

From: 
To: [TRANSPORTINFRASTRUCTURE](#)
Subject: Objection to Proposed Location of Bridleway Re-routing at Tackley, Oxfordshire
Date: 23 January 2024 13:46:32

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Good afternoon,

As a long-standing resident of Tackley village, a keen walker, a dog owner and former horse rider, I wish to lodge my concern at the proposed location of the re-routing of the current bridleway at Tackley. In order for riders to gain access to the existing footpath, the proposed re-routing of the bridleway runs alongside the railway line, which will mean that the horses will be within a few metres of a live rail line, with high-speed trains passing them at regular intervals during the daylight hours when the path will be in use. This is highly dangerous, as horses have their own minds, and are not machines, so riders cannot guarantee their steeds behaviour when presented with a dangerous situation. As the horse is naturally a flight animal, they are likely to try an run from a situation that they find dangerous, with no regard for any other users of the bridleway that might be near them at the time. This is an accident waiting to happen, and I have grave concerns about the mix of horses, walkers, dogs and high-speed trains. The damage a terrified horse could do along this corridor is unthinkable. We also have many local young people who ride their ponies on the local bridleways, and it would be foolish to consider putting their safety at risk.

The previous way that all groups accessed the bridleway was to cross the railway line itself, which was considered too perilous to keep open - I wonder how running a bridleway alongside a live railway line is any safer, particularly as the proposed bridleway is over 1km long, so will take a considerable amount of time to negotiate, unlike the original crossing which could have been negotiated in a couple of minutes. This gives a huge amount of opportunity for incidents to happen.

In the NR07 consultation report they mention the subway and developers bridge, but there has been no consultation on an infield or northern route (so they haven't reasonably considered other options). A northern route would allow all bridleway users to cross the line safely, without the need for stairs/lifts either.

According to the documents that Network Rail have published, there has been no consultation with Oxfordshire County Council regarding public rights of way. This particular bridleway is extremely well used, and valued, by the people of Tackley. I also believe that whilst Network Rail are saying that the bridge will remain open for permissive footpath access, hidden in the small print is a note saying that the access remain until ticket machines are installed or that Network Rail decide to withdraw it. This is huge concern as it could mean that the bridleway will become busier and the potential for serious incidents to happen is increased further.

I hope that the views of both local residents, and in particular, the local horse riders will be taken into account when deciding what should happen with this proposed re-routing. I believe that the current proposals are not a reasonable solution, and that more thought needs to be put into the matter before a final decision is made.

Yours sincerely,

Roz Hicks

The Re-routing of the Bridleway - objections need to be in by 26th Jan
to transportinfrastructure@dft.gov.uk

Please email if you can. I have been advised that the following should be included:

1. Who you are.
2. Why do you feel you have a right to reply e.g. local resident, horse rider, walker, land owner etc.
3. Why you are objecting.

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