

From: [REDACTED]
To: [TRANSPORTINFRASTRUCTURE](#); [REDACTED]
Subject: Network Rail Stalybridge to Diggle TWA Order: closure of FP209
Date: 23 February 2026 12:21:34

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Moorgate Crossing objections

Dear DFT Team,

I am writing again (with some added comments as below) to object most strongly to the proposed closure of the public right of way (ref FP209) at the Moorgate 'Dark Lane' level crossing which traverses the trans-pennine rail route in Uppermill between Moorgate and Ladcastle Road.

This has been a public footpath for centuries. I have been using this footpath for my entire life since childhood, now over 60 years.

The alternative route suggested by Network Rail, is to use the footpath FP244, which is a long detour, and is exceedingly dangerous due to it being in a very steep clough, which is often slippery due to lichen and leaves and is often prone to flooding. The location would also be very difficult to maintain and is currently almost inaccessible as it is badly overgrown with trees, shrubs and general natural undergrowth. At the narrow foot of this route, there are houses adjacent to the entrance onto the main road which requires permanent vehicular access to the rear of the houses, and therefore cannot be gated in any way. This means that strangers or children using this route could unknowingly emerge suddenly onto the busy main road (which also has no footpath on the northern edge of the road) and incur a fatal road traffic accident.

In addition to the above, I personally suffer from [REDACTED] and would find ascending this alternative route very difficult. Although I am relatively fit otherwise, and regularly enjoy fellwalking, I am reminded that just over two years ago, I slipped on a similar (and in fact less steep) path, from almost stationary, and I fell down hard on my left shoulder which took over 9 months for severe tendon damage to heal. A similar injury could easily be sustained on the proposed path FP244, by myself or any other 'mature' or elderly pedestrians.

My elderly father is [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I would therefore be grateful for you to consider the above in relation to maintaining public access to FP209 at Moorgate. If I am available to attend the public enquiry in due course, I will gladly do so as a witness.

kind regards

Michael Hopkinson
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]