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17th April, 2017

Secretary of State for Transport

C/o Transport & Works Act Orders Unit

General Counsel's Office

Dept of Transport, Zone 1/18, Great Minster House

33 Horseferry Road

London, SW1P 4DR

Dear Sir,

Network Rail – Proposal to close level crossing C11 A Furlong Drove (Downham Parish) Public Right of Way Reference – Byway 33 Downham

I object to Network Rail's proposal to create a new 2m wide foot path, right of way across my field No. TL5186 – OS No. 5733.

My field is used for food production and the dyke is used to irrigate it. Irrigation pipes and pump are stood on the land that the proposed foot path would take, so the field could not be irrigated and would therefore be much less productive. The economic pressures on farming are very difficult at the moment, and restricted use of the land due to the public walking in the field and the loss of land for growing crops would impose another financial burden upon my farm.

There are better options to the foot path problem that do not entail impinging on my livelihood, or anyone else's, and I plead that one of these are taken. The local farming community are struggling to survive, and to compulsorily take our land for the pleasure and recreation of others at a cost to the farmer is unfair and unnecessary, and against our human rights. The proposal is for a totally new footpath to be created on land that has never had a footpath running over it before. This is not preservation of public rights, but confiscation of land without compensation and a duty to pay for the footpath's upkeep, so the public can walk on it, and Network Rail save money by no longer maintaining a safe crossing. They will gain financially and I am forced to take over their responsibilities by losing land, and getting the cost of maintaining the footpath for as long as I or my family own the land, this transfer to myself is not fair. I have offered to sell the whole field to Network Rail rather than farm it with a foot path on it, but they don't appear to be interested. They are using David and Goliath bullying tactics

Thanking you in anticipation of your help in this matter.

Yours faithfully

B L Taylor.