

Anglia Level Crossing Proposals

E32 – Woodgrange Close (Southend-on-Sea Borough Council)

Public Right of Way Reference – FP189

Network Rail has been working hard to better manage its level crossings and the risks they pose. It has developed proposals for the possible closure or change to public rights of way at around 130 level crossings in Anglia. Closing or modifying level crossings can help to bring about a number of benefits:

- Improve the safety of level crossing users
- Deliver a more efficient and reliable railway, which is vital in supporting the regional and UK economy
- Reduce the ongoing operating and maintenance cost of the railway
- Reduce delays to trains, pedestrians and other highway users
- Improve journey time reliability for railway, highway and other rights of way users

The level crossings in this initial phase of the Anglia Level Crossing Reduction Strategy do not include any new bridges or underpasses, and offer benefits which are currently affordable and deliverable.

Woodgrange Close is one of the level crossings in Southend-on-Sea Borough Council and has the postcode SS1 3EA. This is a stop, look and listen public footpath level crossing where the user has to decide whether it is safe to cross. The railway at this crossing carries passenger trains with a line speed of 75 mph. There are generally 176 trains passing through this level crossing per day.

Network Rail's level crossing risk assessments are supported by use of the All Level Crossing Risk Model (ALCRM). This produces a score for the 'individual risk' presented as a letter ranging from A to M, where A is the highest risk and M is the lowest. In addition 'collective risk' is based on the number of people who use the crossing, and is presented as a number ranging from 1 to 13, where 1 is the highest risk and 13 is the lowest. Woodgrange Close level crossing currently has an ALCRM score of C4, which is considered high risk. Key issues relate to sun glare, large numbers of users and frequent trains. There were 6 incidents of misuse, 7 near misses and 1 accident at this crossing between 2011 and 2015.

Public consultation was undertaken in June on initial options for changes at this level crossing. At this level crossing, five questionnaire responses were received. For Woodgrange Close, a summary of the questionnaire responses is shown below (route colours refer to the June 2016 Stage 1 consultation plan – please see the project website for details):

- 20 % of responses agreed with the proposals
- 80 % of responses disagreed with the proposals
- 40 % of responses preferred the red route
- 60 % of responses preferred another route to those shown

Generally concerns were raised over the length of the diversion route, the noise from the busy road, and the dangers of walking along the busy road. It was also suggested that cyclists travel at high speeds on the pavements and have hit pedestrians in the past. One question was asked as to what would happen to Pilgrims Close, if the closure occurs.

As part of the consultation process a wide range of statutory consultees, landowners and user groups were also consulted. The responses received have been taken into account when determining the preferred option.

During June and July of this year, Network Rail undertook new census surveys of the number and type of level crossing users. A three day census was undertaken (Saturday, Sunday and Monday) and the daily usage was as follows:

Weekday (Monday)	32 pedestrians
Weekend (average daily)	41 pedestrians

The consultation feedback together with a range of other factors such as user safety and convenience, environmental impacts and economic factors were used to determine a preferred option. In this case, an amended version of the red route shown at the June 2016 Stage 1 consultation has been taken forward.

Our preferred option is to close the level crossing to all users and extinguish FP189. Crossing infrastructure would be removed and fencing installed to prevent trespass onto the railway. Users would be diverted to the existing underbridge on Lifstan Way to the west of the level crossing. Users approaching from the north would make use of existing footways on Southchurch Boulevard and Lifstan Way. Users on the south side of the railway would make use of existing footways on Woodgrange Close, Woodgrange Drive and Buttery's. Access between Buttery's and Lifstan Way would be by the existing footpath.

Diversion lengths:

- The diversion route would add up to an additional 920m to the route

Photo 1: Existing level crossing



Photo 2: Alternative railway crossing (using underbridge)

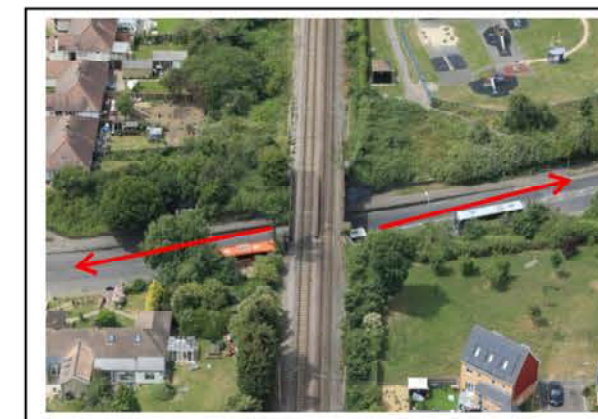


Photo locations are shown on the plan overleaf.

This summary sheet and a questionnaire are available at the public exhibitions and on the project website at: www.networkrail.co.uk/anglialevelcrossings. Please complete the separate questionnaire using the level crossing identification number **E32** and your feedback will be considered before the proposals are finalised ahead of submitting a Transport and Works Act Order to the Secretary of State.

To contact our team, please email us at: anglialevelcrossings@networkrail.co.uk or phone the helpline: **03457 11 41 41**. We thank you for your time and providing your comments on the Anglia Level Crossing Proposals.



Level Crossings

- Level crossing being discussed
- Other level crossing in the project
- Other level crossing not in the project

Right of Way / Other Route Type

- Footpath
 - Bridleway
 - Restricted byway
 - Byway open to all traffic
 - Highway (shown where used as part of a diversion)
 - Private Road / Track (shown where used as part of a diversion route)
- The line styles above indicate the type of right of way or other route proposed.

Right of Way / Other Route Status

- No Change and not part of diversion route
- Use of Existing right of way for diversion route
- Change of Status to right of way
- Closure of existing right of way
- Creation of new right of way

The colours below indicate the nature of the proposal.

Photographs

- Photograph Location (with no. - see Summary Sheet for details)



Round 2 Public Consultation Proposal

E32 - Woodgrange Close
Essex
Southend-on-Sea (B)

P1	16/08/2016	For Information	WC	DW	SJT	JAS
Rev	Date	Description	Dwn	E Chk	Ch'k'd	App'd

Scale at A3
1:4,000

Drawing No.
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