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4 September 2017

Dear Mr Croston

### **Chippenham railway station redevelopment**

I would like to express our support for Wiltshire Council's aspirations to continue the redevelopment of Chippenham railway station. As joint landowner of this site we are pleased to be working with Wiltshire Council on this exciting scheme that brings benefits to rail users and to the region as a whole.

We are committed to working with Wiltshire Council, as our partner, in finding a solution that maximises the benefit to passengers, minimises the impact on the operational railway and demonstrates the best value for taxpayers.

Travelling by rail is more popular than ever. Usage of the railway network has doubled in the last 20 years and is set to double again in the next 25 years. Key stations, such as Chippenham, are at the forefront of this growth.

As part of our Railway Upgrade Plan in the last few years we have invested several million pounds installing a fully accessible footbridge with lifts at the station. Step-free access to platforms benefits people with mobility issues; but also people with children, heavy luggage or shopping, and some more elderly people.

Additional investment will be needed right across the railway network so that we can keep up with this projected demand. As the 2016 Shaw Review stated, we will need to bring in more third party funding to achieve this. Additional funds, in the medium and long term, are unlikely to be forthcoming through Network Rail due to the recent large investment at Chippenham.

This means we are proactively discussing with our partners to help bring plans forward. As part of this we are considering releasing publically owned land for redevelopment and supporting initiatives, such as this exciting venture with Wiltshire Council.

There has never been a better time to get involved with our nation's railways. We are in the middle of the largest investment in the network since Victorian times, including the modernisation of the Great Western Mainline. We look forward to seeing Wiltshire Council's plans advance to support the much needed growth in the economy, jobs and housing for Chippenham and Wiltshire.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S.C. Maple".

**Simon Maple**  
Director, Route Sponsorship