

**From:** Tessa Jeeves [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 30 May 2018 18:54  
**To:** TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT  
**Subject:** OBJECTION TO THE TWAO AND CPO - MOAT FARM, SALEHURST, EAST SUSSEX

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

We are writing to object to the above TWAO and CPO for the construction of the railway line from Robertsbridge to Bodiam.

We have been local residents for 23 years and are extremely concerned at the enormously detrimental impact this development will have on the residents of the villages of Robertsbridge and Salehurst. In addition it will result in the destruction of ecologically sensitive farmland and the introduction of a granite scar across a remarkable AONB.

We set out our objections below:

1. The building of three level crossings across the A21, the B2244 and Northbridge Street, Robertsbridge will compound the dangers of driving on these already extremely busy roads. The A21 is already at full capacity and any further restrictions on the free flow of traffic will only exacerbate the existing situation.
2. It is clear that this development will lead to a significant increase in flooding risk to an area which was devastated by catastrophic flooding in 2000.
3. Parking is already extremely difficult in Robertsbridge and the narrow roads through the village can barely cope with the existing demands of residents and visitors. Extra traffic will benefit no-one.
4. The risk to the flora and fauna of this environmentally sensitive area along the Moat Farm section of the railway together with the risk of additional flooding of this area is unacceptable.
5. The planned use of DIESEL trains, one of the most polluting engines made, for nearly half of the train services is extremely insensitive and is against current environmental thinking.
6. RVR admitted at the recent Parish Council meeting that local businesses in Robertsbridge would be unlikely to benefit financially since most of the income generated by the construction of the line would be spent in Tenterden and Bodiam. No jobs would be created by the scheme as volunteer personnel are used by RVR.
7. Compulsorily purchasing land for such a scheme from people who have farmed and cared for the local land as well as providing employment seems to be a forcible land grab by people who have little or no connection with the locality.

We have read Alexander Ainslie's letter to the Parish Council dated 29th April, 2018 and this sets out in great detail the key issues of this situation. We totally agree with the views expressed therein and would add our heartfelt objections to this scheme.

Tony Baker and and Tessa Jeeves



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