

**Caroline O'Neill**

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**From:**  
**Sent:** 24 May 2018 09:15  
**To:** TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT  
**Cc:** office@amberrudd.co.uk  
**Subject:** Rother Valley Railway  
**Attachments:** 180524\_RVR.pdf

Please find attached objection to closure of A21,B2244 and Robertsbridge and Hastings in general.

Regards,

N Hoad  
Director  
Asset Integrated Services Ltd  
Little Knights  
Brede Road  
WESTFIELD  
East Sussex  
TN35 4SY



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**Asset Integrated Services Ltd.**  
Little Knights Brede Road WESTFIELD East Sussex TN35 4SY

24<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Secretary of State for Transport  
c/o Transports & Works Act Orders Unit  
Department for Transport Zone 1/18  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
LONDON  
SW1P 4DR

Dear Sirs,  
**Re: Rother Valley Railway Extension.**

My business operates throughout London and the South East, our office is in Hastings and we have workshops in Robertsbridge.

Having seen the recent improvement in communication from the opening of the Tonbridge – Pembury section of the A21 dual carriageway I am absolutely astonished that an obstruction at Robertsbridge would even bear consideration.

Hastings has long been blighted by poor communications and as a consequence is the poor man of the Sussex coast, something Amber Rudd works tirelessly to improve for the residents of Hastings.

Further, the 2 level crossings proposed, on the A21 and B2244 would cross at known accident black spots, notwithstanding that Network Rail have closed 1100 level crossings in the past 8 years on safety grounds. The third would close access to Robertsbridge High Street from the North.

There is no provision for managing the additional road traffic, congestion and parking that the extension would create in Robertsbridge it already being difficult enough now to access local facilities and without consideration of the additional housing proposed the Old Mill Site and George Hill.

I am also aware that this 'project' is only for the personal gratification of a very limited number of wealthy individuals who have set that wealth at the local farmers and rural community to try and bully them in to selling their land and quality of life. They have suffered trespass, planning applications on their land without their consultation, and now the threat of compulsory purchase.

RVR sell this project as a heritage railway, which will attract tourists, employ locals and enhance local business, yet it is seasonal, run by volunteers and has suffered a steady decline in passenger numbers for several years, and has always relied on donations to remain viable.



Tel/Fax: 01580 881526 Web: [www.assetis.co.uk](http://www.assetis.co.uk) Email [info@assetis.co.uk](mailto:info@assetis.co.uk)  
Director: N Hoad BSc CEng MIET  
Co. No. 06679075 VAT no. 800 7148 63



From an environmental perspective the proposed route is prime farmland in an AONB and has been for many years, when the line closed to passengers in 1954 (after only 54 years in service) it was a steam light railway, the new proposal for steam and diesel stock with the associated noise and pollution.

Should the building of such a folly proceed I would no alternative but to relocate my business elsewhere or possibly even consider closing altogether.

I hope common sense will prevail and this folly will be put to an end for good.

Yours faithfully

For and on behalf of **Asset Integrated Services Ltd**

NHoad  
BSc.,C.Eng.,MIET.