

NOTICE OF ORDER

HIGHWAYS ACT 1990, SECTIONS 119A AND SECTION 120(3)

Part of Footpath SR49, Pilgrims Way (Otford, Kent) Rail Crossing
Diversion Order 2019

Notice is hereby given that the above referenced Order has been made by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for determination. An Inspector will be appointed by the Secretary of State to determine the Order.

The **start date** for the above Order is 24 November 2020

Consideration of the Order will take the form of a virtual public inquiry.

The Inquiry will be held on 4 May 2021 at 10.00am.

The effect of the Order, if confirmed without modifications, will be to Divert the entire width of that part of public footpath SR49, Parish of Otford running from grid reference TQ553304, 159201 at the eastern side of the railway (and to the west of the boundaries of the rear gardens of nos. 34 and 36 Tudor Drive) and running up steps and through a stile and across the existing railway crossing in a west-north-westerly direction for 20 metres, then down steps and through another stile to (grid reference TQ 553282, 159207), on the western side of the railway. The width of this part of public footpath SR49 is approximately 1.5 metres.

A new public footpath numbered SR49 in the Parish of Otford over land owned by the operator of the railway commencing at grid reference TQ553304, 159201 and heading in a northerly, westerly, then north-westerly direction for approximately 31 metres to grid reference TQ 553295, 159230 then turning in a west-south-westerly direction and running over a stepped footbridge crossing the railway for approximately 16 metres to grid reference TQ553279, 159225, then turning in a south-south-easterly direction for approximately 19 metres to grid reference TQ553282, 159207, where it will re-join the original line of public footpath SR49 as it links to public footpath SR59, to the east of the boundary of the rear garden of 15 Horfield Close. The new public footpath will have a width of 2 metres.

Any queries relating to this Order should be referred to Yvonne Oddy at The Planning Inspectorate, Rights of Way Section, Room 3/A Eagle Wing, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6PN. Telephone: 0303 444 5463. Email:

yvonne.oddy@planninginspectorare.gov.uk. Please quote reference number ROW/3201659 on all correspondence.

Any person wishing to view the statements of case and other documents relating to this Order, please telephone Mrs Maria McLauchlan on 03000 413420 or contact via email at maria.mclauchlan@kent.gov.uk. The Council offices are currently not open to the public and it is unlikely they will be open to the public until at least Easter 2021.

Timetable for sending in statements of case and proofs of evidence

Within 8 weeks of the start date by [by 19 January 2021]

Network Rail and Kent County Council must ensure their statement of case is received by the Secretary of State. As soon as possible after the deadline, the Secretary of State will send a copy (excluding copies of any supporting documents - these will be available to view at the Authority's offices) to everyone who has made an objection or representation and the applicant and any other person who has written to us in respect of the Order.

Within 14 weeks of the start date [by 2 March 2021]

Everyone who has made an objection or representation and anyone who wishes to give evidence at the Inquiry must ensure their statement of case¹ is received by the Secretary of State. As soon as possible after the deadline, the Secretary of State will send full copies to Network Rail and Kent County Council (the Authority). Copies will also be sent to the applicant, every person who has made an objection or representation and any other person who has written to us in respect of the Order (excluding copies of any supporting documents - these will be available to view at the Authority's offices).

Within the same period the applicant (if applicable) must ensure their statement of case is received by the Secretary of State. As soon as possible after the deadline, the Secretary of State will send a full copy to the Authority. Copies will also be sent to everyone who has made an objection or representation and any other person who has written to us in respect of the Order (excluding copies of any supporting documents - these will be available to view at the Authority's offices).

4 weeks before the date of the inquiry [by 6 April 2021]

Network Rail, Kent County Council and everyone who has made an objection or representation, and anyone who wishes to give evidence at the Inquiry must ensure their proof of evidence (together with any summary) is received by the Secretary of State. As soon as possible after the deadline, the Secretary of State will send copies of:

¹ If you wish to make a legal submission, this should be submitted at the same time as your statement of case. Otherwise legal submissions will have to be submitted in writing on the day of the inquiry.

- i) Network Rail's proof of evidence to everyone who has made an objection or representation and anyone who has submitted a statement of case (including copies of any supporting documents – although none should be submitted with a proof of evidence);
- ii) all other proofs of evidence to Network Rail, Kent County Council, the applicant, everyone who has made an objection or representation and anyone else who has submitted a statement of case (including copies of any supporting documents – although none should not be submitted with a proof of evidence).

All parties must keep to the timetable set out above and ensure that statements of case and proofs of evidence are received by the Secretary of State on time. Late documents will be returned.

We cannot accept any inflammatory, discriminatory or abusive comments. Any documents containing such comments will be returned.

Notice of order for inquiry