

From: [REDACTED]
To: [TRANSPORTINFRASTRUCTURE](#)
Subject: Transport and Works Act 1992 - Network Rail (Stalybridge to Diggle) Enhancements Order. Proposal to close Moorgate Crossing Uppermill
Date: 18 December 2025 15:01:42

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Dear Sir/Madam,

Diane and I have lived in the Grasscroft / Mossley area for over 40 years. We are keen walkers and regularly use the footpaths and bridleways in the area.

One of our favourite walks takes us along Ladcastle Road for the wonderful views over Uppermill and the surrounding hills, then along footpath 209, known locally as Dark Lane, and into Uppermill. We often combine this with a return walk along the Huddersfield Canal towpath or other footpaths and bridleways. Many of our friends also use this path as it provides a safe and convenient route in and out of Uppermill. It is often used by other people as part of a short circular walk taking in Ladcastle Road and the canal towpath.

The Local Authority and other agencies have worked extremely hard in recent years to support the local community and local businesses. Several million pounds of public funding have been used to restore the Huddersfield Canal to navigation and create bridlepaths and cycleways along former railway lines. Other initiatives have supported local businesses more directly. Visitor numbers have soared as a result and local businesses have thrived.

Network Rail's current proposal to close footpath 209 at Moorgate Halt undermines these initiatives. It will have a serious negative impact on the area's appeal for locals and visitors.

Although we accept the need to close the level crossing for safety reasons, we had always had always understood that a new footbridge would be provided at this point. This would allow the direct and historic route along Dark Lane to be maintained.

In our view, the current proposal to upgrade of footpath 244 to replace footpath 209 is totally inappropriate and inadequate. This footpath is rarely used these days because it is steep, poorly maintained and less convenient, being further away from Uppermill centre. Although some upgrading of this path may be welcome, it will never be an adequate replacement for Dark Lane. It will still be steep and difficult to use by many people. There are also public safety issues at the point where the path meets Oldham Road, Uppermill (where there is no pavement) and to a lesser extent where it joins Ladcastle Road.

Network Rail's proposal to close Moorgate Crossing will result in the loss of one of the area's most important historic routes. It will have a serious negative impact on the local area and Uppermill in particular.

We respectfully ask you to reconsider your proposals.

John Billington and Diane Mellor

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [TRANSPORTINFRASTRUCTURE](#)
Subject: Transport and Works Act 1992 - Network Rail (Stalybridge to Diggle) Enhancements Order. Proposals for Midge Hill and Wright's Mill Overbridge, Mossley
Date: 18 December 2025 14:47:11

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Dear Sir/Madam,

Diane and I moved into our house [REDACTED]. We have a number of comments about your proposals to upgrade the railway:

1. [REDACTED]
2. We have no objections to Midge Hill and the bridlepath adjacent to [REDACTED] being used for pedestrian-only access by engineers, surveyors and other people working on the Transpennine Upgrade;
3. However, we would strongly object to the same route being used by construction vehicles. Midge Hill itself is a steep and narrow tarmac surfaced country lane serving 3 houses and [REDACTED]. Although it is used by ourselves, neighbours, delivery vans and farm vehicles, this use is very light. It was never intended to be used by construction vehicles. The section of bridleway adjacent to [REDACTED] is even steeper and very narrow. It could not be used by any vehicles without a costly major upgrade. We would be totally opposed to any such upgrade because of the disturbance it would cause us and our neighbours. It would also have a huge environmental impact and ruin the special rural character of the area.
4. Finally, we are strongly opposed to the current design for the reconstruction of Wright's Mill overbridge (MVL3-20). Although we accept that the bridge will need to be reconstructed to provide additional headroom, we consider that the current design does not adequately reflect the character of this historic bridge and listed building. At the very least, we feel that the new design should reflect the original arched structure.

If you need any further information from us about our legal interest in land at Midge Hill, please let us know.

Your faithfully,

John Billington and Diane Mellor

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]