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From: [Redacted]
Sent: 22 March 2022 16:00
To: _WEB_Canals Strategy
Subject: Proposed Canal Strategy

Categories: Canal Strategy 2022 response

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Thank you for consulting Network Rail on **The proposed Canal Strategy for Stroud**. This email forms 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.

The strategy acknowledges the opportunities to improve access route and gateways to both road and rail. It could be that the predicted growth may increase future demands which may, in turn, necessitate the need for enhancements to facilities such as waiting rooms, improved passenger information, toilets and parking. As Network Rail is a publicly funded organisation with a regulated remit it would not be reasonable to require Network Rail to fund rail improvements necessitated by commercial development. It is therefore appropriate to require developer contributions to fund such improvements. With this in mind I would strongly urge that when the council undertakes its viability testing for any proposed allocated sites it considers the impact the proposal may have on the railway infrastructure. The cost of mitigating any impact may have a bearing on the viability and deliverability of any such proposed site allocations and future masterplans.

We trust these comments will be considered in your preparation of the forthcoming documents.

Yours Sincerely,

[Redacted]
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