

## Public Consultation



## Diversion of bridleway and construction of new bridge at Kings Mill level crossing

July 2017

## Proposals

As part of its national level crossing risk reduction programme Network Rail is planning to divert the existing bridleway at Kings Mill Lane level crossing (near Kings Mill Lane, Ashfield, Notts, NG18 5EZ) in order to provide residents and other users with a safer passage over the railway. The diverted route would cross the railway by means of a new, ramped bridleway adjacent to the existing crossing. Once that bridge is in place, the present right of way and level crossing would be stopped up and discontinued.

## Improving Level Crossing Safety

In 2010 Network Rail embarked on a landmark level crossing risk reduction programme. The objective of this programme is to close and upgrade crossings across the network, which will improve safety for everyone and reduce the risk that level crossings present to the national rail network.

Level crossings were part of a network developed in the nineteenth century, when there were slower trains, few cars and the pace of life was much slower. If you were to build a railway today it would not have any level crossings, other than in exceptional circumstances (for example, HS1 does not have any level crossings).

The most effective way of reducing risk is to eliminate a crossing completely by closing it and agreeing alternative routes or signage with local communities. Since the start of the programme we have closed more than 1,000 crossings and many more have been improved or are being upgraded.

## Kings Mill Lane Level Crossing

A fatality occurred at Kings Mill Lane level crossing in 2012 and there have been a high number of trespass and vandalism incidents at this location. Following a risk assessment that looked at important factors, such as the crossing's location, how much traffic (rail and pedestrian) it receives and the crossing's history of misuse, near misses and accidents, it was identified as a high risk site. This means that there is an increased risk to users at Kings Mill Lane Level Crossing than at other crossings on the network.



# Our plans

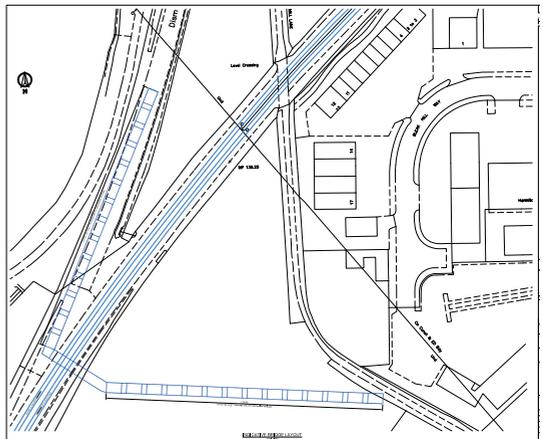
Network Rail proposes to divert the existing bridleway across the railway over a new, ramped bridge near to Kings Mill Lane, Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, NG18 5EZ and to stop up the level crossing. This would provide local residents with safer passage over the railway.

The proposed alignment of the bridge would require a change to the route that people currently take and the extinguishment of the existing public right of way where the level crossing is currently situated. That public right of way would be diverted over the new bridge. The proposed new bridge alignment and pedestrian/equestrian route would be of an equivalent distance to the existing route and would not materially add to the time it takes to cross the railway.

To enable the scheme to be implemented, Network Rail plans to submit an application under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for planning permission to construct the bridge. Network Rail will also require powers under the Highways Act 1980 or Transport and Works Act 1992 to divert the existing public right of way and close the level crossing. An order under the Transport and Works Act would also enable Network Rail to secure land and rights for the purposes of constructing the new bridge.



*Proposed alignment of new bridge*



Note proposed new bridge alignment and pedestrian/equestrian route is of an equivalent distance and would not materially add to the time it takes to cross the railway.



# Proposed new bridge



*Artist's impressions of the proposed new bridleway bridge shown in alternative colours of Holly Green and Black.*

- The proposed bridleway bridge would meet accessibility requirements, incorporating ramps that are 6 metres in length and set to a 1:15 gradient with 2 metre landings between ramp sections
- The number of ramps and risers is to be confirmed following receipt of topographical information
- The proposed layout of the structure may require change upon receipt of buried services and existing furniture information
- Total land required for the structure 1,400m<sup>2</sup>



# The Environment

The railway is a sustainable form of transport. We work hard to reduce our impact on the environment and put rail at the heart of a low carbon economy.

An Environmental Appraisal and Action Plan for this scheme has been undertaken to understand the potential impacts on the local area during both construction and operation.

Topics assessed include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Biodiversity
- Flood risk
- Air quality
- Landscape and visual
- Heritage
- Socio-economics
- Water resources

Environmental Management Plans are being prepared at the design and construction stage to report the findings from the Environmental Appraisal and survey work. They will identify any significant environmental effects and mitigation measures required.

## Your comments

Network Rail is interested to receive your feedback on its proposals and we would be grateful if you would take the time to answer the following questions about the scheme. Your views are important to us. Please complete the response form and drop it into the feedback box provided at the consultation event.





# Response form:

Full name: .....

Postcode: .....

Email: .....

- Do you support the closure of level crossings on safety grounds?

Strongly agree    Agree    Undecided    Disagree    Strongly Disagree

- Do you support Network Rail's plans to replace Kings Mill Level Crossing with a ramped bridleway bridge?

Strongly agree    Agree    Undecided    Disagree    Strongly Disagree

- How can we improve our plans?
- Do you have any comments or suggestions regarding construction or subsequent use/operation of the bridge?
- Do you have any other comments that you would like to share?

Please ensure that your response reaches us by 25 August 2017 so we have adequate time to fully consider your comments.

Thank you

Your feedback will be analysed by Network Rail. Your personal details will be held securely by Network Rail in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998, will be used solely in connection with the Kings Mill Lane Level Crossing consultation and will not be passed to any third parties. We may contact you if we have any follow up questions concerning the answers you have provided above. By agreeing to participate in this questionnaire you agree to being contacted in this way.

**To share your feedback online and stay up to date with the consultation and plans please visit:** <https://consultations.networkrail.co.uk/midlands/kingsmill-level-crossing-closure/> from 24 July 2017

**You can also give us your feedback by emailing:**

**KingsmillConsultation@networkrail.co.uk or for further help you can also call Network Rail's National Helpline on 03457 11 41 41.**





Freepost RTLZ-LUJH-KXHU

Kings Mill Lane Level Crossing Consultation

Network Rail

Room 119 Trent House

RTC Business Park

London Road

DERBY

DE24 8UP