



Mr Andy Smith
Head of Countryside Hampshire County Council
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Network Rail
6th Floor Kings Place
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10 October 2012

Our Ref: 2753858

Dear Mr Smith

Thank you for contacting Network Rail with regards to the Basingstoke Canal, Surrey and essential improvement works that we need to carry out at certain times.

Network Rail is mindful of the impact that bridge closures have upon the canal and in particular for those who have a commercial interest in the operation of the canal.

Network Rail will wherever possible try to undertake works without the need to close the canal to boating but unfortunately this is not always possible. However, if this is necessary we will try to keep the impact to a minimum.

Wherever possible and when train possessions allow us to we will try to do works that affect the Basingstoke Canal during the winter season therefore not impacting on the boating season. We must bear in mind that winter weather can cause us issues when commencing improvement works especially during a harsh winter.

We will endeavour to notify the Basingstoke Canal Authority in advance of any works in order to allow the authority to inform stakeholders and the wider public. In an emergency or unforeseen situation this notification will not be possible.

We will always look to complete works in the shortest period possible to minimise closure and any disruption.

Network Rail is largely publicly funded and a 'not for dividend' company, with any profit made being invested into the development and upkeep of the rail network. Additionally, the infrastructure consists of over 20,000 miles of track, a large proportion of which runs through residential areas. With these factors in mind, we are not in a position to offer compensation for disturbance or disruption caused by improvement work throughout the network.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paula Williams", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Paula Williams
Government & Corporate Affairs
Network Rail

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