

**From:** Kate Dipper  
**Sent:** 30 May 2018 22:28  
**To:** TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT  
**Subject:** Rother Valley Railway (Bodiam to Robertsbridge Junction) Order

From : Mrs K J Dipper,

Dear Mr Grayling,

I am writing to oppose the proposed TWAO for the connection of the railway line between Bodiam and Robertsbridge. I have many reasons for my opposition and list these below –

- The disused track on Moat Farm is a most beautiful part of the English countryside with wildlife in abundance. It's an untouched paradise which would be disturbed and destroyed should the track be rebuilt/reinstated. It has been left since the line was sold to the farmers and the trees, ponds and habitats are now a perfect corner of English countryside. Please leave it this way.
- The farmland at the Hoad's farm will be left unusable as the track (which is no longer in place at all) will cut many fields into unusable sizes.
- The village of Robertsbridge will NOT gain from this railway extension. Tourists will arrive, get the train to Bodiam and Tenterden and spend their money there.
- There is already very bad congestion in Robertsbridge (which is about to be made worse with some 150 houses due to be built) and the village can't cope with tourists arriving and leaving by car as well.
- There is limited parking in Robertsbridge. The commuters all park in the roads around the station to avoid paying to park in the car park. The tourists will no doubt do the same.
- THREE level crossings will be built over roads which goes against the current trend for trying to cut down on level crossings due to their danger. The A21 is a major north south road and the congestion and emissions from waiting cars will pollute the air near the village. The B2244 is a very dangerous road with cars driving far too fast. If cars are held up at a level crossing between the two bridges it will cause them to go even faster and there will be even more accidents. There are deer along this road which is an added danger when cars will speed off having been held up by a steam train going across a level crossing.
- A fourth level crossing is planned across a bridleway. This is utterly dangerous to anyone that uses the bridleway as horses and steam trains don't mix well! Horses are terrified of steam trains! My children and I ride along this bridleway and it will render it unusable, forcing us to use the lanes which are dangerous enough with cars speeding.
- The proposed new track will go across a flood plain, putting the village in danger of flooding once again.

- I realise we can't object to compulsory purchase orders but it seems unbelievable that they are to be used to force farmers to sell their land when they have absolutely no desire to do so. A few rich men shouldn't be able to buy their way to get something that simply isn't for sale. This is a hobby railway for tourists. There is already a usable steam railway from Tenterden to Bodiam, there is no need to extend it to Robertsbridge. It is not essential infrastructure.

Please therefore take this email as very strong opposition to this proposed scheme.

Yours,

Kate Dipper

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