

TRANSPORT AND WORKS ACT 1992
APPLICATION FOR THE PROPOSED NETWORK RAIL
(SUFFOLK LEVEL CROSSING REDUCTION) ORDER

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF CASE
REFERENCE – TWA/17/APP/04/OBJ/40

PREPARED BY
SIMON GOODERHAM MRICS FAAV
(Agent on behalf of C C Gooderham & Son)

12th FEBRUARY 2018

- 1.0 I represent and act for C C Gooderham and Son who are the freehold owners of the land known as Brickwall Field lying to the west of level crossing S69.**
- 2.0 The objection relates to the closure of public footpath 13 which passes over level crossing S69 Bacton. The objection was first raised in email correspondence dated 4th May 2017 following the service of Notice 413 on the landowners.**
- 3.0 Since the objection was raised there has been no consultation with the stakeholders or landowners in relation to the proposed closure of crossing S69, or the wider proposals regarding the proposed alternative arrangements for the public footpath network in around the village of Bacton.**
- 4.0 A copy of the letter from Network Rail dated 20 December 2017 has been received in response to the objection, which outlines the proposed alternative route and works to provide pedestrian access to Bacton Football Club in the event that S69 Bacton is closed.**
- 5.0 The proposed alternative route is over 3.5 times longer in length (945m rather than 265m) than the existing pedestrian access, and 270m of the proposed new route is along the B1113 which has no street lighting or footways. A significant section of the new route is also in the 40 mph zone.**
- 6.0 The proposed new access route along the B1113 would require pedestrians to either walk on the highway or along uneven and narrow grass verges which are totally inadequate for pedestrian use. The proposed works along this section of highway indicate that a new footway will be considered as part of the detailed design however there has been no firm commitment made to the provision of this.**
- 7.0 There has been no detail provided regarding the dates when the 9-day camera census was actually undertaken and therefore it is not possible to establish whether the results of this census are a representative sample of the use of footpath 13. The physical evidence on the ground would suggest a greater use than 3 people per day as suggested by the camera census.**
- 8.0 It is considered that the submitted proposal does not provide a suitable alternative pedestrian route to Bacton Football Club, due to the significantly increased length of the route and the limited detail relating to the provision of a footway for the full length of the new route.**

9.0 The landowners, C C Gooderham, would be prepared to discuss making land available for an alternative route to utilise the old underpass which passes under the railway the south of S69. This underpass has currently been stopped up and replaced with a large culvert however consideration should be given to re-opening the underpass as an alternative the current proposals.

10.0 Further consultation should be undertaken with stakeholders to discuss the extent of use of the existing footpath 13 and crossing S69 Bacton, and the proposed alternative route.

11.0 Based on the responses received to the objection to date Obj/40/SUFF/R001 is not withdrawn.

