

**From:** Cherry Michell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 31 May 2018 16:06  
**To:** chris.grayling.mp@parliament.uk  
**Cc:** TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT  
**Subject:** Fwd: OBJECTION - Transport and Works Act Order - Rother Valley Railway

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

> Dear Mr. Grayling

>

> Although I am one of the Statutory Objectors, I Cherry Michell, am writing to you as an individual to personally strongly object to the proposed Transport and Works Act Order which would allow Rother Valley Railway Ltd to build a new railway through our farm between North Bridge Street, Robertsbridge and Bodiam.

>

> I could enlarge on all of the following points but others have done that job. I believe that if this scheme is allowed to go ahead there will be an increased risk of flooding to properties in Robertsbridge and down stream, level crossing on three roads including the main Trunk Road from London to Hastings will be dangerous and cause traffic congestion, the village of Robertsbridge already has a terrible problem with parking and this can only make it worse.

>

> I am now going to tell you about the bit I know most about. I have lived with my family in this valley for my entire life and I love it with all my heart. Moat Farm has been nurtured to give nature a chance to find its own balance with no use of fertiliser or chemicals for more than thirty years. When my father bought the old railway line it was decided not to remove the old embankment but to let it return to nature. This has resulted in a corridor of mature woodland with wonderful fully grown trees along its length and underneath the trees a brilliant variety of plants with water pools and ponds. This in turn has become home to many special creatures from large mammals to invertebrates. On either side of the old track bed is land which is in Natural England's Higher Stewardship. To the south are the water meadows which, apart from the beautiful grasses and wild flowers, have many interesting earthworks which Natural England thought might be connected to the Salehurst Abbey (grade 1 listed) and the restored ancient fish ponds which are very close to the proposed line. To the north are the flower meadows which are magnificent and very species rich because of the lack of pollution from nitrogen and chemicals. They are awash with butterflies, bumble and honey bees, moths etc.

>

> I hope that you understand a little more how unique and special this small part of the High Weald AONB has become since the demise of the light railway which has been derelict now for more years than it was in operation.

>

> I ask you to consider very carefully taking away the home of so many flora and fauna for someone else's hobby. This has been my life's work and it was definitely the 'missing link' of our farm until my father bought it in good faith and he understood that it would never be a Railway again.

>

> Yours sincerely,

>

> Cherry Michell

>

> Mrs. Cherida Michell



>  
>  
>  
>

> Sent from my iPad

---

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.  
For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>

---