



## Great Musgrave bridge: **Objecting to the planning application**

The infilling of Great Musgrave bridge in Cumbria was one of the most grievous acts of National Highways' eight-year stewardship of the Historical Railways Estate. It was an opportunistic exercise in liability reduction, but the state-owned roads company attempted to contrive a distorted reality whereby the structure was a threat to public safety.

Infilling kicked the volunteers of two heritage railways in the teeth. Their longstanding aspiration of unification - to boost the local economy - involved relaying a track beneath the structure which needed £20K of modest repairs to carry 40-tonne vehicles. Instead, National Highways frittered away £124K on infill.

This appalling and unjustifiable act has to be put right and Eden District Council's requirement that planning permission must be obtained to retain the infill material beyond May 2022 offers an opportunity to force that outcome. But we must all unite to demonstrate our collective rejection of National Highways' vandalism.

Via its Local Plan, Eden District Council has adopted several policies upon which objections could be based. These include:

**Policy DEV3**, which states that "Development will not be supported where...it would prevent the future opening of any... rail schemes under consideration."

**Policy DEV5**, which states that "New development will be required to demonstrate that it..."

- shows a clear understanding of the form and character of the district's built and natural environment, complementing and enhancing the existing area;
- protects and where possible enhances the district's distinctive rural landscape, natural environment and biodiversity;
- protects features and characteristics of local importance."

**Policy ENV1**, which states that "New development will be required to avoid any net loss of biodiversity and geodiversity, and where possible enhance existing assets."

**Policy ENV2**, which states that "New development will only be permitted where it conserves and enhances distinctive elements of landscape character and function. Proposals should take account of and complement the distribution and form of...buildings within their landscape setting."

**Policy ENV4**, which states that "Development which leads to direct loss, fragmentation or degradation of green infrastructure will be resisted unless there is demonstrable evidence of wider public benefits from the proposal."

**Policy ENV10**, which states that "The Council will require all proposals for development to conserve and where appropriate, enhance the significance of Eden's heritage assets and their setting. The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application."

Please **OBJECT** to the planning application to make the infill at Great Musgrave bridge permanent.

You can do so via [this link](#) to Eden District Council's planning portal, where you can view the plans and other documents. Click the blue 'Comment' box and enter your name, address and email. Under 'Type of Comment', please select **OBJECT**. Then enter your comments and type 'Yes' in the box next to 'Do you wish to submit this comment?'

Thank you for your support.

More information is available on our website via [this link](#).