Rail is REQUIRED for this proposal – the outside party is advised that Network Rail will need to agree and supervise this proposal & that no works are to take place until agreed with Network Rail.

Network Rail is submitting some initial comments on the above proposal. Network Rail reserves the right to amend, update, supersede, withdraw or even object to proposals if fresh information comes to light/pending further information.

Please note that whilst Network Rail (NR) is submitting responses via the planning application process, it should be born in mind by the LPA/developer that the operational railway presents risks/issues that are different/unique to the risks posed by works taking place adjacent to non-railway undertaker land. Works on this site therefore must be undertaken with the supervision of NR via the ASPRO (asset protection) team to ensure that the works on site do not impact the safe operation, stability, integrity of the railway & its boundary. The LPA/developer are advised that unauthorised works adjacent to the railway boundary could impact the operation of nationally significant

infrastructure & the applicant would be liable for any and all damages & costs caused by any works undertaken in this scenario. Therefore, the developer is requested to ensure that the development meets with NR requirements for works/developments adjacent to the railway boundary which include planning material considerations as well as obligations specific to the railway undertaker. The interface is via a NR BAPA (basic asset protection agreement) – the developer is advised that the works must not commence on site (even if planning permission is granted) until agreed with NR. The applicant will be liable for all costs incurred by NR in facilitating, reviewing this proposal.

For future reference, it is imperative developers/applicants consult neighbouring/affected statutory undertakers in advance of any construction work, to identify and mitigate potential risks to both sites including people using or working on the sites, in line with CDM 2015 and HSW 1974 legislation. Network Rail's ASPRO (Asset Protection) team's role is to support external parties in identifying risks associated with construction near the railway and mitigating these in advance of work starting. Most insurance policies include clauses relating to consultation with statutory undertakers, and external parties who do not consult appropriately in advance may find their insurance policy becomes invalid.

Measurements to railway tracks and railway boundary
When designing proposals, the developer and council are advised, that any measurements must be taken from the operational railway / Network Rail boundary and not from the railway tracks themselves. From the existing railway tracks to the Network Rail boundary, the land will include critical infrastructure (e.g. cables, signals, overhead lines, communication equipment etc) and boundary treatments (including support zones, vegetation) which might be adversely impacted by outside party proposals unless the necessary asset protection measures are undertaken. No proposal should increase Network Rail's liability. To ensure the safe operation and integrity of the railway, Network Rail issues advice on planning applications and requests conditions to protect the railway and its boundary.

Obligations
Properties adjoining or in the vicinity of the railway are frequently the subject of obligations, rights, exceptions and reservations for the benefit of Network Rail's land and railway. The applicant must review the title to their property to see whether any such obligations etc exist and ensure that there is no non-compliance or breaches of them or any interference with or obstruction of Network Rail's rights and reservations. If the proposed development would not comply with or would breach any of the terms of the conveyance, the developer must revise his proposals.

RAMS
The developer is to submit directly to Network Rail asset protection, a Risk Assessment and Method Statement (RAMS) for all works to be undertaken within 10m of the operational railway under Construction (Design and Management) Regulations, and this is in addition to any planning consent. Network Rail would need to be re-assured the works on site follow safe methods of working and have also taken into consideration any potential impact on Network Rail land and the existing operational railway infrastructure. Builder to ensure that no dust or debris is allowed to contaminate Network Rail land as the outside party would be liable for any clean-up costs. Review and agreement of the RAMS will be undertaken between Network Rail and the applicant/developer.

Fencing
The applicant will provide at their own expense (if not already in place):

- A suitable trespass proof steel palisade fence of a minimum height of 1.8m adjacent to the boundary with the railway/railway land.
- The fence must be wholly constructed and maintained within the applicant's land ownership footprint.
- All foundations must be wholly constructed and maintained within the applicant's land ownership footprint without over-sailing or encroaching onto Network Rail's boundary.
- The fence is **REQUIRED** be set back at least 1m from the railway boundary to ensure that Network Rail can maintain and renew its boundary treatments.

- Existing Network Rail fencing, and boundary treatments, must not be damaged or removed in any way.
- Network Rail will not allow any maintenance works for proposal fencing or proposal boundary treatments to take place on its land.
- Proposal fencing must not be placed on the boundary with the railway.
- Any fencing over 1.8m in height will require agreement from Network Rail with details of foundations and wind loading calculations submitted for review.
- The fence should be maintained by the developer and that no responsibility is passed to Network Rail.

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 nearest rail of the adjacent railway line, or where the railway is electrified, within 3.0m of overhead electrical equipment or supports. With a development of a certain height that may/will require use of a crane, the developer must bear in mind the following. Crane usage adjacent to railway infrastructure is subject to stipulations on size, capacity etc. which needs to be agreed by Network Rail prior to implementation.

Please see links to guidance for tower crane and mobile cranes adjacent to the railway to be flagged up to the developer/applicant.

https://www.cpa.uk.net/downloads/80/CPA-CIG-Mobile-Cranes-Alongside-Railways-181201.pdf

https://www.cpa.uk.net/safety-and-technical-publications/tower-crane-guidance

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 or under the Network Rail boundary.
- All buildings and structures on site including all foundations / fencing foundations must be constructed wholly within the applicant's land ownership footprint.
- Buildings, windows and structures must not over-sail Network Rail air-space/boundary.
- Any future maintenance must be conducted solely within the applicant's land ownership.
- Rainwater goods must not discharge towards or over the railway boundary
- 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 an outside 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.

Former Railway Land / Demarcation
A demarcation agreement is an agreement between British Railways Board and Railtrack PLC which was entered into at the time of privatisation of the railway in the 90's. There are number of restrictive covenants and rights within the agreement that are applicable to any successors in title (i.e Network Rail as successors of Railtrack PLC and the applicant as successor in title of British Railways Board). The applicant will need to make further contact with the Network Rail Property team (email: PropertyServicesNWC@networkrail.co.uk) if they have any questions, however the demarcation

agreement should be listed on the title register and they should be able to obtain a copy from HMLR. We recommend they seek legal advice to gain further understanding of the agreement.

Lighting
To ensure the ongoing safety of the operational railway the applicant's lighting design must demonstrate no overspill of light onto Network Rail land. Lighting close to or adjacent to the railway boundary must not impact train driver's ability to perceive signals and therefore all column lighting is recommended to be:

- White LED
- Flat bottom luminaires
- Downlit throw lighting
- Lighting to be directed away from the railway boundary
- Avoid the use of flashing lights or screens as part of developments
- Avoid lighting of Green, Yellow and Red.

Solar Panels
These must be anti-glare - most solar panels these days are 'Anti-Glare' but this does not mean that glare is totally mitigated therefore developers will be required to provide details of the level of Anti-Glare – developers will also be asked to provide in-depth glint and glare study which is to be undertaken with consideration of the impacts to the existing operational railway.

Scaffolding
Scaffolding which is to be constructed within 10 metres of the Network Rail / railway boundary 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 scaffolding / access for working at height within the footprint of their land ownership boundary. The applicant is reminded that when pole(s) are erected for construction or maintenance works, they must have a minimum 3m failsafe zone between the maximum height of the pole(s) and the railway boundary.
This is to ensure that the safety of the railway is preserved, and that scaffolding does not:

- Fall into the path of on-coming trains
- Fall onto and damage critical and safety related lineside equipment and infrastructure
- Fall onto overhead lines bringing them down, resulting in serious safety issues (this is applicable if the proposal is above the railway and where the line is electrified).

Vibro-Impact Machinery
If 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 must be submitted to the Network Rail for agreement.

- All works shall only be carried out in accordance with the method statement and the works will be reviewed 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.

Maximum allowable levels of vibration - CFA piling is preferred as this tends to give rise to less vibration. Excessive vibration caused by piling can damage railway structures and cause movement to the railway track as a result of the consolidation of track ballast. The developer must demonstrate that the vibration does not exceed a peak particle velocity of 5mm/s at any structure or with respect to the rail track.

Access to Railway
All roads, paths, boundaries or ways providing access to any part of the railway undertaker's land both temporary and permanent, must remain open and unblocked (24/7, 365 – around the clock) both

during construction works and as a permanent arrangement.

- 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 proposal construction works must not prevent Network Rail from accessing its land.

Demolition

Any demolition works on site must be carried out so that they do not endanger the safe operation of the railway, or the stability of the adjoining Network Rail structures and land. The demolition of the existing building(s), due to its close proximity to the Network Rail boundary, must be carried out in accordance with an agreed method statement. Review of the method statement will be undertaken by the Network Rail Asset Protection Engineer before the development and any demolition works on site can commence. Network Rail would like to add that the applicant is strongly recommended to employ companies to demolish buildings / structures belonging to the National Federation of Demolition Contractors. This will ensure that all demolition works are carried out to professional standards and the company itself will also include liability insurance as part of its service.

Drainage proposals and Network Rail land

The applicant must ensure that the proposal drainage does not increase Network Rail's liability, or cause flooding pollution or soil slippage, vegetation or boundary issues on railway land. Therefore, the proposed drainage on site will include the following:

- All surface waters and foul waters must drain away from the direction of the railway boundary.
- Soakaways for the proposal must be placed at least 30m from the railway boundary.
- Any drainage proposals for less than 30m from the railway boundary must ensure that surface and foul waters are carried from site in closed sealed pipe systems.
- 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 land and infrastructure.
- Proper provision must be made to accept and continue drainage discharging from Network Rail's property.
- Drainage works must not impact upon culverts, including culverts/brooks etc that drain under the railway. The applicant will not be permitted to direct surface or foul waters into culverts which run under the railway – any discharge of surface water under the railway via a culvert will require review and agreement from Network Rail who reserve the right to refuse use of any culverts.
- The developer must ensure that there is no surface or sub-surface flow of water towards the operational railway.
- Rainwater goods must not discharge in the direction of the railway or onto or over the railway boundary.
- Consideration of the impacts upon railway drainage of Astro-Turf/plastic lawn replacements, both during construction and any future inclusion of said Astro-turf by residents going forward.

NB: Soakaways can materially affect the strength of soil leading to stability issues. A large mass of water wetting the environment can soften the ground, and a build-up of water can lead to issues with the stability of Network Rail retaining walls/structures and the railway boundary. Network Rail does not accept the installation of soakaways behind any retaining structures as this significantly increases the risk of failure and subsequent risk to the travelling public.

If the developer and the council insists upon a sustainable drainage and flooding system then the issue and responsibility of flooding, water saturation and stability issues should not be passed onto Network Rail. We recognise that councils are looking to proposals that are sustainable, however, we would remind the council that flooding, drainage, surface and foul water management risk as well as stability issues should not be passed '*elsewhere*', i.e. on to Network Rail land.

The drainage proposals are to be agreed with Network Rail and surface water drainage on the site should be removed by a closed sealed pipe system.

The HSE identifies railways as a Major Hazard Industry. An earthwork failure within a high-hazard area has the potential to result in a catastrophic accident with multiple fatalities or long-lasting environmental issues. It should be noted that where the actions of an adjacent landowner have caused a landslip on the railway the loss adjusters are likely to advise recovery of Network Rail costs from the 3rd party, which would include costs of remediation and recovery of costs to train operators. Many railway earthworks were constructed in the Victorian period and are susceptible to failure by water saturation. Water saturation leads to an increase in pore water pressure within the earthwork material. Please also note that railways, and former railway land adjacent to it, is considered as contaminated land due to historic use of railways, which can affect the suitability of infiltration drainage.

Protection of existing railway drainage assets within a clearance area
There are likely to be existing railway drainage assets in the vicinity of the proposed works. Please proceed with caution. No connection of drainage shall be made to these assets without Network Rail's prior consent to detailed proposals. Any works within 5m of the assets will require prior consent. There must be no interfering with existing drainage assets/systems without Network Rail's written permission. The developer is asked to ascertain with Network Rail the existence of any existing railway drainage assets or systems in the vicinity of the development area before work starts on site.

The Council must ensure that suitable arrangements are in place for the maintenance and renewal of all new/amended drainage for the life time of the development, to mitigate risk of flooding to any adjoining land.

Climate change & Impacts to Railway Infrastructure
Climate change and weather resilience is also a key focus for Network Rail. Land use and its intensification is a contributory factor in the impacts of climate change and our ability to be resilient as a result of the increasingly volatile weather patterns we are seeing. Land management policy and draining of land infrastructure and properties and development within urban areas with insufficient drainage solutions or water management means the negative impact on our infrastructure. There are going to be issues in terms of the unpredictability of climate change and the likelihood that storm incidents will increase, possibly rendering existing modelling insufficient; long-term maintenance of outside party assets which indirectly affect us; and trends like the removal of gardens for impermeable car parking surfacing which adds to run-off.

Therefore, the impacts of climate change on the existing operational railway should also be a factor in any surface water drainage proposal.

Excavation and Earthworks and Network Rail land:
The applicant will agree all excavation and earthworks within 10m of the railway boundary with Network Rail. Network Rail will need to review and agree the 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. Network Rail would need to agree the following:

- Alterations to ground levels
- De-watering works
- Ground stabilisation works
- Works to retaining walls
- Construction and temporary works
- Maintenance of retaining walls
- Ground investigation works must not be undertaken unless agreed with Network Rail.
- Confirmation of retaining wall works (either Network Rail and/or the applicant). Prior to the commencement of works on site the applicant must confirm with Network Rail if there are any retaining walls/structures and the applicant must interface with Network Rail to ensure that no retaining structures are impacted on a permanent basis by their proposal.
- Alterations in loading within 15m of the railway boundary must be agreed with Network Rail.
- For works next to a cutting or at the toe of an embankment the developer / applicant would be required to undertake a slope stability review.

Network Rail would need to re view and agree the methods of construction works on site to ensure that there is no impact upon critical railway infrastructure. No excavation works are to commence without agreement from Network Rail. The council are advised that the impact of outside party excavation and earthworks can be different depending on the geography and soil in the area. The council and developer are also advised that support zones for railway infrastructure may extend beyond the railway boundary and into the proposal area. Therefore, consultation with Network Rail is requested. Any right of support must be maintained by the developer.

Basement / Deep Excavation Works

Where basement or deep excavations are proposed adjacent to the railway – Network Rail review and agreement of documents as well as supervision & an interface with Asset Protection are required.

- Excavations – ASPRO would require to review (including but not limited to);
- Earthworks RAMS
- Scale section drawing and plan – showing dimensions of basement, proximity dimensions from basement to the operational rail boundary fence and depth
- And if earth works battered back – as above – dimensions from rail boundary fence
- Advise if the basement excavation will be inside the track support zone envelope
- Temporary works earthworks support including RAMS and temporary works design
- Design to include:- demonstration that the temporary works and permanent construction will not import increased risk to the operational railway both during construction and in the long term
- Calculations, G.I. strata and design check certs, CEM and CRE design CVs and appointment forms
- Lifting plans (lifting e.g. temporary works support structure components in to place)
- Designed working platforms
- De-watering method
- Dust control

Boundary treatments

Any structures on the applicant's land which runs seamlessly into a section of Network Rail infrastructure will require Network Rail agreement/comments and interface/supervision to ensure that there is no impact to or increase in risk to Network Rail assets.

Gap between the railway boundary & outside party works

Network Rail **REQUIRES** that the developer includes a minimum 3 metres gap (5m to a railway viaduct) between the buildings and structures on site and the railway boundary. Less than 3m from the railway boundary (5m from a viaduct) to the edge of structures could result in construction and future maintenance works being undertaken on Network Rail land, and close to the railway boundary potentially impacting support zones or lineside cabling. All the works undertaken to facilitate the design and layout of the proposal should be undertaken wholly within the applicant's land ownership footprint including all foundation works. Network Rail requires a minimum 3m easement (5m easement to a viaduct) between structures on site and the railway boundary to ensure that we can maintain and renew our boundary treatments. No part of the structure should over-sail the railway boundary or discharge rainwater goods onto or toward the railway boundary.

Noise

The council and the developer (along with their chosen acoustic contractor) are recommended to engage in discussions to determine the most appropriate measures to mitigate noise and vibration from the existing operational railway to ensure that there will be no future issues for residents once they take up occupation of the dwellings.

Network Rail is aware that residents of developments adjacent to or in close proximity to, or near to the existing operational railway have in the past discovered issues upon occupation of dwellings with noise and vibration. It is therefore a matter for the developer and the council via mitigation measures

and conditions to ensure that any existing noise and vibration, and the potential for any future noise and vibration are mitigated appropriately prior to construction.
To note are:

- 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, heavy freight trains, trains run at weekends /bank holidays.
- Maintenance works to trains could be undertaken at night and may mean leaving the trains' motors running which can lead to increased levels of noise and vibration.
- Network Rail carry out works at night on the operational railway when normal rail traffic is suspended and these works can be noisy and cause vibration.
- Network Rail may need to conduct emergency works on the existing operational railway line which may not be notified to residents in advance due to their safety critical nature and may occur at any time of the day or night, during bank holidays and at weekends.
- Works to the existing operational railway may include the presence of plant and machinery as well as vehicles and personnel for works.
- The proposal should not prevent Network Rail from its statutory undertaking. Network Rail is a track authority. It may authorise the use of the track by train operating companies or independent railway operators and may be compelled to give such authorisation. Its ability to respond to any enquiries regarding intended future use is therefore limited.
- The scope and duration of any Noise and Vibration Assessments may only reflect the levels of railway usage at the time of the survey.
- Any assessments required as part of CDM (Construction Design Management) or local planning authority planning applications validations process are between the developer and their appointed contractor.
- Network Rail cannot advise third parties on specific noise and vibration mitigation measures. Such measures will need to be agreed between the developer, their approved acoustic contractor and the local planning authority.
- Design and layout of proposals should take into consideration and mitigate against existing usage of the operational railway and any future increase in usage of the said existing operational railway.
- Noise and Vibration Assessments should take into account any railway depots, freight depots, light maintenance depots in the area. If a Noise and Vibration Assessment does not take into account any depots in the area then the applicant will be requested to reconsider the findings of the report.
- Railway land which is owned by Network Rail but which may be deemed to be 'disused' or 'mothballed', may be brought back into use. Any proposals for residential development should include mitigation measures agreed between the developer, their acoustic contractor and the LPA to mitigate against future impacts of noise and vibration, based on the premise that the railway line may be brought back into use.
- Works may be carried out to electrify railway lines and this could create noise and vibration for the time works are in progress. Electrification works can also result in loss of lineside vegetation to facilitate the erection of stanchions and equipment.

Trees
Proposals for the site should take into account the recommendations of, 'BS 5837:2012 Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction', which needs to be applied to prevent long term damage to the health of trees on Network Rail land so that they do not become a risk to members of the public in the future. This document will be provided via the formal interface with Network Rail Asset Protection.

No trees shall be planted next to the boundary with the railway land and the operational railway, except for evergreen shrubs which shall be planted a minimum distance from the Network Rail boundary that is equal to their expected mature growth height. The vegetation planting must be in line with the attached matrix which has been agreed with the Tree Council. This is to prevent long term issues with leaf fall impacting the operational railway.

Parking / Hard Standing Area
As the proposal calls for the following adjacent to the boundary with the operational railway, running parallel to the operational railway or where the existing operational railway is below the height of the proposal site:

- hard standing areas
- turning circles
- roads, public highways to facilitate access and egress from developments

Network Rail requests the installation of suitable high kerbs or crash barriers (e.g. Armco Safety Barriers). This is to prevent vehicle incursion from the proposal area impacting upon the safe operation of the railway.

Telecomms – Electro-Magnetic Interference
The applicant is to demonstrate that the proposal will not impact the operation of railway equipment – including telecoms, equipment that can potentially be impacted via electro-magnetic interference. Network Rail standard to which the applicant must adhere attached.

Glint & Glare
The applicant will also demonstrate that the proposal will not impact train drivers' ability to perceive railway signalling via glint & glare from any solar panels/cladding. If the proposal impacts the railway the applicant will fully fund all mitigation measures as required by Network Rail. All documentation in regard to these areas is to be reviewed under the BAPA.

Balconies / Accessible Roof Spaces
Balconies when included as part of the design for outside party proposals must not over-sail the railway boundary. Balconies which are constructed as part of developments facing the railway (but not over-sailing the railway boundary) should be enclosed, to prevent occupants from throwing debris onto or towards the existing operational railway. Occupants who throw debris/rubbish onto the railway will face prosecution.

Accessible roof spaces must be enclosed so that rubbish cannot be ejected by users of the development out from the building and onto the railway.

Bridge Strikes
Applications that are likely to generate an increase in trips under railway bridges may be of concern to Network Rail where there is potential for an increase in 'Bridge strikes'. Vehicles hitting railway bridges cause significant disruption and delay to rail users. Consultation with the Asset Protection Engineers is necessary to understand if there is a problem. Developers will be liable for the cost of any necessary bridge protection barriers. Where low bridges may be impacted by the proposal the applicant may also need to contact the local Highways Agency to liaise with them over the erection of signage. Consideration is to be given to high sided vehicles/HGVs that have the potential to strike low bridges carrying materials to site. Consideration should also be given to the potential for vehicles to impact the proposal once complete/as a permanent arrangement. Network Rail will need to review the traffic to site for impacts.

Tower Cranes
With a development of a certain height that may / will require use of a tower crane, the developer must bear in mind the following:

- Tower crane usage adjacent to railway infrastructure is subject to stipulations on size, capacity etc. which needs to be agreed by Network Rail's Asset Protection prior to implementation.
- Tower cranes have the potential to topple over onto the railway; the arms of the cranes could over-sail onto Network Rail air-space and potentially impact any overhead lines, or drop materials accidentally onto the existing infrastructure.

Crane working diagrams, specification and method of working must be submitted for review and agreement to Network Rail prior to work(s) commencing on site.

BAPA (Basic Asset Protection Agreement)
As the proposal includes works which could impact the existing operational railway and in order to facilitate the above, a **BAPA** (Basic Asset Protection Agreement) will need to be agreed between the developer and Network Rail. The developer will be liable for all costs incurred by Network Rail in facilitating this proposal, including any railway site safety costs, possession costs, asset protection costs / presence, site visits, review and agreement of proposal documents and any buried services searches. The BAPA will be in addition to any planning consent.

All new enquiries will need to be submitted via the ***Asset Protection and Optimisation - Customer Portal***
Link to ASPRO ACE Portal ASPRO Network Rail Implementation (oraclecloud.com)

From there, the client can create an account and submit their enquiry. Enquiry will then be assigned to one of the Asset Protection team to progress. The assigned team member will then be in a position to review and comment on any submissions from the outside party.

Going forward in order for Network Rail to spend any time reviewing any submissions, provision of any asset information, attending any further meetings, assisting with discharging any planning conditions set etc, Network Rail will require the return of a signed BAPA (Basic Asset Protection Agreement) and relevant payment/ PO as noted in the estimate sent. Network Rail is a publicly funded entity and all outside party works, which these are, are cost recoverable as dictated to us by the ORR. This includes any and all documents under the discharge of conditions which must be submitted to Network Rail for review and agreement by the developer under the BAPA.

The local planning authority (LPA) are not responsible for the safe operation of the railway or our assets and the issues raised by the developer/applicant will ultimately need to be agreed by Network Rail engineering to ensure the proposed development does not interfere with the safety of the railway.

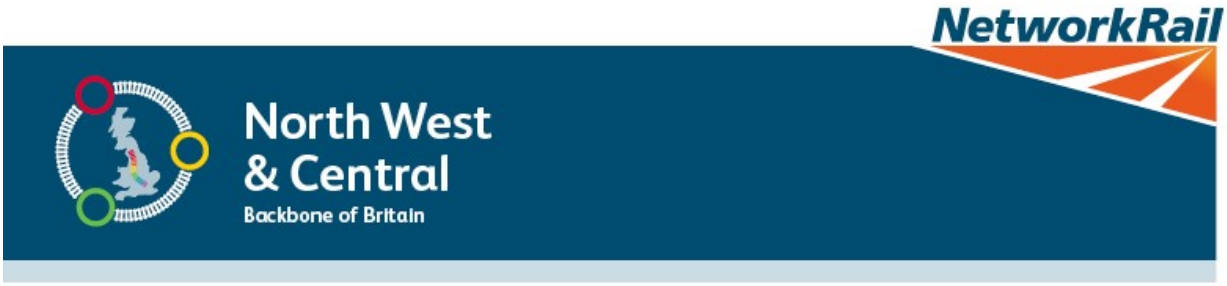
No works are to commence until with agreed Network Rail. Early engagement with Network Rail is strongly recommended.

Network Rail are regulated by the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) and are obligated under our Network Licence to ensure the safe and efficient operation of the Network to the reasonable satisfaction of railway service providers and funders, the BAPA is a standard form of agreement approved by the ORR to manage Outside Party works adjacent and is a non-negotiable. Receipt of the initial development details & signing of the BAPA are not acceptance of the proposal.

Information for Developers / LPA regarding formal railway interface
Network Rail are required to carry out assurance of planning proposals on land adjacent to the railway. We are constrained by regulations around the use of public funds, which prevents us from spending time on private projects without recouping our costs from the proposer.

From

[redacted] **RTPI Tech**
Town Planning Technician NWC
Network Rail Property (NW&C)
Square One, 4 Travis Street, Manchester M1 2NY
Email address for all applications and notifications: [redacted]



From: Jennifer Atkinson [redacted]
Sent: 24 August 2026 14:56
To: [redacted]
Subject: PLA 2026 000312

[redacted]

Can you let me know if you have any comments on this planning application? Thanks

Jennifer Atkinson
Strategic Planning and Project Lead

Planning Building Control and Licensing - Growth and Development
Manchester City Council

[redacted]
www.manchester.gov.uk

Location address: Manchester City Council Town Hall Extension Lloyd Street Manchester M2 5DB.
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