

From: [REDACTED]
To: [TRANSPORTINFRASTRUCTURE](#)
Subject: Objection to the re-routing of the Tackley, Oxfordshire Bridleway.
Date: 24 January 2024 14:09:33

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To whom it may concern,

I wish to strongly object to the re-routing of the Bridleway in Tackley, Oxfordshire, by Network Rail.

Whilst I appreciate that there are situations whereby bridleways can run alongside railways, this unfortunately is not the case in Tackley with the proposed route. The bridleways they have used as a comparison do not match what we are being asked to do.

Firstly, what used to be a low risk Bridleway, whereby we used the Railway Crossing (ringing the signalman before crossing) has now been made into a high risk situation. The Bridleway is now suggested to run for the length of 1km, in a fenced corridor, with a road surface, 4 metres away from the high speed trains which will be at eye level. This has made the bridleway an extremely high risk and dangerous situation.

The consultation has also not been carried out correctly.

The consultation includes historic information from when the subway was the preferred option, however since that option has been removed there is no detail in the consultation documents regarding the cost or quotes of alternative options. These consultation documents have not been reviewed since the subway option was removed. Therefore, the process has not been thorough, clear or open enough to people.

A wide variety of well qualified equestrians have continually expressed their concerns with the new route. Including the Bicester Pony Club who deem the proposed route unsafe for any of their members when they risk assessed it. The old route was deemed safe and usable, even when crossing the line as there are ways to mitigate - for example having additional adults there.

There have been no reported horse incidents with a level crossing. The risks were manageable by the riders, however the risks have now shifted to the new bridleway suggestion and are insurmountable.

There is no information in the consultation documents that suggest anyone has any qualifications to carry out this risk assessment as horses are not specifically mentioned.

We were told that quotes were obtained for the lineside route, the in-field route and the northern route yet none of these other than the lineside route appear in any of the documentation. Have they reasonably considered other options?

The lineside cost is £280,000. The cost of the land they are purchasing is £10,000. There is no way that that much money needs to be spent. The report specifies a road surface, but it is a bridleway - this is not a safe surface to lay down. It states that Tax Payers money will be spent efficiently - clearly not the case. If so, they would not be spending money on an unnecessary and unrequired and dangerous surface.

The documentation throughout has been vague and misleading. The publicity shows the bridleway running parallel one side, and being moved to run parallel the other side. This is not the case. The existing bridleway has an entire field between it and the railway - very safe.

The consultation has not followed the memorandum of understanding between Network Rail and IPRO.

With this new suggested route, the bridleway will run in a straight line for 1km, within 4 metres of high speed trains. These trains will run at horse eye level (they will feel like they are coming at them). There is no pressure release. Horses are fight or flight animals. This will scare them and they will run regardless of any other users being in the corridors (walkers, kids on bikes, dogs etc). An accident will happen. If the surface is road grade that will make it slippery which would be even worse. The example bridleways they have supplied do not match this example, they all veer away from the railway for a period of time - we do not have that option.

The highway code has recently released new rules that say cars must pass at least 2 metres away and less than 10mph from horses - yet the trains will be travelling at 100mph +. You can communicate with a car driver if you have a problem, a train just wont stop.

Tackley Estate (the land owners) have been open to discussions regarding alternative routes (which have not been disclosed in the consultation documents) and they still are. There are much safer, viable options.

I therefore wish to OBJECT to this dangerous and unsafe solution.

Please support us so I, and my children can be safe.

Yours Sincerely

Alexandra Machin



Active horse rider,
Secretary to the Bicester and Warden Hill Pony Club
Mother to active young horse riders

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