



Mr and Mrs Bagshaw
30 Pretymen Avenue
Bacton
Stowmarket
IP14 4NY

Network Rail
James Forbes House
27 Great Suffolk St
London
SE1 0NS

24 May 2018

Dear Mr and Mrs Bagshaw

**The Network Rail (Suffolk Level Crossing Reduction) Order
Level crossing S69 Bacton**

Persona Associates have passed to us your concerns that your communications with Network Rail were not communicated to the relevant people so you missed out on the objection period. You also attach a copy of an email that was sent to the Department of Transport TWA Orders Unit on 6 October 2017. We regret that we have not been made aware of this email before now and hence you have not had a response from us. Unfortunately, the TWA Orders Unit has advised us that they have no record of receiving this email.

As you are aware, Network Rail emailed you on 25 September 2017 following our telephone conversation the previous week, confirming that you should still submit an objection via the TWA Order Unit to lodge your concerns on our proposals. On the telephone call we discussed your email to Bruton Knowles dated 1 April 2017 and that we could discuss potential mitigation to seek to address your concerns.

We note that you wrote to Bruton Knowles to express your concerns on 1 April 2017, following receipt of the Rule 15 landowners notices on 27 March 2017 and have attached this email as part of your objection to the TWA Order Unit.

We address each of the points you raise in that email in detail below.

You are concerned about security. You say that the proposed footpath will mean that the foot traffic will pass within 2.7m of your front bedrooms and the front lounge, which you feel will have a dramatic impact on your privacy, affecting the overall value of your bungalow. You are also concerned about the security of cars parked in the garage area. We understand that this is a concern for you, however, there is evidence on site that members of the public are already using the access to the garages to get to the lane that runs north/south to the rear of your bungalow. There is currently a gap in the fencing adjacent to the garages that provides access to the

field and there is evidence of a well-trodden path around the field to the lane. With regards to security of vehicles in the garage area, there are currently no security arrangements in place and the area is open for anyone to access via Pretyman Avenue or from the field/lane via the existing gap in the fence.

You raise a concern about the well-being of the general public walking down a footpath where there is vehicular usage. Network Rail's proposal directs pedestrians to use the existing footway to access the garage area. It is reasonable to expect that drivers using the garages will be travelling at low speed and will expect pedestrians (including other car owners) to be using this area and to take caution.

You ask who will have the responsibility to maintain the footpath over your land. Under the Order Network Rail will be responsible for maintaining the footpath for 12 months, following which the new footpath will be adopted and maintained by the local highway authority. This means that the land will remain in your ownership but the surface of the footpath will be maintained by the highway authority.

You are concerned that there will be a significant increase in mud being trodden up the driveway and also that there will be an increase in dog excrement not being cleared up by the owners. The path currently being used around the field is narrow and muddy. Network Rail's proposal will provide a 2 m wide grass surfaced path which will be less likely to lead to mud being trafficked into the garage area. In addition, despite evidence of the public currently walking this area, we have not seen or had reports of any existing problems with mud or dog excrement.

We hope that our response has provided sufficient clarity on the points you have made in your objection and has addressed your concerns. If you require any further information or wish to discuss the points you have raised, please don't hesitate to contact me directly or email Anglialevelcrossings@networkrail.co.uk.

Yours sincerely



Elizabeth Noonan
Anglia Level Crossing Reduction Team, Network Rail