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**Land**  
PARTNERS

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c/o Transport and Works Order Unit  
General Counsel's Office  
Department for Transport  
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11 May 2017

Dear Sirs,

## **Transport and Works Act 1992**

### **The Transport and Works (Application and Objections Procedure) (England and Wales) Rules 2006**

#### **Proposed Network Rail (Essex and others Level Reduction) Order**

##### **Reference: E47-Bluehouse Crossing**

We write with reference to correspondence (AWP/LE/32028) from Bruton Knowles dated 30<sup>th</sup> March 2017 which has been forwarded to us by our clients, Valerie and Douglas Roberts. Our clients have submitted an objection to the proposed closure of the above crossing and we write to reiterate the points raised.

#### **Safety Concerns on pedestrian use of Pork Lane**

My clients have outlined their concerns about the impact of the proposed new route on pedestrian safety as the proposed exit from the field onto the road brings walkers out onto a point on the road with a sharp blind bend on the north-eastern side. My client has spent many years using Pork Lane in the course of their agricultural work and experienced first-hand the 'rat run' nature of the route. What Network Rail are proposing will move walkers from a point where they take responsibility to cross the railway line which has excellent visibility on a line with regular and infrequent railway traffic to a point on a road where they will encounter irregular yet frequent traffic. It is my clients' view that this displaces the risk and compounds it. We contend that the pedestrian crossing [E47] should remain operational as the best route for pedestrians to use.



I have persistently requested survey data from Network Rail, through their agents, Burton Knowles, to assess that adequate consideration has been given to an empirical assessment of the suitability of the alternative route. I have waited until today to submit our objection as I had hoped for contact from Network Rail; I was contacted by Bridget, a Consent Manager from Network Rail this morning who could not address my queries in detail but advised submitting a formal objection to the order. We have therefore not received any evidence of how the safety of Pork Lane has been assessed.

### **Disease Risk**

My clients are one of the few remaining dairy farms in Essex and have raised concerns over the risk to animal health by increasing the length of footpath across land which they use to produce fodder. Neospora is a threat to cattle which is carried in dog faeces and can then be transferred to the cattle in the feedstuff produced and cause cattle to abort.

We therefore object to the closure of crossing E47 on behalf of our clients.

Yours faithfully,

**Belinda Young MRICS FAAV**

CC. Valerie & Douglas Roberts, Thorpe Park Farm