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**Prepared For:** The Inquiry, The Proposed Network Rail Suffolk Level Crossing Reduction Order

### **Pound Hill Bacton. Highway Flooding Issues, Summary Of Suffolk Highways Activity.**

#### **History of this issue.**

1. Periodic flooding of the highway has been reported under the rail bridge over the last few years.

The water can be a foot or more deep, and extends for around 30 feet. On several occasions, the emergency call out crews have had to put out flood warning signs to warn drivers in advance. The Council also has a series of customer reports to Suffolk Highways specifically about this issue, 2 in 2015, 9 in 2016 and 1 in 2017.



2. Minor or shorter duration flooding events may often not be reported, but even when ponding just along the edges this makes it unpleasant and less safe for pedestrians to use. They are forced to walk in the middle part of the carriageway to pass under the railway, and some people have described pedestrians being soaked through by the bow wave or splash as inconsiderate drivers go through the flood waters.
3. In response to the flooding and reports the gullies were cleaned out on several occasions, but attempts to jet along the pipe system were not successful because of blockages. Further investigations exposed a buried chamber in the verge. Both Gullies drain into this and then out towards the old ditch at the toe of the embankment.



4. The problem was found to be within the Network Rail boundary. This was reported to NR in June 2016. The area along the toe of the rail embankment is overgrown appears to have previously had an open ditch which is now silted and overgrown with vegetation.

*Location of the underground chamber indicated by the orange barriers around it.*

*Images below show the cover of the chamber, it being full of water when opened and the internal view when it was pumped out.*





*The outfall from the chamber is to the drain at the toe of the embankment. View along the inside line of the Network Rail fence showing ditch silted up and overgrown with grass.*

**Current situation.**

5. The cleansing and jetting works by Suffolk Highways may have improved the situation, there have been fewer reports of flooding. However as far as we are aware the underlying issues remains. Suffolk Highways aren't aware of any works on this ditch having been carried out by Network Rail. Further jetting or works on the Suffolk highways section of the system will only be fully effective once the system downstream is clear and operating effectively.

END