

7 August 2020

Our Ref: 0451060 -CD-MMR/2333

Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Council Offices
Environment and Planning,
Kings Court, Chapel Street,
King's Lynn,
Norfolk,
PE30 1EX

Subject: Historical Railways Estate, Disused Railway Structure, MMR/2333 "Stow Road".

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to you on behalf of our client, Highways England, Historical Railways Estate (HRE), formerly BRB (Residuary) Ltd, to inform you of planned works to demolish the remaining elements of structure MMR/2333 "Stow Road". HRE is responsible for the historical railways estate following the abolishment of BRB (Residuary) Ltd. This responsibility is undertaken on behalf of the Department for Transport, who own the structure.

MMR/2333 'Stow Road' is a pair of abutments that carried part of the former March to Magdalen Road Railway Line over the unclassified 'Stow Road'. MMR/2333 is located approximately 10km south of Kings Lynn, Norfolk. The OS grid reference is TF 596 104. A location map is enclosed for your information.

Discussions between HRE and the local authority established that HRE retain maintenance liability for the abutments despite previous ownership transfers of the surrounding land.

HRE recently arranged for the removal of dense vegetation around the abutment faces, which revealed substantial fractures up to 60mm wide. In addition to the severe fractures, regular monitoring surveys indicate that both abutments are subject to significant ongoing movement. HRE intend to demolish the abutments and slope back the embankments to a safe and stable gradient. This will prevent further development of the defects and remove the public safety risk associated with potential structural collapse of the abutments onto Stow Road.

While demolition is generally not classed as development, the sloping back of the embankments could be considered development. The structure represents an ongoing and increasing risk to public safety and is deemed 'Crown Property' because it is owned by the Secretary of State for Transport. Highways England, HRE therefore propose to undertake these works, as permitted development in line with the 'Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015, Schedule 2, Part 19, Class Q'. Specifically, the works are being undertaken in order to prevent an emergency arising.

We trust that the above proposal is acceptable. Can you please confirm receipt of this letter by email to: [REDACTED]

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information.