

Angela Foster

083/258

From: J BLANFORD
Sent: 29 May 2018 09:05
To: TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT
Subject: Rother Valley Railway

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Dear Sirs,

I would like to object to the proposed extension of this railway, particularly with regard to the crossing of the A21 trunk road. My husband and I run a business to the south of this proposed crossing on the A21. Already we suffer huge disadvantages just because we are on this road. Deliveries are reluctant to come south of Tonbridge due to the slowness and width of the road, works cannot be carried out on or near the road without a road closure due to the narrowness of this supposedly trunk road. Traffic backs up from Hastings past us every morning and evening - we are some 5 miles north of Hastings - due to the poor trafficflow, so if you cause a queue by having a crossing a few miles north this will only exacerbate the situation.

There are very few crossing points of the River Rother which are available to any heavy traffic, the A21 is the main one. If you interfere with the very delicate balance that exists on this floodplain you not only affect the road which will in effect cut off the area south of this, but also the existing rail link. In wet weather if you travel on the main Hastings to London rail line you often have delays due to the flooding at Etchingham which is where the River Rother rises and where the water backs up to when there is any interference with its flow anywhere down its course. Why would you jeopardise the main rail link for a fun branch line?

Farmers are constantly being asked to consider the environment, yet by allowing this development you are prepared to desiccate an environmental area that has been preserved for nigh on 80 years. Flora and fauna are found in this area that have long since disappeared from other river areas. It has been preserved and modern farming methods adapted to keep it in its original state. Why would you want to sanction wrecking all of this hard work?

I trust that the least you will do is to allow a public enquiry so that everyone can have a chance to hear the full picture, and to realise the full implications on the landowners involved.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. Susan Jane Blanford

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