#### **TRANSPORT & WORKS ACT 1992**

#### APPLICATION FOR THE PROPOSED

NETWORK RAIL (ESSEX and OTHERS LEVEL CROSSING REDUCTION) ORDER

## **STATEMENT OF CASE ON BEHALF OF:**

Christopher Scott Padfield
Department of Transport Reference: TWA/17/APP/05/OBJ/155

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Statement of Case is submitted by Strutt & Parker LLP (S&P) on behalf of Mr Padfield in connection with his objection made against the proposed Network Rail (Essex and Others Level Crossing Reduction) Order.
- **1.2** Our original objection on behalf of Mr Padfield can be found in our email to the Secretary of State for Transport of 10<sup>th</sup> May 2017, attached as **Appendix A**.
- 1.3 This Statement of Case is submitted in response to a letter dated 25<sup>th</sup> May 2017 from Angela Foster of the Department of Transport under rule 7(3) of the Transport and Works (Inquiries Procedure) Rules 2004.

#### 2. Background

- 2.1 Mr Padfield is the freehold owner of land to the south side of Southend Arterial Road, Great Warley, Brentwood, Essex. The land forms part of Codham Hall Farm, Great Warley, Brentwood, Essex CM13 3JT. The title to the land is registered, along with other land, at the Land Registry under title number: EX653586.
- 2.2 The land at 2.1 is identified on the plan at Appendix B.
- **2.3** The land at 2.1 is occupied and farmed by the Partnership of S&J Padfield and Partners of which Mr Padfield is a partner.
- **2.4** Both Mr Padfield and his land have no connection to the right of way that crosses the railway line at level crossing E28, Whipps Farmers.

### 3. Impact of Order

- **3.1** Network Rail propose to create a new footpath between P381, P382 and P383 on sheets 56 and 57 of the Order. The land between these points is owned by Mr Padfield.
- **3.2** Currently there is no public right of way along this route. Creating a new footpath will take productive agricultural land out of production and will impact on Mr Padfield's ability to use his field.
- **3.3** We can see that Network Rail are trying to connect users of footpath EX/272/178 to the crossing at Puddle Dock which is due to be retained. We suggest in 4.1 an alternative which we consider to be more effective than the section highlighted pink on the plan at Appendix C.
- **3.4** We have not seen any explanation or justification for Network Rail's proposal for a further section of footpath from Puddle Dock to P383. We highlight this in orange on the plan at Appendix C. This seems excessive and ultra vires.
- **3.3** In our submission of the 10<sup>th</sup> May we commented that Mr Padfield believes that the only contact with representatives of Network Rail in this matter has been one telephone call from which he came away believing there were no proposals affecting his land.

### 4. Proposed Alternative

**4.1** We have proposed an alternative footpath route. On the plan at Appendix C we have shown this highlighted in blue. This route connects EX/272/178 to EX/272/179 and thereby provides access to Puddle Dock as well as to EX/272/183 completing the original intentions of Network Rail's proposal whilst impacting upon less land.

- **4.2** We believe that this option will result in a significantly reduced cost for Network Rail to implement both in terms of physical infrastructure required and compensation payable.
- **4.5** We ask you to undertake a site inspection to look at this situation.

#### 5 Summary

On behalf of Mr Padfield we submit that the proposed new footpath is entirely unnecessary and ill-conceived by Network Rail. We request that you strike out their proposal and that an alternative provision is made.

Signed for and on behalf of Mr Padfield:

Alexander Creed for Strutt & Parker LLP

4<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Appendix A: Objection Email 10<sup>th</sup> May 2017

Appendix B: Ownership Plan

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Appendix C: Plan of Network Rail Proposals and Proposed Alternative Route

# Susan Holmes

From:

Alexander Creed

Sent:

10 May 2017 14:05

To:

'transportandworksact@dft.gsi.gov.uk'

Subject:

Network Rail Essex and Others Level Crossing Reduction Order

Attachments:

C Padfield - E28 Whipps Farmers.pdf

Dear Sirs

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We are instructed by Christopher Padfield of S & J Padfield and Partners who are the owners of land affected by the proposal for E28 – Whipps Farmers Level Crossing in the Brentwood District.

We are instructed to object to the proposed creation of a new footpath in our client's fields and we raise objections on the following points:

1. That the combined areas that we have highlighted in pink and orange on the attached drawing (no. MMD - 367516-E28-GEN-005) create a new footpath on our client's land. This new route is also shown between points P381, P382 and P383 on sheets 56 and 57. We consider that this new footpath is entirely unnecessary when a much simpler solution would be to create a new route either going across the blue line as shown on the plan or perhaps, if more practical on the ground, following the appropriate field boundary to give a similar affect.

We understand the point of needing to join footpath EX/272/178 into the existing rights of way network and reconnecting it with footpaths EX/272/179 and EX/272/180 to enable walkers to reach the Puddle Dock Level Crossing.

We believe that this can be much more simply done using an alternative route as suggested highlighted blue.

2. The area of footpath that we have highlighted in orange which appears to be connecting EX/272/180 to EX/272/183 creates an entirely new right of way that has never existed and never been shown to be required. We do not see why this should be acquired over our client's land.

Our client advises us that they have only had one phone call with representatives of Network Rail which they came away from believing that there would be no new footpaths across their landholding. They have no objection to the closure of Level Crossings and fully understand the important safety requirements to do so.

We look forward of hearing the outcome of your consideration of this objection.

Yours faithfully

# **Alexander Creed**

Partner

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