

**From:** Matthew Spence  
**Sent:** 06 May 2017 00:15  
**To:** TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT  
**Cc:** matthewaspence@aol.com  
**Subject:** Network Rail Suffolk Level Crossing Reduction Order

S21 Abbots

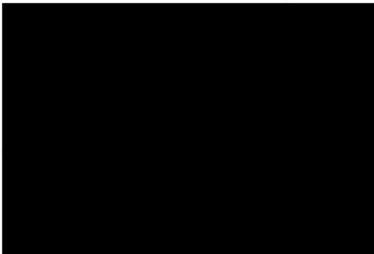
Sir/Madam

We are writing to object to the proposed closure of the foot crossing identified as S21 Abbots.

The railway passes through the centre of the village of Mellis in which is situated one of the largest grazing commons in the county. The topography of the village in relation to the railway line is unique along the mainline from London to Norwich. With many other rural settlements the line passes near the edge or is situated at a different elevation allowing movement and passage by means of bridges below or above the line. In Mellis the line passes through the centre of the village and bisects the open access common on the level. If this foot crossing is closed, pedestrians will have to take a long detour to cross at the less busy road crossing, or a slightly shorter detour to cross at a much busier main road crossing, which being in a rural setting does not have a footpath. If closed this facility and amenity will be lost forever and will change the nature of the freedom of the open access common for negligible improvement to the rail service. Danger to pedestrians will also be significantly increased.

Yours sincerely

Mr Matthew Spence & Mrs Joyce Spence



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