

**From:** Mark Pritchard  
**Sent:** 14 May 2018 14:05  
**To:** TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT  
**Subject:** Objection to proposed Rother Valley Railway extension

Dear Mr Grayling,

I have and still do enjoy family days out on heritage steam trains.

However, I am very concerned about the way Rother Valley Railway (RVR) are going about their proposed extension to link with the Kent & East Sussex Railway.

My objections are as follows:

1. Disruption to traffic on the A21 during the closure of the crossing up to 14 times per day. The suggested site of the crossing is very close to the roundabout at the Robertsbridge/Salehurst junction.
2. The effective 'blackmailing' of the local farmers, by RVR - they are in effect saying that if the farmers will not sell then they will seek to compulsory purchase the land. There is no compelling case for Compulsory Purchase powers to be used to acquire land for non essential infrastructure/hobby railway.
3. Destruction of established secondary woodland. The old track bed, most of which has been torn up is now home to 1.5 hectares of established woodland. This as well as ponds and hedgerows will all be lost along with all the wildlife which is currently found within these areas:
  - Great crested newts
  - Dormice
  - Water voles
  - Badgers
  - Bats
  - Grass snakes
  - Owls
4. Flooding. Reports show increased flooding potential to properties in and around Robertsbridge and Salehurst. These have not been mitigated.
5. Noise, smoke and diesel fume pollution from the trains and emissions from cars held up at the level crossings.
6. Out of date facts and data from RVR being used to argue their case.

I urge you to recommend a Public Enquirey.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Pritchard

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