

The Network Rail (Cambridgeshire Level Crossing Reduction) Order

Statement of Case on behalf of Objector 32 – Mr Anthony Leonard Lee trading as A L Lee Farming Company

Represented by Christopher Purllant BSc (Hons) MRICS FAAV, Brown & Co Alexanders, Acre House, 70c, High Street, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire

Level Crossing C26 Poplar Drove and C27 – Willow Row – Proof of Objection Evidence

The order proposes to close the Poplar Drove & Willow Row level crossings and create a bridleway across land adjacent to the railway line.

- 1) The existing railway crossings are unmanned and as such my client is of the opinion that such crossings have been unutilised by such traffic as are permitted to pass over bridlepaths in recent years due the nature of operating such an unmanned crossing and therefore the creation of a circular route between the two proposed closed crossings is considered excessive.
- 2) The creation of Byway Open to All Traffic with a width restriction of 1.525m is considered to encourage equestrian activity immediately adjacent to a high speed rail line which in my clients' opinion would be reducing the proposed increase in rail safety. We are aware that Network Rail consider that in many locations across the countryside bridleways run adjacent and parallel to railway lines without issue or an increase in rail risk.
- 3) However in this location further consideration must be given to the open landscape of the fenland area and the lack of sound or visual buffering by screening vegetation.
- 4) If closure of the crossing is approved on the grounds of rail safety then consequently closure of the crossings without the creation of the proposed bridlepath would appear to be the most suitable option to improving rail safety overall.

31st October 2017

Christopher Purllant

Brown & Co Alexanders on behalf of A L Lee Farming Company (Objector 32)