

OBJ/148/W-037

HA3 MANOR FARM

THE PROPOSED NETWORK RAIL (ESSEX AND OTHERS LEVEL CROSSING REDUCTION) ORDER

PUBLIC INQUIRY, RESUMED 25 SEPTEMBER 2018

DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT REFERENCE: TWA/17/APP/05

OBJECTION BY **THE RAMBLERS** TO CLOSURE OF HA3 Manor Farm Level Crossing in the London Borough of Havering

PROOF OF EVIDENCE of **Gordon Bird** of The Cedars, Applegate, Brentwood, Essex CM14 5PL

Introduction

1. My name is Gordon Bird. I am the Ramblers Footpath Secretary covering Brentwood District. I have held this post for eight years. I have been a keen walker for over 50 years. I have lived in Essex for 46 years and have regularly walked the local footpath network.

2. Ms Bullivant was the Ramblers Footpath Secretary covering Havering London Borough in September 2017 (when her proof of evidence was submitted in advance of the Inquiry commencing in October 2017) but during the adjournment she has moved on from her position and involvement with the Ramblers. As noted in paragraph 3 of her proof, her evidence represented the view of the Ramblers Essex Area Footpath Committee.

2.

3. In reviewing Network Rail's proposed closure of HA3 Manor Farm level crossing both Ms Bullivant and I undertook a joint visit, on 1st September 2017. Ms Bullivant's observations from this site visit are listed in her Proof of Evidence at paragraphs 8 to 11, 17 to 22 and 23. My observations mirror hers.

4. I have re-read the proof of evidence of Joan Bullivant on HA3 Manor Farm Crossing (OBJ/148/W-025).

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—I note that I agree with and, through this proof of evidence, formally adopt the statements made by Ms Bullivant in her proof of evidence.

5.

Update to the Lower Thames Crossing

6. Public consultations have commenced regarding the Lower Thames Crossing (LTC) development. I attended the consultation held in Orsett on Tuesday 16th October 2018 and discussed with LTC representatives the plans and proposals for PROW's affected by the development. Although the plans are still subject to change, at this stage Footpath 251 which uses HA3 Manor Farm level crossing is unaffected.

Conclusion

7. Following on from the above, the Ramblers maintains its position, as set out in paragraphs 23 – 25 and 27 of Ms Bullivant's proof of evidence, and, through this proof of evidence, I formally adopt the statements made in these paragraphs on behalf of the Ramblers.

GORDON BIRD

~~22~~¹⁷th October 2018