

From: [REDACTED]
To: [TRANSPORTINFRASTRUCTURE](#)
Subject: Network Network Rail Stalybridge to Diggle TWA Order Rail Stalybridge to Diggle TWA Order
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Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing to protest about Network Rail's decision not to build a foot bridge over the railway line at Moorgate effectively closing the footpath FP 209.

A footbridge is fully justified because:

FP209 is an ancient pathway going back to at least Saxon times. It should not be closed to save Network Rail money.

FP244 is suggested as an alternative but it is not a good one. I write from personal experience, when first mooted I went to explore it from Ladcastle Road, I found the top section to be choked with nettles & brambles. It was obviously little used. People had literally voted with their feet and used FP209 instead.

Since then I have climbed FP244 from the bottom end which is on the the A670 at Wade Lock. Whilst work has been done to clear the footpath I found it to still to be a poor alternative. It is much steeper than FP209 climbing up to Ladcastle Road in about a tenth of a mile. Whereas to go from the A670 via FP209 one covers 2 tenths of a mile, the gradient is therefore on average half as steep. FP244 includes some steep steps which I found difficult to climb and I would not like to come down them.

The very worst thing about FP244 is that coming down it one exits on to a pavement no more than 2 feet wide on the main road through Uppermill A670. Visibility out on to the road is poor and as a motorist, I'm aware that visibility up the footpath is also poor. This seems to me to be an accident waiting to happen. A child could very easily run down the path and crossing the narrow path, be under the wheels of a bus or an HGV before either they, or the driver, knew about it. My experience is that, if something can happen, it will. So, increasing the usage of FP244 should be opposed on this ground alone and therefore FP209 should remain open.

Other arguments are that FP209 provides easy and safe access to Moorgate Quarry which has been developed as a nature reserve and cycling venue. Having invested in this area I am not surprised that Saddleworth Parish Council are, I understand, also opposing this plan. I support their submission.

The quarry provides an onward path onto Wharmton Hill and to the footpaths over Saddleworth Golf course. These are popular recreational footpaths which I, and many others, often use and it is perverse to make access to them more difficult.

I am aware that there is a campaign group who will have developed these ideas more fully. I am completely behind the campaign.

I would be grateful if you would use your authority to instruct Network Rail to reconsider its plan to close FP209 and reverse its present position. Network Rail should provide a footbridge at Millgate.

Yours Sincerely

Roger Williams