



**Gravesham Borough Council**

Civic Centre  
Windmill Street  
Gravesend  
Kent  
DA12 1AU

**Highways and Transportation**

Kroner House  
Eurogate Business Park  
Ashford  
TN24 8XU

**Tel:** 03000 418181

**Date:** 8 January 2025

**Our Ref:**

**Application - GB/20240960**

**Location - Former SGN Gasholders Site , Land On The East Side Of  
Canal Road , Canal Road, Gravesend Kent**

**Proposal - Change of use to open storage (Use Class B8) with  
associated works, cycle and car parking**

Thank you for your consultation in relation to the above planning application. I have the following comments to make with respect to highway matters :-

This application is supported by a Transport Statement dated 20th March 2024 and which is considered to be robust in it's approach and conclusions.

The proposed use of open storage is expected to result in minimal vehicle movements in the peak hours (4 - 6 movements) and therefore is likely to have little impact on the local highway network. The access has sufficient visibility and width to accommodate large HGVs. Whilst adequate car and cycle parking is proposed, I do note that the size of the car parking spaces quoted in Para. 4.17 of the TS is sub-standard and should be increased to 5.0m x 2.5m. This should be amended.

As this is an existing access with minimal traffic movements then, in accordance with the advice provided in the NPPF it would not be appropriate to object to this application on highway grounds since the likely impact is not considered severe and I therefore raise no objection to this application provided the following conditions are applied to any consent granted:

- 1 Provision and permanent retention of the vehicle parking spaces shown on the submitted plans prior to the use of the site commencing - minimum size 5.0m x 2.5m.
- 2 Provision and permanent retention of the cycle parking facilities shown on the submitted plans prior to the use of the site commencing.
- 3 The gates at the entrance shall remain open during all working hours of the site in order that vehicles do not wait on the adjacent public highway whilst the gates are opened / closed.

**It is important to note that Local Planning Authority (LPA) permission does not convey any approval to carry out works on or affecting the public highway.**

Any changes to or affecting the public highway in Kent require the formal agreement of the car parking spaces Highway Authority, Kent County Council (KCC), and it should not be assumed that this will be a given because LPA planning permission has been granted.

For this reason, anyone considering works which may affect the public highway, including any highway-owned street furniture or landscape assets such as grass, shrubs and trees, is advised to engage with KCC Highways and Transportation at an early stage in the design process.

Across the county there are pieces of land next to private homes and gardens and near the highway that do not look like roads or pavements but are actually part of the public highway.

Some of this highway land is owned by Kent County Council whilst some is owned by third party owners. Irrespective of the ownership, this land may have 'highway rights' over the topsoil.

Works on private land may also affect the public highway. These include works to cellars, to retaining walls which support the highway or land above the highway, and to balconies, signs or other structures which project over the highway. Such works also require the approval of the Highway Authority.

Kent County Council has now introduced a pre-application advice service in addition to a full formal technical approval process for new or altered highway assets, with the aim of improving future maintainability. Further details are available on our website below:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/highway-permits-and-licences/highways-permissions-and-technical-guidance>.

This process applies to all development works affecting the public highway other than applications for vehicle crossings, which are covered by a separate approval process. Further details on this are available on our website below:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/highway-permits-and-licences/apply-for-a-dropped-kerb/dropped-kerb-contractor-information>

Once planning approval for any development has been granted by the LPA, it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that before development commences, all necessary highway approvals and consents have been obtained, and that the limits of the highway boundary have been clearly established, since failure to do so may result in enforcement action being taken by the Highway Authority.

The applicant must also ensure that the details shown on the approved plans agree in every aspect with those approved under the relevant legislation and common law. It is therefore important for the applicant to contact KCC Highways and Transportation to progress this aspect of the works prior to commencement on site.

Further guidance for applicants, including information about how to clarify the highway boundary and links to application forms for vehicular crossings and other highway matters, may be found on Kent County Council's website:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/highway-permits-and-licences/highways-permissions-and-technical-guidance>. Alternatively, KCC Highways and Transportation may be contacted by telephone: 03000 418181.

Yours faithfully

**Director of Highways & Transportation**

\*This is a statutory technical response on behalf of KCC as Highway Authority. If you wish to make representations in relation to highways matters associated with the planning application under consideration, please make these directly to the Planning Authority.