

**APPLICATION FOR THE PROPOSED NETWORK RAIL
(SUFFOLK LEVEL CROSSING REDUCTION) ORDER**

APPENDIX 2 TO

PROOF OF EVIDENCE:

ANDREW WOODIN – RIGHTS OF WAY AND ACCESS MANAGER

Bachelor of Sciences Honours degree in Ecology

From: Haggett Camilla <Camilla.Haggett@cambridgeshire.gov.uk>
Sent: 09 May 2017 16:42
To: TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT
Subject: Network Rail Suffolk Level Crossing Reduction Order - OBJECTION
Attachments: 2017 04 19 Letter to SoS_TWAO_Holding response.pdf; CCC Position Summary 19.04.2017 (full list).pdf

Dear Sirs,

I refer to Cambridgeshire County Council's holding response of 19th April 2017, and to the full Appendix list of our objections re-submitted on 21st April, attached.

In the Appendix, we list S22 Weatherby, Newmarket, as being one of the crossings on which we wished to make a holding objection. We have realised that, although it is listed in the Appendix to that letter, we should also have sent that objection specifically in respect of the Network Rail Suffolk Level Crossing Reduction Order.

Our objection is made on the grounds that there is well-evidenced, heavy use of the crossing by the public over many years. The proposed alternative is not satisfactory because it would be on-road, and the additional length and steepness would prejudice the less able, elderly and young families. This would discourage physical activity and walking as a sustainable mode of transport, in conflict with government policy. It could also affect local businesses.

We are aware of objections from the local community, councillors and authorities, including residents of Cheveley and Woodditton parishes over the border in Cambridgeshire, supported by their County Councillor Mathew Shuter. The County Council is disappointed that the matter has not yet been resolved, and supports ongoing negotiations to do so. It considers this important to enable continued access of this well-used crossing for local communities and their health, well-being and sustainability.

I do apologise for this oversight, and would be grateful if you would accept Cambridgeshire County Council's objection to this part of the Network Rail Suffolk Level Crossing Reduction Order.

Yours sincerely,
Camilla Rhodes

Mrs Camilla Rhodes (née Haggett) MA MLE MRICS

Asset Manager – Information

Highways Service, Cambridgeshire County Council, Box No. SH1313, Shire Hall, Cambridge, CB3 0AP

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Your ref:

Our ref: 20170419

Date: 19th April 2017

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Cambridgeshire
County Council

Economy, Transport & Environment
Executive Director, Graham Hughes

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Infrastructure & Management Operations
Directorate
Shire Hall
Castle Street
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CB3 0AP

By Email and Post

Dear Sirs,

**Re: The Network Rail (Cambridgeshire Level Crossings Reduction) Order 2017
Cambridgeshire County Council holding response**

I write with reference to The Network Rail (Cambridgeshire Level Crossings Reduction) Order 2017 ('the Order'), deposited on 14th March 2017.

As explained in our letter of 21st March 2017, unfortunately Network Rail's timescale and period for formal representations coincides with the County Council's purdah period running up to elections on 4th May. This means that the County Council is not able to take a report to Committee and to Council for approval of its formal response to the Order until purdah is over. Consequently, on 21st February, our Highways and Community Infrastructure Committee ('HCI Committee'), delegated to me the authority, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee to make a holding response, pending its democratic process allowing a full response, in accordance with s239 Local Government Act 1972 and s4.7 of the Department for Transport's *A Guide to TWA Procedures*. I am therefore now writing to you accordingly.

In our letter of 21st March we advised that the County Council objected, as at 21st February, to nine of the 30 proposals currently in the scheme, and had holding objections to a further six. A copy of this letter is attached. I acknowledge that proposal C30 Westley Road has since been modified in the Order in line with the County Council's request, for which we are grateful.

I have consulted with Councillor Mac McGuire, the HCI Committee Chairman, and Cambridgeshire County Council hereby makes a **holding objection** to the Order on the same basis as the views cited in our letter of 21st March (with the exception of C30 Westley Road, to which the County Council is now unlikely to object), until such time as it is able to provide a full response through its democratic process. We anticipate this being in July 2017, after the County Council's Full Council has considered the objection and endorsed the Council's position at its meeting on 18th July.

The County Council's grounds for its objection are as follows:

Objection to eight of the proposals, as identified in the attached Appendix

- The alternative routes are unsatisfactory due to the lack of a safe alternative routes;
- The proposals would result in significant diminution of the connectivity of the ROW/highway network;

- The proposals would result in significant diminution of enjoyment for users;
- The proposals would significantly reduce access to green space for the physical and mental well-being of local communities;
- There would be an unreasonable increase in liability for the Highway Authority; and because
- There would be a significant impact on promoted routes.

Holding objections

In addition, the County Council makes holding objections to six of the proposals as identified in the attached Appendix, where information is still awaited to enable the Authority to fully evaluate the implications of the proposals, or where updated proposals have only been made available as part of the deposited Order, and so the County Council has similarly not yet had the opportunity to assess them.

The County Council's current position on each proposal and reason for its position is set out in brief in the attached Appendix.

The County Council anticipates requesting a public inquiry to be held to enable a full hearing of the case for each of the proposals to which it objects or has a holding objection.

I would be grateful if you would kindly acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Yours sincerely,



Graham Hughes
Executive Director, Economy Transport & Environment

Cc Richard Schofield, Route Managing Director Anglia Route
Nicholas Eddy, Network Rail
Isaac Adjei, Network Rail
Andrew Kenning, Network Rail
Steve Day, Network Rail
Jason Smith, Mott MacDonald

Your ref:

Our ref: 20170419

Date: 19th April 2017

Contact: Mrs Camilla Rhodes

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County Council

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APPENDIX 1 - Summary of Cambridgeshire County Council Position as at 19.04.2017
Maps of Network Rail's proposals can be found at <http://www.networkrail.co.uk/anglialevelcrossings/>

MM REF	NAME	HIGHWAY/PROW REF	PARISH	CCC POSITION	PROVISO/ACTION
C01	Chittering	Waterbeach FP18	Waterbeach	No objection	None provided proposal delivered in full
C02	Nairs No. 117	Private Crossing	Waterbeach	No objection	N/A- No highways affected.
C03	West River Bridge	Little Thetford FP7	Little Thetford	Holding objection	Pending flood data and mitigation; required infrastructure must be installed; commuted sum agreed
C04	No Name No 20	Meldreth FP10	Meldreth	Object	Alternative option unsatisfactory as significant length on or adjacent busy road; less attractive; breaks connectivity of ROW network; discourages healthy activity; no known issues with crossing.
C05	Flambards	Proposal removed	Shepreth	N/A	N/A Proposal removed
C06	Barrington Road	Highway (Barrington Road) - Bridleway crossing	Foxton	N/A	Proposal removed. Request for NR to work with CCC and City Deal on long term solution
C07	No Name No. 37	Harston FP4	Harston	Holding objection	Pending outcome of solutions; alternative potentially worse for the less able; less enjoyable
C08	Ely North Junction	Ely FP11	Ely	Object	Alternative option unsatisfactory unless width resolved
C09	Second Drive	Ely FP49	Ely	No objection	Provided agreed solution delivered
C10	Coffue Drive	Downham BOAT 44	Downham	No objection	Provided required infrastructure delivered
C11	Furlong Drive	Downham BOAT 33	Downham	Object	Insufficient mitigation for southern section of BOAT for all users. Upgrade of FP9 Downham should be to a BOAT to accommodate motorcyclists. Southern cul-de-sac should remain.
C12	Silt Drive	Public Highway (Silt Drive, March)	March	No objection	Provided bridleway access and private rights retained
C13	Middle Drive	Public Highway Middle Drive (March)	March	No objection	Provided bridleway access rights retained
C14	Eastrea Cross Drive	Whittlesey FP50	Whittlesey	No objection	Provided agreed solution delivered
C15	Brickyard Drive	Whittlesey FP48	Whittlesey	No objection	Provided agreed solution delivered
C16	Prickwillow 1	Ely FP17	Ely	No objection	Provided agreed solution delivered
C17	Prickwillow 2	Ely FP57	Ely	No objection	Provided agreed solution delivered
C18	Munceys	Fordham FP19	Fordham	N/A	N/A Proposal removed 14.03.2017
C19	Wicken Road	Soham FP106	Soham	N/A	N/A Proposal removed 05.12.2016
C20	Leonards	Soham FP101	Soham	Object	No need to close as no records of problems. Alternative option unsatisfactory as longer for majority of users; diminution in enjoyment as a result; impact on healthy activity.
C21	Newmarket Bridge	Ely FP24	Ely	Holding objection	Pending flood data and mitigation to enable analysis of proposal.
C22	Wells Engine	Ely FP23	Ely	Holding objection	Pending flood data and mitigation to enable analysis of proposal.
C23	Adelaide	Ely FP49	Ely	N/A	N/A Proposal removed
C24	Cross Keys	Ely FP50	Ely	No objection	Provided agreed solution delivered
C25	Clayway	Littleport FP11	Littleport	Object	Loss of valued route regularly used by health groups. Alternative option unsatisfactory as amounts to extinguishment as alternative simply on road. Significant diminution of enjoyment and impact on healthy activity in deprived area. Existing access could be improved.
C26	Poplar Drive No. 30	Public Highway (Poplar Drive)	Littleport	No objection	Provided BOAT 30 diverted as a BOAT for C27 proposal, and that solution for Poplar Drive delivered
C27	Willow Row Drive	Littleport BOAT 30	Littleport	Holding objection	Agree with principle of solution but bridleway link needs to be BOAT status to accommodate motorcyclists, i.e. divert BOAT 30
C28	Black Horse Drive	Public Highway (Black Horse Drive)	Littleport	No objection	Provided all highway rights stopped up west of crossing.
C29	Cassells	Brinkley FP1	Brinkley	Holding objection	Provided Highways Development Management and engineering requirements can be met - still awaiting proposals.
C30	Westley Road	Public Highway (Westley Road, Westley Waterless Road)	Westley Waterless; Brinkley	No objection	Provided solution proposed 14.03.17 delivered in full, specifically retaining public access for all NMUs and motorcycles (2-wheeled vehicles), and private vehicular access for local estate.
C31	Littleport station	Station Road	Littleport	No objection	Provided required infrastructure and flood mitigation delivered
C33	Jack O'Tell	Private crossing - alternative affects FP16 & FP17, and public UCRs (Cross Drive and Long Drive)	Waterbeach	Object	Pending discussions concerning impact on local highway network and increased highway authority liability; diminution of enjoyment for NMUs
C34	Fyson's	Private crossing - alternative affects Cross Drive and Long Drive UCRs	Waterbeach	Object	Pending discussions concerning impact on local highway network and increased highway authority liability
C35	Ballast Pit	Private crossing - alternative route affects BOAT 14 Waterbeach, Long Drive and Cross Drive	Waterbeach	Object	Pending discussions concerning impact on local highway network and increased highway authority liability; diminution of enjoyment for NMUs
S22	Weatherby's	Private crossing. All users diverted to use Cheveley Road underbridge, along footways alongside Cricket Field Road, New Cheveley Road and Granary Road	Newmarket, Suffolk	Holding objection	CCC support the ongoing negotiations to resolve the matter and enable continued access of this well used crossing for local communities.

