



SOPP / 219

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

4 July 2018

Dear Sir

**ROBERTSBRIDGE TO BODIAM RAILWAY - ROTHER VALLEY RAILWAY**

I read in the popular press a few weeks ago of a campaign by two local landowners in Robertsbridge trying to whip up support to oppose the scheme to reinstate a short stretch of railway line linking Bodiam and Robertsbridge.

Concerns were raised about delays to traffic on the A21 caused by the use of a level crossing a few times a day. It should be noted that there is already a roundabout and a light controlled pedestrian crossing very close to the proposed level crossing, so the traffic is already slowed by these two items. I believe it is unreasonable to claim the railway crossing would contribute significantly to delays to road users.

Heritage railways contribute a considerable benefit to local economies – one has only to look at the example of the success of the reopened Welsh Highland Railway and the Gloucester Warwickshire Railway near Cheltenham – both of which are of considerable length and have been rebuilt from scratch.

The farmers' homes are not adjacent to the proposed railway and the land involved is not actively farmed most of the time so I believe their objections are vexatious and I urge you to look at the bigger picture of overall benefits to the local economy that would be created by the rebuilding of this short stretch of line.

I look forward to a non-car journey with my family to Bodiam Castle from London by sustainable means so after due consideration, I hope you will share my view that there is a compelling case in the public interest to authorise the proposal in the Order application.

Yours faithfully

**RONALD WILSON**