

4th December 2025

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Secretary of State for Transport
c/o Transport Infrastructure Planning Unit,
Department for Transport,
Great Minster House,
33 Horseferry Road,
London,
SW1P 4DR

Dear Secretary of State

RE: Network Rail Stalybridge to Diggle TWA Order

I am a regular hill walker of 50 years or more and a walker of moors and paths in the Saddleworth area of Greater Manchester for at least 45 years.

I am writing to object to the possible closure of the public footpath for Moorgate crossing of the rail line. The reasons for this objection are first; public rights of way are essential for the physical and mental health of all citizens should never be closed when a simple expedient of a footpath bridge over the line would allow it to be retained. I believe that an original design had a bridge but subsequent plans have removed it. I note that a footbridge [plus lift] has been built at Horton in Ribblesdale station which has far fewer trains but as many pedestrians doing the 3 Peaks walk. If Horton can have a bridge then why not Uppermill.

Second; the suggested alternative path SADD 244 is completely inadequate. While both are designated footpaths on definitive maps 244 is a far more dangerous, with a steep set of stairs which are slippery in the wet, a stony bed which becomes a stream in wet weather and will wash away any hardcore placed to improve it, furthermore when it arrives at the main road in Uppermill it does so on to a busy road without any pavement. The Moorgate crossing is better and safer.

Yours faithfully

Christopher Clissold