

From: Judith Hull <judith@hullsfarms.co.uk>
Sent: 04 May 2017 07:06
To: TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT
Subject: Network Rail Suffolk Level Crossing Reduction Order

To Whom It May Concern

Mid Suffolk – Parish of Bacton S69 and S13 Fords Green

We understand that Network Rail proposes to close level crossing S69 – Bacton Level Crossing and level crossing S13 – Fords Green and are writing to you as landowners who will be affected by these proposals.

We have no objection in principle to the closing of level crossing S69 and level crossing S13 and understand the necessity for such action but strongly believe that there is absolutely no need for the creation of a new footpath on our land between S69 and S13. The survey taken during the initial consultation process showed that S69 crossing was hardly used (one person per day over the weekend) and although it has been suggested that pedestrians from Bacton need to be able to access walks to the east of the railway line it would appear that they are not interested in doing so.

One of the overriding factors for the creation of the footpath from S69 to S13 is the supposed safety aspect of keeping pedestrians away from the B1113. The diversion route however brings pedestrians through the housing estate on to Pound Hill and up to the B1113 which they have to walk along until they meet Footpath 013 Bacton which then takes them towards the railway line. If Network Rail are serious about the concerns of pedestrians walking along the B1113 then I would suggest that Footpath 013 Bacton is moved to the northern boundary edge of the football club ground and northern boundary edge of the small piece of land adjoining the B1113 so that pedestrians join the B1113 approximately 100m nearer to Pound Hill.

In the consultation process we have continually heard Network Rail advise that the culvert/underpass between S69 and S13 has been 'rendered unusable' but nowhere has this been explained fully – why has it been 'rendered unusable'?

In relation to the new footpath between level crossing S69 and S13, the minimum width required is 1.5m due to it being a field-edge footpath.

Could you please clarify why it is proposed that the width of the footpath to be created is to be 2m. Finally to encourage pedestrians to walk alongside this busy mainline railway seems counterproductive when closing of the crossings is being undertaken for safety reasons. We understand that the footpath will be fenced but the opportunity for trespassing on the line will be along the whole proposed footpath if someone should be determined to do so.

As previously reiterated we are totally opposed to the construction of any new footpath on our land.

Yours faithfully,
Colin and Judith Hull

