

Statement of Evidence – Trustees of Alterton & Avison (OBJ/21)

Whilst we welcome the continued use of the crossing we still feel network Rail would meet its safety obligations by maintaining the existing set up as is, or by improving the crossing with automatic barriers. Network Rail may have unequivocally dismissed the options to improve the crossing and therefore safety but we feel it should still be considered if safety is really the driving force of these plans.

The cessation of vehicular access to non authorised users requires us to surrender land to create a turning radius which is detrimental to our holdings. We do not wish to give up the land as it disrupts the entrance to our field. Network rail wishes to minimise the impact on the surrounding land, so keeping the existing crossing access or improving the crossing will negate the need for a turning radius and mounting blocks.

Our original objections stand as many of Network Rail suggestions are not detailed, finalised or guaranteed. So we 'may' get compensation for loss of land but based on previous experience and conflicting scenarios and proposals I am sure you can understand our genuine concern that without raising our objections Network Rail will have carte blanche to change and amend any of the proposals at any time. Many of the details such as the situating of the mounting blocks have not been decided, or if the decision has been made they have not been communicated. Clarity from Network Rail is still not forthcoming, yet they want all objections swept aside and unilateral permission to do as they please. It's just not right.