

8 July 2025

Ali Roberts
Rights of Way and Countryside
Wiltshire Council
County Hall
Trowbridge
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Sent via email to ali.roberts@wiltshire.gov.uk

Dear Ali Roberts

Highways Act 1980 section 118A, proposed extinguishment of Penleigh Park level crossing, Westbury footpath 15

The Open Spaces Society objects most strongly to the proposed closure of this level crossing.

Network Rail concedes that this is a popular route and that it provides the most convenient access from the new housing development towards the town and local amenities. The alternative route is an additional one kilometre alongside roads and is not a pleasant environment.

The society submits that this closure is contrary to the public interest, it will discourage people from walking and force them into cars, which is clearly disadvantageous to their health and well-being, and damaging to the environment. If they have no car they may not go out at all, which is also severely disadvantageous to them.

It is much less safe to walk an additional kilometre alongside busy roads than to use the rail crossing. It is much less pleasant to have to walk that extra kilometre along roads.

The council should be encouraging people in the new housing development to enjoy their surroundings and to walk rather than drive.

The opportunities to cross this railway, by whatever means, are limited and we cannot afford to lose this highly-valuable crossing which serves so many residents.

Network Rail should consider how to make the crossing safer rather than just closing it, for instance by providing an underpass or footbridge as a replacement.

We strongly oppose this closure and trust that it will be abandoned.

Yours sincerely



Kate Ashbrook
General Secretary