

Caroline O'Neill

032/158

From: Robin Cole
Sent: 11 May 2017 22:46
To: TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT
Subject: Network Rail Anglia Level Crossing Reductions TWA Order E48 Wheatsheaf
Attachments: Railcrossing objection.pdf

Dear Sirs,

Please find attached letter of objection to your proposal to close Railcrossing E48 Wheatsheaf and re-route a footpath.

Kind regards
Robin Cole



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11th May 2017

Secretary of State for Transport
c/o Transport and Works Act Orders Unit
General Counsel's Office
Dept for Transport Zone 1/18
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London SW1P 4DR

Dear Sir,

Proposed closure of Railcrossing E48 Wheatsheaf

We write to object to the Network Rail's proposal to close the railcrossing identified on drawing no MMD-367516-E48-GEN-003 as E48 Wheatsheaf.

We have lived at [REDACTED] Wrabness since 2001 and elsewhere in the village of Wrabness since 1989. [REDACTED] close to the existing rail bridge shown in photo 2.

We object to the proposed re-routeing of the footpath on the following grounds:-

- 1) As owners of [REDACTED] we are currently in negotiation with Robert Hutley with the intention to purchase part of the field adjacent to our property so as to extend our garden. The proposed creation of a right of way borders our existing property. If we were successful in gaining this extra land, then the footpath would cross our garden.
- 2) The route of the proposed right of way crosses an existing drain from our property to a soakaway situated in the field beyond. We are concerned that if maintenance be required to this drainage system under the land that the footpath occupies, gaining permission to do so could be difficult and long-winded to obtain, awkward to administer and any work carried out would be inconvenient for path users.
- 3) We have concerns that our property will be more vulnerable to burglary as a result of the establishment of a permanent footpath adjoining our property to the rear. This is a very rural area and we have already suffered a burglary recently. We believe that giving public access to the rear of our property would make it more vulnerable. The land is currently privately owned and therefore any trespassers can be challenged. This would not be the case if it were a public footpath.

- 4) A footpath from the road by Oak Wood Burial Ground to Church Road next to [REDACTED] serves no purpose whatsoever, since this journey can be made better on foot by using the road. Certainly in the seasons other than summer, the ground becomes very muddy and wet – not a good walking surface at all. Furthermore, walkers would enjoy better views of Wrabness Church and the Stour Estuary from the quiet roadway.

We object to the proposed closure of the rail crossing on the following grounds:-

- 1) There have been no accidents, near misses, or misuse between 2011 and 2015 (as stated in the proposal document prepared by Network Rail) or since (as far as we are aware).
- 2) The visibility is very good at the crossing and, since it is a country location, there is no noise to interfere with the sound of the train approaching.
- 3) Network Rail have already recently spent funds improving this crossing for users, with new steps up to the track each side and hand rails. This suggests they had intended future use of the crossing for some considerable time.

We would be delighted to discuss our objections in greater detail should the need or opportunity arise. In the meantime, we remain,

Yours faithfully,

Teresa & Robin Cole

[REDACTED]