

[REDACTED]

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Freedom of Information
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18th April 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Information request

Reference number: FOI2018/00335

Thank you for your email/letter of 16th March. You requested the following information:

FoI Request - Devil's Ditch PRow footpath level-crossing, Woodditton, Cambridgeshire.

Please can you supply me with the following information?

- i) When was the crossing decking and stairways last rebuilt/upgraded?*
- ii) What was the cost of this - quite extensive - work?*
- iii) How was the on-site work managed, baring in mind it was on a Scheduled Ancient Monument and involved new wooden posts being driven into the Monument? County Council 'watching brief', or licence issued to Network Rail? If a licence or permit was issued for this work, please can I have a copy of it?*
- iv) Was this crossing compliant with relevant anti-discrimination legislation (1995 and 2010 Acts) at the time of its most recent rebuild/upgrade? Why were not slopes constructed, as opposed to multiple steps and landings?*

I have processed your request under the terms of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 and I can confirm that Network Rail holds the information you requested.

For ease, I will take each part of your request in turn.

i) When was the crossing decking and stairways last rebuilt/upgraded?

The steps had reached end of life and contained multiple tripping hazards for this reason they were renewed on a like for like basis by Ely maintenance team. The Work was completed in November 2015

ii) What was the cost of this - quite extensive - work?

The cost of replacing these steps was £6400

iii) How was the on-site work managed, bearing in mind it was on a scheduled Ancient Monument and involved new wooden posts being driven into the Monument? County Council 'watching brief', or licence issued to Network Rail? If a licence or permit was issued for this work, please can I have a copy of it?

The works were carried out within Network Rail's boundary fence lines, we are unaware of any requirements relating to a County Council 'watching brief' and we were not issued a licence for this work.

iv) Was this crossing compliant with relevant anti-discrimination legislation (1995 and 2010 Acts) at the time of its most recent rebuild/upgrade? Why were not slopes constructed, as opposed to multiple steps and landings?

The step renewal was carried out on a like for like basis; slopes were not constructed for two reasons:

1. The height of railway banks and the limited land available would have prevented us from profiling slopes to an acceptable level, and
2. The approaches to the crossing on the East side are outside the Network Rail boundary fence lines and comprise of stepped approaches, making slopes to access the crossing redundant.

Having consulted with our Level Crossing experts, I am told that in regards to the Disabled Discrimination Act, in this case the upgrade does not meet the specification of this regulation. The reason for this is that the public right of way on approach to the crossing on the East side outside of Network Rail boundary is a stepped approach. In addition, we would not have achieved an acceptable gradient of slope to meet the safety specifications required for installing slopes at this location.

I hope the information provided proves useful. If you have any queries on this response please contact me in the first instance on foi@networkrail.co.uk. Please

remember to quote the reference number at the top of this letter in all future communications. Details of your appeal rights are below.

Yours sincerely,

Danielle Stratton
Information Officer

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If you unhappy with the way your request has been handled and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, please write to FOI Compliance and Appeals Manager (contact details can be found at the top of this letter). Your request must be submitted within 40 working days of receipt of this letter.

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Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF