

Newhaven Marine Station Consultation
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
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please reply to:

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2020-04-19

Dear Sir/Madam,

Newhaven Marine rail station closure

Railfuture is Britain's leading and longest-established national independent voluntary organisation campaigning for a better railway across a bigger network for passenger and freight users, to support economic (housing and productivity) growth, environmental improvement and better-connected communities. We seek to influence decision makers at local, regional and national levels to implement pro-rail policies in transport planning.

We note that Network Rail's proposed closure of Newhaven Marine station would formalise the reality that no rail passengers have been able to use the station for the past 14 years. We further note that a series of changed circumstances, starting with the relocation of the Newhaven ferry terminal closer to Newhaven Town station in the 1980s and accelerated by the development of passenger rail services through the Channel Tunnel since 1994, point clearly to there being no foreseeable need or justification for any passenger rail services to be restored to Newhaven Marine station.

We are pleased to note that closure of the station does not imply closure of the railway line, which will remain as an electrified siding for berthing up to 8-car trains, and also for freight train access to Newhaven Port where there is to be a new dock and freight handling facility.

Railfuture is pleased to note the prospect of the Newhaven Marine station site becoming a rail freight facility instead, with its associated environmental and road decongestion benefits as a competing alternative to road freight, and as an integral part of the regeneration of the Port of Newhaven and its Easy Quay as a strategic East Sussex hub for industry and freight together with the additional local employment opportunities which that will offer.

On that basis Railfuture is pleased to be able to lend our support to Network Rail's proposal formally to close Newhaven Marine station.

Yours faithfully,

Roger Blake BA, MRTPI (Rtd), MTPS
Director for Infrastructure & Networks
Vice-Chair London & South East regional branch

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www.railfuture.org.uk www.railfuturescotland.org.uk www.railfuturewales.org.uk
www.railwatch.org.uk