



**ramblers**  
at the heart of walking

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11 September 2018

*For the attention of the Inspector, Mr Alan Beckett*

Dear Sir

**In the matter of the Transport and Works Act 1992  
The Proposed Network Rail (Essex and Others Level Crossing Reduction) Order  
NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK—NOTE BY THE RAMBLERS**

Interested parties are invited to make representations by today's date following the revised National Planning Policy Framework which came into force on 24 July 2018. The Ramblers comment as follows.

The Ramblers see the updates to the section on sustainable transport (Section 9, "Promoting Sustainable Transport") as a clear re-emphasis by the Government of the importance of sustainable modes of transport and, for the reasons we have made clear during the Inquiry, we consider that where suitable and convenient alternative routes have not been provided, Network Rail's proposals will reduce the use of sustainable modes of transport in terms of walking and cycling.

Furthermore, we note that the revised NPPF has added an express reference to "highway safety" in paragraph 104(c), which we read as a re-emphasis of the importance the Government places on ensuring new development does not inappropriately increase safety risks on the highways. Where we have objected to alternative routes on highway safety grounds, we do not consider Network Rail's proposals to align with this part of the revised NPPF.

Yours faithfully

EUGENE SUGGETT  
SENIOR POLICY OFFICER  
THE RAMBLERS