



Mrs Ruth Plucknett



Date 9th January 2025

Dear Mrs. Plucknett

The Network Rail (Tackley Level Crossing) Order 202[X]

Thank you for your correspondence on the proposed alternative route for the replacement bridleway set out in Network Rail's consultation letter of 5 November 2025, which we received via the Transport Infrastructure Planning Unit (TIPU) on 9 December 2025.

We appreciate the clear and constructive comments you have provided, as well as the local context regarding the long-standing informal use of the section shown on Sheet 1 of the Order Plans by walkers and horse riders since at least 2002. This information is valuable to Network Rail in fulfilling our consultation obligations under the Transport and Works Act Order (TWAO) process.

We note your concerns regarding any potential urbanisation of the route, including lighting, resurfacing, or enclosure. We recognise the importance of preserving the rural character of the area and the points you have raised concerning potential impacts on landscape, wildlife, and different users of the route.

To support these considerations, Network Rail is following Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) Highway Authority guidance on how the new bridleway should be constructed. This guidance is specifically intended to ensure that any provision is appropriate for its rural setting and suitable for shared use by walkers, riders, and other non-motorised users.

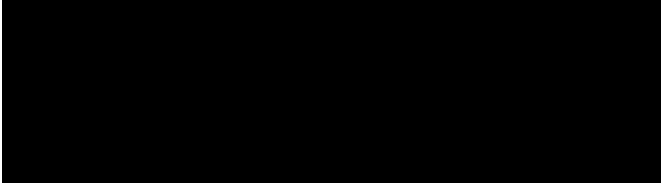
In line with your concerns about possible misuse by motor vehicles, we are also considering the installation of a bollard at an appropriate location along the new bridleway to prevent unauthorised motor vehicle access, while still ensuring safe and unobstructed use by walkers and horse riders.

The highway authority have approved the installation of a free draining naturally binding stone that is suitable for the surface layer which is similar to the existing bridleway (Tackley BR2) surface, suitable for users, including equestrians, cyclists, and pedestrians. Please be assured that Network Rail has no proposals to introduce lighting or urban-style surfacing along this part of the route. We will be installing the necessary access gating to enable the public to use additional footpaths and the farmer to access their land.

Your comments will be fully recorded as part of the TWAO consultation evidence and forwarded to TIPU to assist in their consideration of the Tackley Level Crossing Order.

Thank you again for taking the time to provide your views. Your contribution supports the decision-making process and helps ensure that any alternative provision remains consistent with the rural environment and the needs of its users.

Yours sincerely,



David Wilson

Head of Consents and Environmental Planning