**EAST COAST MAIN LINE**
**LEVEL CROSSING CLOSURE PROGRAMME (FEASIBILITY)**
**OFFORD and GILLS**

**OVERVIEW**

Offord level crossing is a public highway (unclassified) crossing on the East Coast Main Line (ECML). The approach from the east along Station Lane takes access through the village of Offord from the B1043. The approach from the west along Mill Road leading from Buckden and the A1, through Offord Flour Mills where a 2.0m width restriction is enforced due to a series of narrow bridges.

We proposed to close Offord highway level crossing to all traffic and divert users via new bridge crossings over the ECML.

Gills is a gated and stepped public footpath (No.282/2) level crossing over the East Coast Main Line (ECML). We proposed to close Gills level crossing and divert users to a new ramped and stepped pedestrian and cycle bridge over the ECML on Station Road approximately 200m to the north of the existing crossing.

Local diversions of the public rights of way will be provided to preserve existing access arrangements.

**OPTION 1**

Crossing and divert all traffic following a route north between the River Great Ouse and existing commercial area, to a new highway bridge over the ECML approximately 450m north of the existing crossing, linking with the B1043 at the northern extent of the village boundary.

Redirect Station Lane onto new road with provision of a new 'T' junction to retain vehicle access to the existing commercial site.

Provision of ramped and stepped pedestrian and cycle bridge over the ECML adjacent to former highway level crossing to preserve pedestrian access over ECML at the location of the level crossing.

Gills Crossing and divert all users to a new ramped and stepped pedestrian and cycle bridge over the ECML at Offord crossing. To the west of the ECML, the footbridge diversion route from Gills to Offord will follow existing public footpaths. To the east of the ECML, we propose to dedicate a new public right of way linking Station Lane to footpath No.282/2 adjacent to the former Gills level crossing to preserve public access to this footpath.

**KEY**

- Existing level crossing to be closed
- Existing public footpath
- Option 1 - Vehicular access diversion
- Option 1 - Pedestrian bridge over ECML
- Option 1 - New dedicated public footpath
- Option 1 - diversion route via existing public footpath

Options shown are illustrative for consultation purposes only.