

From: Development Control <developmentcontrol@watford.gov.uk>
Sent: 08 Feb 2024 11:30:40
To: DMS.Planning@watford.gov.uk
Cc:
Subject: FW: watford 24/00093/FULH 92 Church Road Single Storey Rear Extension
Attachments:

From: Diane Clarke [REDACTED] On Behalf Of Town Planning NWC
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 11:20 AM
To: Development Control <developmentcontrol@watford.gov.uk>
Subject: watford 24/00093/FULH 92 Church Road Single Storey Rear Extension

OFFICIAL

Applicant Mr Alan Holdsworth
Development Erection of Single Storey Rear Extension
Location 92 Church Road Watford
24/00093/FULH

Please ensure that from now on ALL planning applications & ALL planning policy notifications are issued to this new address ONLY:

TownPlanningNWC@networkrail.co.uk

Please update all the relevant council planning policy & planning applications contact databases including all personal contact emailing lists.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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).

Network Rail would request a condition is applied as follows within the planning consent:

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.

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.

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.

3m Gap

Network Rail **REQUIRES** that the developer includes a minimum 3 metres gap between the buildings and structures on site and the railway boundary. Less than 3m from the railway boundary 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 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

From

Diane Clarke
Town Planning Technician NW&C
AssocRTPI
Network Rail
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