

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

From: Michelle Smith [REDACTED]

Sent: 20 May 2026 08:48

To: TRANSPORTINFRASTRUCTURE <TRANSPORTINFRASTRUCTURE@dft.gov.uk>

Cc: TranspennineEngagement@networkrail.co.uk; M Clough [REDACTED]

Subject: OBJECTION: Network Rail (Stalybridge to Diggle (Saddleworth) Enhancements) Order – Plot 14-006

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Dear Transport and Works Act Orders Unit,

RE: The Network Rail (Stalybridge to Diggle (Saddleworth) Enhancements) Order

Objector Status: Tenant / Lawful Occupier of Land

Affected Parcel: Plot Number 14-006 (Sheet 16, Saddleworth/Diggle)

We are writing to formally lodge our objection to the proposed draft Order regarding the temporary possession and use of Plot Number 14-006 for a construction working site and access route.

We are tenants renting this specific plot of grassland, which we actively use for grazing our two horses. We have only recently been made aware of this application and was not directly served a notice as occupiers.

We object to the temporary land take on the following grounds:

- 1. Severe Financial Detriment & Destroyed Infrastructure:** Over the last year, we have invested heavily in upgrading this specific site to make it suitable and safe for our livestock. This includes the construction of an access road, the restoration of historic dry stone walls, the excavation and levelling of the hillside in preparation for outbuildings. Works also included laying road planings across the access road and building area, as well as the purchase and installation of 24 x 12 ft mobile wooden stables and two storage shelters. A temporary land take will completely disrupt, damage, or force the removal of this expensive infrastructure, causing us massive financial loss.

2. **Lack of Alternative Land:** We occupy approximately 4 acres of this parcel specifically for our two horses. There is absolutely no alternative grazing land available for rent or lease within the surrounding area. Forcing us off this plot leaves us with nowhere to legally or safely relocate our horses.
3. **Animal Welfare & Safety:** The introduction of heavy machinery, track embankment works, and active construction site hazards directly adjacent to the rail line will cause extreme stress to our horses. It will render the field entirely unsafe for holding livestock, compromising their physical and psychological well-being.
4. **Long-Term Land Degradation:** Heavy construction vehicle movements on this plot will severely compact the soil structure and destroy the grass quality. The land cannot easily or quickly be returned to a safe, fertile state for horse grazing after possession ends.

Due to the absence of any alternative relocation options in the region and the heavy private investment already sunk into this site, we strongly urge Network Rail to alter its construction access strategy to utilize alternative routes that do not destroy active equestrian facilities.

Please acknowledge receipt of this objection and keep us informed of upcoming public inquiry dates.

Yours faithfully,

Michelle Smith & Mark Clough

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