Shenaz Choudhary

ObJ /137.

From:

Kate Crofton

Sent:

22 May 2018 17:56 TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT

To: Subject:

Rother Valley Railway (Bodiam to Robertsbridge Junction) Order)

Dear Mr. Grayling,

I am writing to object to the planned extension of the Rother Valley Railway between Robertsbridge and Bodiam.

As a resident of the village of Robertsbridge my objections to this extension are for various reasons.

The planned route of the railway cuts through a an area of outstanding natural beauty that will be irreversibly changed and quite possibly destroyed by the addition of a railway. This includes the destruction of habitats on Moat farm that have been untouched for decades.

Aside from the physical destruction of the habitats there will also be a huge amount of noise, smoke and diesel fume pollution from the trains and emissions from cars held up at the level crossings.

2) Furthermore the village of Robertsbridge is in a carefully managed flood risk area.

The flood defenses currently do a fantastic job of protecting the historic village, however included in these defenses is the flood plain.

The planned route of the track cuts straight through this flood plain and will weaken the protection afforded to the village.

There is very little or no tangible economic benefit to surrounding area. The railway would be staffed by volunteers and any increase in trade to the village would only benefit one or two individuals (possibly the pub landlords).

In fact Rother Valley Railway have actually admitted that Robertsbridge would not benefit from this project.

In light of this, there is no compelling case for Compulsory Purchase powers to be used to acquire land for non-essential infrastructure, however this is what is being proposed to acquire land from farms along the proposed route.

Many thanks for your time and for reconsidering this application,

Best regards

Kate

Kate Crofton

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