



18 April 2023

The Planning Inspectorate
Temple Quay House
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Dear Sir/Madam

**A12 CHELMSFORD TO A120 WIDENING SCHEME
PROPOSED FOOTBRIDGE AT WITHAM**

I refer to my previous letters dated 8 and 19 March 2023, regarding the proposed construction of a footbridge over the A12. I have subsequently had the opportunity of examining a document with the reference **9.41 APPLICANTS RESPONSE TO RELEVANT REPRESENTATIONS**

I was disappointed to note that it would seem that the suggestion (by Essex Ramblers Association) of an alternative location for the proposed footbridge. Has been rejected because of an issue regarding land ownership.

The suggested alternative site is approximately ninety metres further to the west of the currently planned position. It is shown on the following extract from Google Maps. It is considered that the alternative location would have several advantages over the current site.

- (a) The current site is approximately ninety metres away from existing residential property. The alternative site would be approximately 162 metres from the nearest residential property. As a result the visual impact on the local inhabitants, would be greatly reduced.
- (b) It is posed that a number of trees will be removed in order to accommodate the footbridge. It is further proposed that additional trees would be planted in order to hide the footbridge, and mitigate the visual impact. However any new trees will take at least 15 or more years to provide any meaningful screening. However, at the alternative proposed site there are several mature trees already in existence. If the footbridge was constructed within the tree areas there would be less need for additional planting. The screening already exists. Therefore the visual impact would be reduced further.
- (c) The alternative location would allow for the footbridge to provide direct access to the existing footpath on the southern side of the A12.



It is considered that the alternative site would provide a cost saving; it would have far less impact on the local residents; and be far more acceptable. It has been sixty years since the original footpath was lost due to construction of the A12. Taking some additional time now to consider where, and how the footbridge would go, could be extremely beneficial to all concerned.

Yours faithfully

[Redacted signature]

John Holt