



RAILWAYS ACT 2005

PROPOSAL BY OPERATOR TO CLOSE PART OF PASSENGER NETWORK AND STATION

Network Rail has notified the Department for Transport that it proposes to close the network and station serving Folkestone Harbour.

Under sections 26(7)(a) and 29(7)(a) of the Railways Act 2005, the Secretary of State, as the relevant railway funding authority, is required to carry out a consultation concerning any proposal to discontinue the operation of parts of the network and to discontinue the use of a station.

This notice is made in compliance with the statutory requirements in Schedule 7 to the Railways Act 2005 and relates to the closure of the following rail facilities:

- **Folkestone Harbour branch line (a one mile branch line between Folkestone East Junction and Folkestone Harbour)**
- **Folkestone Harbour station (the station at the terminus of the branch line that previously served the harbour)**

Following the Railways Closures Guidance 2006, Network Rail, as network operator, has carried out an initial assessment of whether maintaining the Folkestone Harbour branch and Folkestone Harbour station as part of the national rail network represents value for money. Network Rail concluded that expenditure on maintaining the facilities is neither an appropriate nor a responsible use of resources. It is proposed that, subject to successful completion of the closure process, the rail facilities will be closed on or after 31 May 2014.

Anyone wishing to see Network Rail's initial assessment, and a summary of it, may inspect the consultation document at the Department for Transport's offices at Great Minster House, 33 Horseferry Road, London, SW1P 4DR (contacting Zone 3/17). Alternatively, copies can be obtained from Simon Feast at the same address or by email from folkestoneharbourbranch.consultation@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Copies will be provided free of charge.

Representations about the proposal should be sent to:
Folkestone Harbour Branch Consultation Zone 3/17, Department for Transport, Great Minster House, 33 Horseferry Road, London, SW1P 4DR, or
folkestoneharbourbranch.consultation@dft.gsi.gov.uk no later than 28th February 2014.

Representations can also be copied to Network Rail at Folkestone Harbour Branch Consultation, c/o Strategic Planning, Waterloo General Offices, Waterloo station, London, SE1 8SW or folkestone.harbour@networkrail.co.uk.

The proposals may also be viewed on the Department for Transport's website at www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/open