

TRANSPORT AND WORKS ACT 1992
WRITTEN PROOF OF EVIDENCE BY PAUL EDMUND BAKER
REGARDING THE APPLICATION FOR THE PROPOSED NETWORK RAIL
(SUFFOLK LEVEL CROSSING REDUCTION) ORDER
REFERENCE TWA/17/APP/05/OBJ/26 Summary
DATE 16 JANUARY 2018

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 Our main concern is the impact of the Orders proposals on our farming business.
- 1.2 The creation of new rights of way as diversions are disproportionate in relation to the current use and lost amenity of the proposed crossing closures.
- 1.3 The proposed diversions create new circular routes that will increase the use and impact of the current Rights of Way network.
- 1.4 Incomplete and inadequate engagement of Network Rail and their Agents with Stakeholders particularly landowners and occupiers has significantly increased the length and cost of this process to all parties.
- 1.5 The proposed Order transfers risk and cost from Network Rail to other stakeholders without significant reduction risk to current crossing users along with exposure to new hazards.
- 1.6 The impact of diversion route infrastructure and suitability has not been sufficiently considered.
- 1.7 Late disclosure of stakeholder correspondence and un-consulted changes to proposals has forced a Public Inquiry rather than determination by prior agreement.
- 1.8 Relevant to our objections we propose
 - 1.8.1 **S12 Gooderhams:-** modifications should be approved exactly as outlined in the published order
 - 1.8.2 **S69 Bacton:-** should not be closed as no suitable lower risk alternative is currently available
 - 1.8.3 **S13 Fords Green:-** Public foot rights should be extinguished with limited diversionary route modifications as our alternative proposal **OBJ26 Common Ground Proposal S12 S69** (OBJ26 Proof of Evidence Appendix 3)
Comprising of
 - 1.8.3.1 A single short (230m) section extinguishment of Bacton Footpath 14 east of S12
 - 1.8.3.2 The diversion of regularly disturbed cross field Bacton footpath 20 to a permanent undisturbed route along the field edge and through a copse beside the railway running south from S12 Fords Green to Cow Creek (sic) Crossing
- 1.9 Prepared by Paul Baker BSc MSc NSch MIAgrM Date: 16 Jan 2018