

Guided Bus Crossing at Fen Drayton Lakes

In December 2010 I was in contact with the busway team and County Councillor Mandy Smith about the safety concerns with the crossing. In particular the fencing rail blocking the view to the right when entering the RSPB reserve. Their reply stated:-

“Councillor Mandy Smith has spoken with Bob Menzies, the Head of Delivery for The Busway and has explained the issues around this crossing. The fencing will be adjusted as part of the snagging work that the contractor will be carrying out.”

Also in December I mentioned that the then newly planted trees at the side of the track would block the view when leaving the site. At that time they did not comment on the trees.

Since then no action has been taken and the trees have now grown, so this month (July 2011) I contacted the busway team. This time their reply is:-

“All of the Busway crossings and burst throughs have had safety audits carried out. As explained in an earlier email, some adjustments have already been carried out at Mo and Middle Fen to improve visibility following the audits.

At the location you describe, the maintenance track is before you reach the guideway itself. This means that people can gain good visibility along the route before reaching the guideway itself.

Independent inspectors have assessed this and have given the junctions approval.”

As the maintenance track is among other things a cycleway with cyclists having priority at the crossing I was concerned about limited visibility and contacted Bob Menzies for confirmation, including the pictures of the crossing (see pages 2&3). His reply was:-

“Having reviewed the junction myself I don't consider that the fence represents a significant obstruction to visibility. As your photographs illustrate a cyclists would be seen through the fence rails.

I agree that some of the trees on the opposite side will restrict visibility when they grow. We will therefore be removing those closest to the guideway in the Autumn and using them to replace trees which have died elsewhere. I apologise that this information wasn't included in the earlier response.”

This crossing is a standard road junction with 'Give Way' signs giving priority to the maintenance track and busway. There are no traffic signals so visibility in both directions is vitally important.

Visitors to the RSPB site travel from all over the country and will not be familiar with the crossing. It only requires the removal of a plank of wood and a few trees to make this crossing much safer. Unfortunately the experts do not agree.

What do you think?

The guided bus team can be contacted via www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk

See pages 2 & 3 for photographs

Alan Morris
Webmaster



This view shows the fence rail at window height of my Astra Estate.

Land Rover or 4x4 vehicles are higher and the driver can see over the rail with no problem.



This is the view from the drivers seat with the car at the white line on the road.

The bus team are suggesting that we first look through the fence for cyclists or possibly vehicles, galloping horses etc on the maintenance track. If clear we then move forward to a position where it is possible to look down the track to see if a bus is approaching.



This is the first point where a clear view is obtained along the track. (It is possible to stop a little further back and look between the post and the rail but I suggest you would only do that if familiar with the junction)



View travelling South with the vehicle at the stop line. The newly planted trees are putting on growth and already blocking the view. They will not be removed until the Autumn so the obstructed view will continue until then.



This is the view from the drivers seat with the car at the white line on the road.