

For [REDACTED] Stowmarket Suffolk Network Rail Proposals

Dear Secretary of State

Bacton Suffolk Footpath Proposal Network Rail

I am writing on behalf of my father who owns [REDACTED] and is affected by the proposal of a new footpath across the middle of his two fields ref PO72/PO73

My parents are both very elderly and my mother has had health problems whilst these applications and proposals from Network Rail have been notified. I was informed of the proposals in October 2017.

As I was not aware of this until October 2017 I am writing now outlining our reasons for objecting to this footpath

In October 2017 my father received a letter from Bruton Knowles Surveyors working for Network Rail requesting access to the land to carry out a survey. I rang the office of Bruton Knowles and asked to speak to Mr Andrew Prowse but was told he was unavailable, and therefore I asked the secretary who I should send a letter to conveying our concerns and was told to send this letter to their Office.

I think this was misleading as I have subsequently found out on line that my concerns should be registered directly to the Secretary of State. I am obviously too late to follow the correct procedure for the above reasons but I am hoping you will accept my letter retrospectively which outlines our objection to the proposals .

1. The new footpath proposed is not required and indeed is as far as I can see is replicating a footpath that already exists. The existing footpaths that run from Wheatlands estate past the front of my fathers property is the most direct route to the School , Church, and Allotments it finishes in front of the Vicarage joining another foot path to the village shop, Doctors and pub, it provides the

best access possible . The new proposed route is a much longer route than the above and therefore is not enhancing what already exists.

2. To be able to form the proposed footpath it involves various works to Pulhams Lane which I believe will cause problems with access to the fields that lead off Pulhams lane. How would the farmland adjacent to Pulhams Lane be accessed by farm machinery. It seems to me that the fields would become unusable as farmland, this not only affects my parents but other land users.

3. Looking at the proposals nearer the railway line itself it appears that a new footpath is proposed down either side of the railway line away from the existing crossing to join existing footpaths. This new path seems to run either side of the railway line, surely this is extremely dangerous and could encourage children onto the railway line. How would Network Rail and Suffolk County Council ensure this walkway was safe?

In my and my parents opinion these proposals have been ill conceived and little thought has been given to whether the new routes are necessary, or safe, or allow access to farm machinery.

In these proposals I see additional cost, safety problems and maintenance problems in order to achieve what? As far as I can ascertain no benefit at all apart from closing one pedestrian level crossing.

In conclusion if the proposed footpath is approved and I can't see any reason why it would be , I would request that this footpath is moved to the end of my fathers second field so at least the two fields are not split in two by the footpath .

Any further correspondence in relation to this footpath should be sent to my parents address, but I would appreciate copies being forwarded to myself as well, my contact details are listed at the bottom of this letter.

Again I apologise for the late response on these matters

Yours faithfully

John E Smith



