

080/124

**Angela Foster**

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**From:** Dave webber  
**Sent:** 10 May 2017 23:30  
**To:** TRANSPORTANDWORKSACT  
**Subject:** Network Rail Anglia Level Crossing Reductions TWA Order  
**Attachments:** BSDFA Letter re Anglia Rail Crossing Proposals MAY17.docx

Submission from the Bishop's Stortford & District Footpaths Association

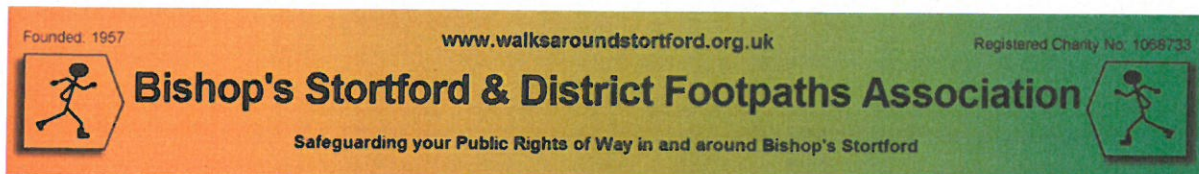
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DBJ/124



Secretary of State for Transport  
c/o Transport and Works Act Orders Unit  
General Counsel's Office,  
Department for Transport,  
Zone 1/18,  
Great Minster House,  
London, SW1P 4DR

10<sup>th</sup> May 2017

Dear Sir,

#### **Network Rail Anglia Level Crossing Reductions TWA Order**

I am writing on behalf of the Bishop's Stortford & District Footpaths Association (BSDFA) with regard to above mentioned level crossing closure proposals. By way of background, BSDFA was founded in 1957 to preserve, protect and maintain the public Rights of Way network and rural verges in the Hertfordshire and Essex border area around Bishop's Stortford.

Our comments are specific to the three rail crossing located to the south of Bishop's Stortford – H05 (Pattens), H06 (Gilston) and, H08 (Johnsons).

#### **H05 Pattens (Footpath - Thorley 022).**

The BSDFA objects to the proposed closure of this level crossing.

This is a popular route for walkers heading to the Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust nature reserve at Thorley Wash and presents the most direct route from Thorley. With planned new residential development to the south of Bishop's Stortford this direct access to the nature reserve and river Stort is likely to experience increased footfall.

We have several concerns regarding Network Rail's proposals for this crossing:

- the diversion is long at approximately 1 km and is routed through an area that is a designated flood plain and subject to flooding.
- pedestrians are routed under the railway by way of an existing underpass. To make it fit for purpose the underpass would require excavation. We are concerned that such action would make it susceptible to regular flooding making the footpath impassable in wet conditions.
- in the event of closure due to flooding pedestrians would be presented with a significant diversion of over 2km along the busy B1529 either north (via Thorley footpath 005) or south (via Spellbrook Lane East). This would present an unacceptable diversion.

**H06 Gilston (Footpath - Thorley 007).**

No objection.

**H08 Johnsons Crossing (Footpath - Bishop's Stortford 060).**

No objection.

Yours sincerely

David Webber  
Chair  
The Bishop's Stortford & District Footpaths Association  
c/o 14 Grosvenor Close,  
Bishop's Stortford, CM23 4JP