

DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

LENGTH OF TRACK AND BUFFERS AT NAST HYDE HALT, ELLENBROOK LANE, HATFIELD

BACKGROUND

Nast Hyde Halt is the site of a Halt on the disused railway line between St. Albans and Hatfield, now used as a cycle and footpath called The Alban Way.

Over a number of years volunteers have partially restored and planted up the old station platform and installed various items and memorabilia including a railway signal, station clock, railway posters and railway signs to form an attractive point of interest along this leisure route.

THE PROPOSAL

To add further to the interest and to some extent reinforce the status of the Halt as a 'place to visit in its own right', the volunteers, working with Hatfield Town Council, wish to install a short length of railway line and a set of buffers to further reinforce the interest of the site.

PLANNING ISSUES

In order to avoid any conflict with the existing footpath and cycleway, the proposal is to put the length of rail and buffers on a section between the end of the platform and the entrance onto The Alban Way off Ellenbrook Lane. This will result in the loss of four rather spindly poor quality trees, however the general vegetation to the area, including a substantial tree and hedge feature immediately behind this, will mean that there is no noticeable affect on the level of vegetation and tree line, and indeed the removal of the trees may encourage better growth from some of the remaining trees in the hedgerow.

The track and sleepers will be reclaimed and bedded on a gravel base, however this will be masked with a bark finish and edged with a timber surround to match the adjacent area and the finish to the station platform.

CONCLUSION

This is an attractive addition to a well-supported community and local volunteer project, further enhancing the leisure value of this popular cycle route. There are no possible detrimental affects of the proposal and therefore permission should be granted.