

Proof of evidence
Of Mr Darren Jackson
4th February 2007

My name is Darren Jackson. Nearly five years ago I moved to Ancaster Road, Ipswich with my wife and two daughters, then aged 2 and 5 years old.

When we purchased the property we would visit the site at weekends to see the progress and although we would notice the noise of trains coming and going this is all we thought we would be 'letting ourselves in for' living near the station.

It wasn't until we had moved into the property that we noticed more than the noise from the movement of trains and subsequently discovered that there is a fuel point and maintenance yard at the rear of the station, opposite our home.

The main thing that affected my family initially was the noise from trains sitting idling and revving their engines, particularly at night, just as my wife and I would go to bed. The noise became so disturbing that we contacted the noise pollution department, of the council, and were initially advised that they didn't work at weekends, which was when the majority of the noise pollution was experienced, as we were at home as a family mostly at weekends.

The Department did visit and agreed that 'yes' the noise was bad but there wasn't a lot that they could do. I was rather dismayed with this as I'm in no doubt that if I caused a noise nuisance I would be reprimanded.

From then on the noise pollution has only got worse. So much so that from Sunday to Thursday nights I do not sleep in my marital bed, in the bedroom I share with my wife at the front of the property, but am forced to sleep in a bedroom at the rear of my property, that is less affected by the noise, to obtain anything like a decent night's sleep. I can set my watch by the times that the trains start up on a Sunday, apart, coincidentally, from the time when Freightliner knew they were being monitored. What with this and the horns tooting at ridiculous times of the night and early hours of the morning it is becoming increasingly unbearable.

As a parent I am also extremely concerned about the fumes from the diesel engines. My youngest daughter's bedroom is also at the front of the property and she often has trouble sleeping. It is very disturbing and worrying to smell these fumes in your child's room, and as a parent you are powerless to do much about it.

One of the reasons that we bought this property was due to the openness of the area, in a woodland setting with a large garden for the children to play in. When the fumes are bad the children are prevented from playing outside. Sometimes it is so noisy that you cannot sit comfortably in the garden and guests have commented on how loud the trains are. On one occasion my wife was having a conversation with my neighbour and had to shout to be heard over the noise of the trains revving and this was about 9.30 in the evening.

I believe that if the proposal for the duelling of the line is agreed, the freight usage will increase and this will only make the situation even more unbearable for my family, our neighbours and local residents.

I ask you to take this into consideration when making your decision.

Darren Jackson