

Post-hearing submission from Jean Ritchie to the A14 Examining Authority

Having taken part in discussions at the open floor meeting and on the accompanied site visit I would like to suggest an alternative solution.

The current A14 at Mill Common follows the route of a railway line that was closed in the 1960s. By 1968 when my family moved to Huntingdon, trains were no longer running but the railway line was still in existence. There was a level crossing at the site where there is now an underpass, and from here to Huntingdon station the railway was in a cutting. The A14 is now raised on an embankment and the underpass is needed to allow access to Port Holme, Mill Common and Watersmeet.

If or when it is considered absolutely necessary to provide a link from the de-trunked A14 across Mill Common to the Huntingdon ring road, then the least damaging way to do this would I suggest be to create a junction at ground level on the site of the former level crossing.

If the height of the A14 embankment started to be reduced as soon as the road had crossed the River Ouse at Godmanchester, to reach ground level by the time it reached Mill Common, this would benefit many households. Houses at Castle Hill, Watersmeet, and Mill Common would be greatly benefitted with much less noise. There would be an improvement in the view from Huntingdon town centre, and from houses at The Walks East and The Walks North. No land would need to be lost from Mill Common.

I first suggested this back in 2010 and was told that because of the speed of traffic on the de-trunked A14, it would not be possible to lose the necessary height between the River and Mill Common. However the road would be part of a built up area so it would seem reasonable to reduce speed, using calming measures, so that vehicles would travel along this stretch at no more than 30 mph.

I request that this option is seriously investigated.