

From: [REDACTED]
To: [TRANSPORTINFRASTRUCTURE](#)
Subject: Tackley TWA0
Date: 23 January 2024 21:41:35

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Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing to you to lodge an official complaint to the Network Rail (NR) proposal of a footbridge over the line and the closure of access to the existing bridleway at Tackley, Oxfordshire.

I am a resident of Tackley village and regularly use the railway services and existing bridleway and I have significant concerns about the NR proposal. These concerns were raised and highlighted to NR during public consultations they held in the village last year, but evidently my points of concern have been disregarded.

My two principal concerns are the lack of actual benefits offered by the proposal to the local community and the restriction of access to historic bridleway 379/2/10.

Walking the countryside has been one of my favourite pastimes for most of my adult life. The fresh air, wildlife and open space has provided a freedom from the stresses of life that, for me and many others in this community, are unparalleled. And consequently, I have a strong objection to the closure access to the existing historic bridleway and being made to walk next to the railway line, taking my chances alongside horses that will inevitably be spooked by such close passing trains.

NR make a number of claims to "support" their justification in relocating the bridleway but none of them hold water. The bottom line is that this is a dangerous solution for horses, their riders and any pedestrians (especially children and dogs) that happen to be near a fast-passing freight train (and if you haven't stood near to one as it passes at full speed, I can assure you they are both fast and loud as they pass within a few metres of you!).

When closing the crossing NR made promises to this community about what they would do to maintain access to the countryside, with these proposals those promises are now being broken. Whilst companies breaking promises to communities, and thinking they are irrelevant, is nothing new but it is bitterly disappointing and should be a consideration when making a decision on their requests.

The NR07 consultation report lists just 5 benefits (2.1.1 to 2.1.5) in support of its proposal, which is very few given the dangers that would come as a consequence of granting this proposal. 2.1.1. is a historical note and not actually a benefit. 2.2.2 and 2.2.3 are the same benefit listed twice. 2.2.4 highlights the potential to increase the Birmingham to Oxford services, however if you look at the recent history of services stopping at Tackley you will see that they have only reduced the services, further isolating this remote village. Given that, it feels improbable that NR would follow through with this "benefit". 2.2.5 is the safety improvement of a bridge Vs a level crossing. So, actually, they are only giving 2 benefits, one of safety and one of additional freight trains through the station (which, actually, offers greater noise pollution to the area, so while this has a positive benefit to the economy it has a negative impact on the community).

To put forward such weak benefits to mask the real reason for this proposal is very disappointing. The real reason for this proposal is both clear and simple - in the short term this is the cheapest and easiest solution they can implement. History is littered with examples where executing a cheap, easy and short-term solution to solve a long-term problem ultimately led to further issues and expenses down the line. And in that scenario, it is the people of this community that will suffer. I am urging you to reject this proposal and force NR to put forward a suitable long-term plan that removes danger altogether, not just move it from their doorstep to their next-door neighbours.

Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns and I hope that they offer you some insight into the negative impact this proposal would have on the local community. If you would like any further comment please get in touch and I would be happy to discuss it further with yourself or one of your colleagues.

Best regards
Dan Walton

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