

# Comments for Planning Application 23/04389/LI

## Application Summary

Application Number: 23/04389/LI

Address: Overbridge Over Operational Railway (known As Brady Farm) Off Sturton Grange Lane  
Garforth Leeds LS25 4DZ

Proposal: Listed Building Consent for the demolition of Brady Farm overbridge (HUL4/15)

Case Officer: Mr Stuart Daniel

## Customer Details

Name: Not Available

Address: Not Available

## Comment Details

Commenter Type: Neighbour response

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

Comment: Hi Stuart,

I've just been reading the alternative options evaluation study for this and I would like to ask for option B1 - Bridge Deck Reconstruction to be pursued rather than the demolition of the bridge. Whilst I understand that Brady Farm bridge is not a PROW, I can tell you that this bridge is and has been regularly used by locals (especially dog walkers) for decades.

The bridge enables locals to access the public footpath that runs from New Sturton Lane to Ridge Road via Woodlands Drive and Stub Wood on the other side of the railway line. I'm aware that locals don't have the legal right to do this, however, my worry is that removing the bridge entirely has the potential to create some unintended future risks to public safety.

Firstly, I fear that removal of the bridge will encourage more foot traffic on the public footpath down towards the kissing gate and onto the road bridge on Ridge Road. Ridge Road is very busy with lots of fast-moving traffic (including lorries driving to and from the depot at Sturton Grange Farm) and only a narrow pedestrian footpath. In my view, encouraging more people onto this road poses an increased risk to both drivers and pedestrians.

Secondly, I feel that removing the bridge takes a short-sighted approach to potential future access needs. Though the bridge is currently disused by the owners of the land either side of it, this may not be the case in the future. The fields on either side of Brady Farm bridge are very large and are annually used for arable farming. As the climate changes, there is likely to be an increased risk of wild and crop fires affecting them in the summer. Currently, there is an access gate to Sturton Grange farm next to Brady Farm bridge, which provides the potential for emergency service

vehicles/personnel to cross the railway. If the bridge were to be reconstructed, it could be made both higher and wider, to provide smaller fire engines (for example) another point of access to the field on the opposite side of Sturton Grange farm in the event of a crop fire. A reconstructed bridge would also provide another potentially vital point of escape across the railway for walkers using the public footpath (the public footpath is currently fenced in on both sides).

In summary, for the reasons stated above I feel that the extra expense of reconstructing the bridge is worth it and should displace abandonment as the preferred option.