From: [redacted]
To: TRANSPORTINFRASTRUCTURE
Subject: Network Rail Stalybridge to Diggle TWA Order
Date: 18 December 2025 18:41:58

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Dear Sirs

When I worked for Oldham Council in the 1980s and 1990s, I was involved in developing a Tourism Strategy for Saddleworth. We recognised how important the area and particularly Uppermill was in attracting visitors. We recognised its attractiveness and wished to see it developed with new investment in infrastructure and amenities such as the Huddersfield canal, the museum, heritage sites, shops, bars and restaurants, but in such a way that visitors felt welcomed and safe. We also felt the needs of local residents were and still are of paramount importance.

One of the most important aspects of developing the area was connectivity between all the different attractions and features by using existing footpaths and developing new ones if required (such as the former Delph Donkey railway line from Oldham through Uppermill and on to Delph).

I am extremely concerned that if the footbridge is not built on footpath 209 at Moorgate Crossing, much of this connectivity will be lost. Tourists, walkers and in particular local residents will be severely inconvenienced by having to go a long way round onto footpath 244. This also appears to me to be a much less safe route as it uses part of the relatively busy Ladcastle Road and, in particular, emerges onto the extremely busy A670 Oldham Road where there is no decent footway on that side, nor does it appear possible to construct one or erect a safety barrier.

I recognise Network Rail must consider costs **but this should never be at the inconvenience and particularly the safety of the general public.**

Although I now live in Stockport, I visit Uppermill at least monthly and I have seen for myself the harm that this proposed footpath closure would cause.

Mr Leslie G, Coop

[redacted]