

Suffolk Local Access Forum	
Title:	Agenda
Author/Contact:	David Falk
Meeting Date:	25 July 2024, 2:00-4:00pm
Venue:	Tuddenham St Mary Village Hall

			Paper Number
1.	14:00	Welcome, apologies and housekeeping	
2.	14.05	Minutes of previous meeting	LAF 24/17
3.	14.10	Declaration of interest	
4.	14.15	Welcome new member – Cllr Edward Thompson	Verbal
5.	14.20	Suffolk Energy Schemes	LAF 24/18 – AW
6.	14.40	NSIP Working Group Feedback: Norwich-Tilbury consultation response	LAF 24/18 (Appendix A) – BH
7.	14.50	Network Rail Updates	LAF 24/19 – SK
8.	15.00	The King Charles III England Coast Path	LAF 24/20 – AW
9.	15.10	SLAF Annual Report 2023-2024	LAF 24/21 – AW/BH
10.	15.20	Any Other Business Member’s question re events on PRow	Verbal – CP
11.	15.40	Public Question Time Public question on PRow reporting	Member of the public – Verbal
12.	16.00	Date of Next Meeting: 24 th October – venue tbc	

Suffolk Local Access Forum	
Title:	Minutes of Meeting
Paper:	LAF 24/17
Author/Contact:	Sally Bungard
Meeting Date:	25 April 2024, 2-4pm
Venue:	The Orwell Hotel, Felixstowe

1. Welcome, apologies and housekeeping.

Present: Barry Hall (BH) (Chair); Christopher Bower (CB); Gordon Merfield (GM); Susan Mobbs (SM); Monica Pipe (MP); Cllr Joanna Spicer (JS); Suzanne Bartlett (SB); Jim Wayman (JWa); Sarah Whitelock (SW) AM only.

SCC Officers Present: Andrew Woodin (AW); David Falk (DF); Steve Kerr (SK); Oliver Wastell (OW) AM only; Samantha Bye (SBye) AM only; Ben Heather (BH) AM only; Sally Bungard (SAB) – minutes.

ESC Officer James Goldberg (JG).

Apologies: Margaret Hancock (MH); Clare Phillips (CP); Adrian Shepherd (AS); Roland Wilson (RW); Anthony Wright (AWr).

The meeting was preceded by a morning site visit of approx. 3 km around an area to the North of Felixstowe earmarked for development. JG talked about some of the considerations and constraints for the development of 2,000 homes and the relocation of the town's leisure facilities on land currently owned by East Suffolk Council, Adams, and Trinity College. OW talked about the upgrade to FP24 leading out of the new Persimmon Homes development and onto FP18 and FP57. DF spoke about the wider green access network and links to other developments in Trimley St Martin.

BH thanked JG and OW for leading site visits in the morning.

2. Minutes of previous meeting - DRAFT

The draft minutes of the previous meeting held on 25 January 2024 LAF24/09, were reviewed and agreed. These will now be published and made available to the public via the SCC website.

Item 8 – SK spoke to Highways and incorrect signage to be addressed when improvements are made to the Stowmarket Road footway, as part of the s278 agreement relating to Gipsy Lane.

Item 13 – JS asked to meet with AW and DF regarding the Terms of Reference. AW has requested an email of suggestions prior to meeting.

Item 15 – AW confirmed that to change Network Rail (NR) lineside furniture is not straightforward, including the importance of referring to any legal enactment which established the level crossing. SCC continue to press NR for more accessible furniture.

3. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Suffolk Energy Schemes

AW announced Sizewell C formally commenced on 15th January 2024 and the £2.9m funds for Public Rights of Way (PRoW) have been paid to SCC, index linked for 10-year period. A link to the full account of works was made available.

AW updated SLAF with 6 areas of AD (associated development) to PRoW relating to Sizewell C.

AW stated that most PRoW won't close except for Lovers Lane.
JS stated that Pakenham will have a boardwalk.

AW shared that the examination of Sunnica energy farm concluded at the end of March 2023, but the examiners' decision has been delayed until 20th June 2024. A link to the NSIP government website for Sunnica was provided.

AW shared that the examination of the National Grid Bramford to Twinstead has concluded. Examiners' decision expected in September 2024. Link provided to NSIP government website for Bramford to Twinstead was provided.

AW reports Norwich to Tilbury is at pre-application with work ramping up. SBye leading. A link to National Grid website was provided.

AW reports that EAN1 and EA2 have begun surveys and SPR have permission for site office. Ongoing discussions regarding diversion of Friston PRoWs.

AW reports that EA3 are preparing for construction and are checking cable access panels laid by EA1N project. Management Plan of PRoWs by temporary diversions.

AW reports ramping up of consultations with SEALINK. Again, there are no thematic meetings for PRoW. Sealink now acknowledge some negative impacts. Possibility of compensation. Financial compensation was raised by AW at a recent meeting with the applicant and not dismissed out of hand by them.

AW reports that SCC are asking for a more joined up approach for cabling for the LionLink project. Scoping report concerned with cumulative effects of NSIPs on East Coast.

AW commented that NSIPs take-up many officers' hours. Guidance documents to be produced for future applicants.

MP and JS pointed out that there were Public Consultation dates in Copdock and Needham on 1st and 3rd May for Norwich to Tilbury.

5. The King Charles III England Coast Path

AW shared progress of path. Harwich to Hopton-on-Sea and Felixstowe Ferry to Bawdsey are open to the public. Natural England (NE) have published detailed reports of progress. It has been noted that there are continued delays with the planning inspectorate. A link to NE progress map was provided.

AW confirmed that one of the bordering authorities has withdrawn from a proposed partnership to develop a promoted regional trail around the East Anglian coastline.

AW stated that NE has confirmed the new access rights between Priory Park and Shore Lane, Nacton and continuing construction works have been delayed due to winter ground conditions.

Discussion was had between AW and SLAF members to confirm pedestrian access over Orwell Bridge was being treated carefully and sensitively. New steps to be made on the western side of the bridge and a rest point halfway up. An information board near the Suffolk Food Hall may be provided to promote access to Ipswich town as an alternative route.

JS was given assurance that appropriate public health precautions and consultations had been made.

Members wished to thank Annette Robinson for her work to improve the temporary route around the Sizewell C sea defences.

AW to inform Annette Robinson that JS has concerns about site access to Pakenham.

6. Network Rail (NR) Updates

SK stated that there had been no progress at Gipsy Lane since October. Previously NR had said it was a funding issue, but new funding period started in April with still no news. It has been 4 years without the commencement of work. SCC officers to share their frustration with NR.

SK reports that officers attended a meeting with NR's Project Team looking at the proposed reduction in Level Crossings and it was agreed that the designs for Elmswell would be released by 22 March and a timescale was provided for other projects. The 1st deadline has been missed and it is now known that the Project Manager has left her post.

SK has received information from NR about their future order making requests which is currently being reviewed by officers.

SK updated that a Road Safety Audit has been completed at Brantham as the extinguishment of FP6 means that the A137 needs to be crossed. Commissioning process funded by NR to start in due course.

SK announced that the Suffolk Road Rail Partnership (SRRP) meetings have recommenced, and that quarterly meeting will be held.

7. Ipswich BY38/RB38A – New Cut West

SK reported that the Public Open Space at Griffin Wharf was now open to the public. Robust Heras fencing is being used as a temporary solution along railway lines as part of Phase 1. The legal process to permanently address the PRow that is coincident with the operational railway as part of Phase 2 has not yet been confirmed. SK advised that ABP had yet to respond to SLAF's letter of November 2022, requesting they investigate utilising their own port authority powers.

ACTION BH to send a letter to ABP asking for response.

MH had visited the site with family and thanked SK and Forum for their work.

8. National Highways A11 Fiveways Junction

BH wrote letter to National Highways (NH) and received a quick response. The potential upgrade options have been submitted to DfT who decide which projects move forward. NH have received no further direction. If the scheme moves forward, then it be in the delivery period of 2030 and beyond.

9. Consolidation Progress Report

SK explained how the process of consolidation captures all legal events since the last time the Definitive Map and Statement (DM&S) was sealed and published. The consolidation project uses bespoke mapping software to produce new DM&Ss on modern OS Mastermap background mapping and has been in progress since 2010. Suffolk is 95% completed and is projected to be completed in May 2025.

SK stated that more resources have been diverted to order making which has slowed the progress of consolidation.

SK explained second phase would be to address the mismatch of parish boundaries which still reflect the original DM but administrative parish boundaries have since changed.

BH asked if anomalies are picked up and SK agreed there were often anomalies.

CB asked if the DM would become digital. SK stated that currently the DM only has legal force in printed form.

CB commented that the new Horringer route isn't shown on OS map. SK confirmed that the data has been released to OS and therefore should appear on new maps.

10. Brandon PRow Consultation

SK sent consultation letter to SLAF regarding propose Creation Order for a bridleway in Brandon.

SK described that the route had been mis-recorded on the original Definitive Map (DM) and although upgrading to a bridleway (to match Norfolk's DM) the route remains unpassable for 4-5 months of the year as water meadows.

SK announced that 2 days ago the landowner agreed to work with SCC and therefore the Creation Order could change to a Creation Agreement. Some conditions were attached, such as fencing, and SK hoped they could be resolved.

JS noted this was an interesting case study and asked if regard had been made towards nature, but SK reiterated that it was an existing route, and they were only resolving anomalies.

JS asked Forum whether they were happy to give their support if a Creation Order was required and all agreed.

11. Public Question Time

12. Any Other Business

SM asked whether there had been a change of direction for the walking festival as there were no “long” walks in the programme.

DF reports no change but natural migration. DF asked walk leaders to submit walks and no significantly long walks were proposed. The trend has been towards shorter walks and content experiences. Sales for the festival have been going well with 50% sold on day 1 and 90% now sold.

No challenge walk as DF normally leads but has an injury.

SLAF members collectively agree that they want a further meeting with ESC to provide input into the Felixstowe North development and request another meeting with JG in October prior to Outline Planning submission in December.

ACTION DF to contact JG with request.

JS has requested an update to the working group so that those that attended the morning session should be involved with the Felixstowe North development consultation.

ACTION DF to update groups.

ACTION AW to provide an update at next meeting with regard to the new Horringer Bridleway.

ACTION DF will provide a talk to explain ‘Open Access’. Possibility that pre-meeting site visit could be given at Icklingham.

ACTION MP to feed into SLAF with any developments regarding Humber Doucy Lane.

13. Date of Next Meetings:

25th July 2024 – Tuddenham St Mary Village Hall IP28 6FB.

24th October 2024 – venue to be confirmed.

END

Suffolk Local Access Forum	
Title:	Suffolk Energy Schemes
Paper:	LAF 24/18
Author/Contact:	Andrew Woodin
Meeting:	25th July 2024, 2:00-4:00pm
Venue:	Tuddenham St Mary Village Hall IP28 6FB

1. Sizewell C

Sizewell C triggered the formal commencement of the DCO on Monday 15th January with a visit from the Nuclear Minister, Andrew Bowie meeting the project team, local business leaders and representative from local authorities.

This activates the £250m funding package which includes a £2.9 million fund for a variety of works and initiatives for green access. See [here](#) for details of the PRoW Fund.

Current works that affect public rights of way and green access includes

- AD6 – Changes to the road network and the construction of the alternative bridleway at Lovers Lane, Abbey Road and the B1122 including the main site entrance roundabout at the Eastbridge Road junction. The county council is reviewing the revised designs including the new bridge over the Leiston drain within the Aldhurst Farm site.
- AD3 Sizewell Link Road – the new road will bisect 12 public rights of way between Kelsale to Theberton, stop up some minor roads to motorised traffic and create new links to the B1122 and B1125. All the PRoW will be permanently diverted to at grade crossings of the new road and we are pressing the designers for quality design for the access network including creating new access where possible using proposed underpasses and new links alongside the road to connect existing PRoW. The council is also pressing for quality landscaping and best use of land adjacent to the new road as wildlife corridors providing biodiversity net gain.
- Benhall Fen meadow – work has recommenced on site with soil being removed until early August. Following a site meeting with the project manager, the council is currently awaiting the plans for the restoration of the land over which the footpath runs and for the surfacing scheme to create a dry path.
- Coast Defences – The public footpath and King Charles III England Coast Path are directly impacted by the construction of the coastal defences. A sheet piled wall with a security fence off set by 10m will be constructed approximately 30m-50m seaward of the current position of FP21. The details are covered in the public rights of way implementation plan which has now been formally discharged under

requirement 10 of the DCO. [SCC/0045/24/DOR - Planning Register | Suffolk County Council \(planning-register.co.uk\)](#). The corridor for the construction of the new footpath is currently being prepared and fenced off from the public and although this reduces the area of open space for the public to enjoy, the public footpath and the coast path will remain open and unaffected until the new path has been built.

- Rail schemes – There are plans to make safety improvements to the level crossings on the Leiston branch line plus initial plans for the construction of the green rail route, linking the branch line to the main development site. The green rail route will result in the diversion of 3 public footpaths and a new level crossing on Abbey Road which will incorporate the proposed bridleway.
- Southern park and ride site – initial site works are underway and the council has been consulting on plans in order to ensure that the public bridleway and its users are protected during these works.

The Deed of Obligation fund for PRow has been triggered by the commencement and funds have been paid to SCC. These will be index linked for the duration of the 10-year period protecting the fund in real terms. There are a number of projects and works earmarked for the fund – see [here](#) for details of the PRow Fund. This aspect is overseen by the Rights of Way Working Group with representatives from SCC (1 from Highways team, 1 from the Public Rights of Way Team), ESC and 2 from SZC. Recruiting a delivery officer to manage and implement the many schemes in the fund is underway.

2. Sunnica

The Examination for Sunnica concluded at the end of March 2023. Following extended delays in the decision, the new Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero granted the 2,500 acre Sunnica Energy Farm application development consent on 12th July 2024. Further information can be found [here](#).

An overview of the Sunnica application can be found here - [Sunnica Energy Farm | National Infrastructure Planning \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](#)

3. National Grid Bramford to Twinstead

The examination for Bramford to Twinstead concluded on 15th March 2024. The county council and other interested parties now await the examiners decision, this was expected in September 2024 and that is still the case.

An over view of the Bramford to Twinstead application can be found here - [Bramford to Twinstead | National Infrastructure Planning \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](#)

Further details can be found on the National Grid website here - [Bramford to Twinstead | National Grid ET](#)

4. Norwich to Tilbury (formally East Anglia Green)

SLAF's response to the latest consultation is here and in Appendix 1:

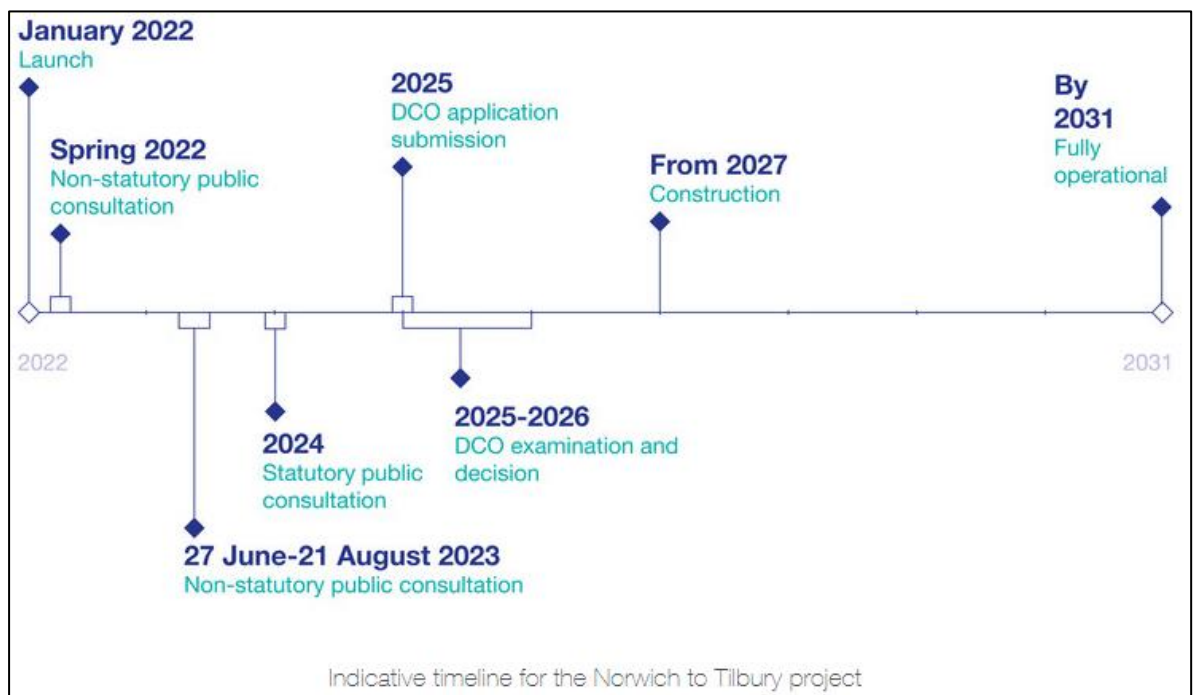


This scheme affects a vast number of routes in Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex. The scheme remains at pre application stage and it is now anticipated the application being submitted in late 2024 to early 2025. National Grid have extended their public consultation on their proposals for Norwich to Tilbury scheme until 11:59pm on Friday 26 July 2024.

Ongoing meetings with SCC, NCC, ECC and local borough planning, and technical officers are being held monthly to ensure a coordinated approach.

Where negative impacts on green access cannot be mitigated, eg by suitable and convenient diversions, the county council will seek financial compensation.

The timetable published by National Grid is shown below. This remains unchanged from the last SLAF meeting.



Further details on the Norwich to Tilbury scheme can be found on the National Grid website here – [Norwich to Tilbury | National Grid ET](#).

5. East Anglia One North and EA2 offshore windfarms with onshore infrastructure

Work on the main site started in 2024 with ground infiltration tests and planning for archaeological surveys, including discussion to minimise the disruption to the PRoW network. SPR have permission for a site office and compound to the west of Leiston in order to reduce the traffic movements on the minor roads at the Friston site. Discussions are ongoing with SPR and the local parish council regarding the proposed route of the diverted public

footpath at the Friston site and the design of the accesses with respect to public rights of way onto the construction sites and haul roads.

6. East Anglia 3 offshore windfarm with onshore infrastructure

SPR are working through discharging the numerous requirements in preparation for starting construction of compounds and haul roads for the cable pulling using the ducts laid by EA1 project. The first stages include the checking of the cable ducts for blockages or other problems and SCC has been commenting on the numerous management plans including the public rights of way management plan. There are numerous rights of way that will be crossed by the haul roads, but most will remain open with short term minor temporary diversions during the construction of the roads and then remain open using management measures.

7. SEALINK – National Grid offshore link from Suffolk to Kent-onshore cable corridor , new converter station and connection to Friston NG substation (if approved as part of EA1N &EA2 application)

Sea Link is now undertaking a further, targeted, consultation. In Suffolk, the changes include an alteration to the cable route north of Aldeburgh, confirmation of the proposed access route to the converter station and changes to this access route and the associated bridge over the River Fromus. Sea Link are also proposing various changes to construction and maintenance access routes, compounds, and temporary overhead line diversions, and have identified additional land for environmental mitigation and enhancement. The strategy for coordination with other NSIP projects has also evolved. Members can find details [here](#).

In response to county council representations that PRow and green access should be treated as a separate theme, Sea Link have agreed to hold a PRow specific meeting.

One positive point is Sea Link appear open to dedicating open access east of Saxmundham, where they are intending to create an area of grassland to mitigate the scheme.

It is important to note the contents of discussions between Sea Link and the county council are in a constant state of flux...



8. LionLink (formerly EUROLINK) – interconnector between Suffolk and Belgium

The county council and Rights of Way & Access Development & Improvement team continue to work with National Grid consultants to ensure its assets and interests, from landscape to roads and green access, are protected and where possible enhanced. As usual PRow is split across different consultation themes, e.g. landscape, traffic and transport, this is wasteful of staff time and risks diluting green access red lines.

The Development & Improvement team has responded to the transport assessment in respect of PRow. (Transport Assessments are thorough assessments of the transport implications of development.) The team is making sure to get the PRow basics right e.g. PRow condition and user surveys, construction methods, diversionary routes, use of banksmen to control public users, permanent infrastructure and PRow diversions, reinstatement and certification of standards etc. The team will seek compensation wherever possible, where it considers mitigating an impact on a service is not possible.

The scheme involves the construction of an onshore cable corridor linking to a new converter station that will link to an expanded National Grid substation at Friston (approved under the EA1n & 2 DCO consent). The options for the proposed cable corridor is focused on landfall sites in either Southwold or Walberswick and not sharing the cable corridor proposed by Sea Link. The county council is pressing for a co-ordinated approach both for the cable corridors and the design of the proposed converter station site on the east edge of Saxmundham.

A detailed response on public rights of way, access and amenity on the LionLink Scoping Report has been submitted, focusing on the very concerning

cumulative effects of this project in conjunction with the other east coast NSIPs.

9. NSIP Forward Programme

The county council has been updating its guidance for NSIP applications, covering their impact on county council services, including PRow. An example on its website can be seen [here](#) for solar schemes, and [here](#) for PRow and Green Access Guidance. The latter shows clearly the county council's commitment to seeking financial compensation where suitable mitigation of impacts cannot be achieved.

With a new government comes a new approach to planning – further news is awaited, for example on 8/7/24 the Govt lifted the de facto ban on onshore wind development in England has been lifted. The Govt confirmed that two planning policy tests that have served as a barrier to onshore wind development in England since 2015, “no longer apply”.

Of particular interest will be an updated national Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs). The Rights of Way & Access has a great deal of expertise in this area and will press for policies which enhance and add to the PRow network, and the creation of new walking and cycling paths which take members of the public away from unsuitable roads.

END
AW/SCC Jul 2024

SLAF
Suffolk Local Access Forum

SLAF
C/O Suffolk County Council
Phoenix House
Goddard Road
Ipswich
IP1 5NP

Email: slaf@suffolk.gov.uk

Date: 3 July 2024

Attention Liam Walker: Project Director Norwich to Tilbury

Dear Mr Walker

Re: National Grid – Norwich to Tilbury Consultation

The Suffolk Local Access Forum (SLAF) is a statutory body set up under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to advise the County Council and other bodies regarding large infrastructure schemes which could impact public access to the countryside. Its members, appointed by the County Council include walkers, cyclists, horse riders, landowners and those with a wider interest in the countryside.

In the past we have been statutory consultees for other NSIP consultations including Sizewell C, Network Rail, Sea Link, National Highways and the proposed Sunnica Solar Farm.

Whilst SLAF noticed that there is a very generic Public Rights of Way Management Strategy buried in Appendix 4.1 of Volume III of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report, we would expect National Grid to assess the impact individually on all the over 160 Public Rights of Way affected by the proposals within the Draft Order Limits during and post the construction period, whether temporary or permanent, and any planned closure or diversion agreed with the relevant authority in advance. There would also be a need to ensure that all sub-contractors involved in the project were monitored to make sure that all conditions imposed by the local authority were adhered to, especially regarding width and surfacing of any temporary diversions and adequate separation where haul roads impacted on rights of way.

This will be most important through the Dedham Vale National Landscape where although the cables will be underground their installation will involve a 120m wide trench to install the cable ducts. We have concerns as to how this corridor will impact the landscape through disturbance or loss of habitats, hedgerows and biodiversity.

There is therefore a need to ensure that early consultation takes place with the SCC's Rights of Way team regarding all proposed diversions and temporary closures to ensure that they meet the necessary standards regarding width and surfacing. If required suitable mitigation measures should also be put in place.

Providing independent advice on access to the countryside in Suffolk

SLAF are aware of the budgetary and personnel constraints that the local authority is under, and for a project of this scale would expect National Grid to provide funding for additional staff to work on the project so as not to impact on an already heavy workload.

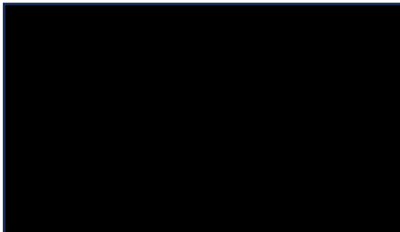
We are also concerned about the visual impact of the Compounds where the overhead lines go underground which would be around 50m by 50m with equipment up to 15m high inside. The documents also make clear that the use of 'T' pylons has been rejected due to engineering constraints and the proposal is for lattice ones 49.9m high with 20.8m arms and a base 9.2m by 9.2m. As these are every 320m apart, depending on the construction programme, many PRowS could be impacted for some time. Consideration should be given to the cumulative impact of additional pylons and power lines in the area surrounding for example the Bramford sub-station.

Public Rights of Way represent a great resource in Suffolk, providing green access for local communities as well as visitors. Any disruption of the network, albeit only temporary, could have adverse consequences to the county's social, physical, mental wellbeing as well as its economy, so it is important that consideration should be given to ensuring mitigation measures are put in place to minimise the effect on the wider landscape due to changes in the views and the impact of construction traffic. This is particularly important where the impact is on locally promoted circular routes and named longer distance paths.

As this is a long-term project that could take up to five years if the DCO is confirmed we would expect some sort of Community Fund to be put in place to compensate the affected areas which could be used for community and green access improvements. There would also be benefits in appointing a liaison person who could work with local communities as well as the local authority as the work progresses, to ensure that any temporary diversions are in place and signed off by the relevant officer.

SLAF would hope that the above points will be taken on board prior to the submission of the DCO and we look forward to being consulted on that.

Yours sincerely



Chair of Suffolk Local Access Forum

Suffolk Local Access Forum	
Title:	Network Rail Updates
Paper:	LAF 24/19
Author/Contact:	Steve Kerr / Andrew Woodin
Meeting:	25 July 2024, 2:00-4:00pm
Venue:	Tuddenham St Mary Village Hall, Suffolk IP28 6FB

Introduction

This paper updates the forum on the main level crossings being addressed by Network Rail (NR) and Suffolk County Council ('the Council' or 'SCC'), and progress on their Transport and Works Act proposals.

Needham Market Gipsy Lane and FP6 Needham Market



As previously reported to members, NR had not provided the county council with any progress updates on the project since approximately the end of October 2023.

However, on Tuesday 9 July the county council received an email from NR's Head of Communications (Anglia Route), advising that they intended to issue a press release on Monday 15 July, informing that the railway operator intended to start onsite on that same day. Officers raised their concerns with the railway operator regarding the lack of advance notice and raised the fact that neither the s278 agreement nor the funding agreement had yet been signed/completed. Unfortunately, the email was not clearly worded and NR subsequently clarified that the start date of 15/7/24 was for the initial mobilisation of their contractors and the setting up works compounds but that the actual construction works would be starting on 22 August. NR also advised they would be re-starting the liaison meetings with council officers.

It would appear that the landowner's replacement private bridge (which was damaged beyond repair during Storm Babet), has now been installed.

General/Countywide

NR's Suffolk Level Crossing Reduction Strategy - Transport and Works Act Order

Further to the update at the Forum's last meeting, NR's new ALXR Project Team held an introductory meeting with SCC officers on 30 April. Further meetings were held on 6th and 25th June. NR have now shared their indicative programme for the detailed design consultations and construction start dates for the level crossings listed below (see Appendix 1). NR have caveated that because they have challenges affecting each site, these dates are not necessarily fixed.

- S30 Lords 29 – FP9 Elmswell
- S17 Paynes - FPs 22 and 26 Gislingham
- S16 Gislingham – BR10 Finningham
- S04 Island – FP18 Bentley
- S29 Hawk End Lane – FP12 Brantham

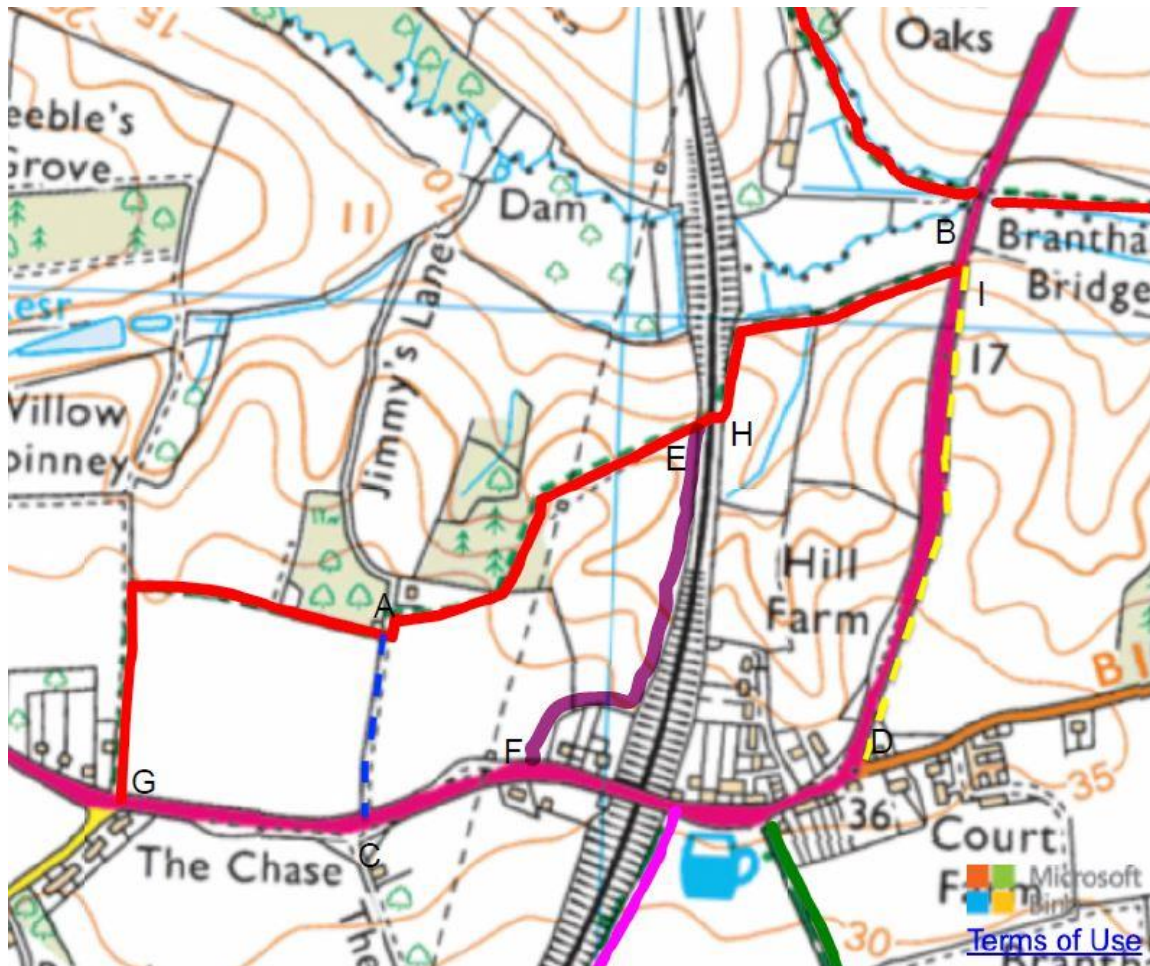
As one can see, the most advanced proposal is Hawk End Lane. The county council received the detailed design submission on 8 May and provided its comments on the proposal on 6 June. SCC expects the next detailed design consultation to be submitted will be for FP9 Elmswell (S30 Lords 29).

Footpath 6 Brantham (High Bridge)

Since the last update provided at the Forum's April meeting, county council officers undertook a site visit on 17 June to assess NR's suggested proposal to improve the highway verge on the eastern side of the A137. Rights of Way officers do not consider the proposal to be feasible, for the following reasons: -

1. At the start of the route, the verge is not wide enough and obstructed by marker posts.
2. Whilst in places the highway verge is wide enough and level to accommodate a 2-metre-wide pedestrian refuge, in others it is not entirely level, is bordered by a ditch and includes several 'obstructions' in the form of large road signs. These signs would need to be re-located somewhere else and it is likely that a review of the 30/60 mph zones and associated Traffic Regulation Order would also be required.
3. The amount of vegetation clearance that would be required (including mature trees) is very significant.
4. A self-binding gavel surface specification is unlikely to work in this location.

Officers communicated the above to NR at the beginning of July, suggesting alternative options that would require further engagement with affected landowners and require consultation with the parish council, the Ramblers Association and the Local Access Forum.



The county council would like to see the circular walk C-A-E-F, together with the field edge footpath D-I secured, in lieu of the extinguishment of the section E-H-B. However, SCC would also be prepared to consider the extinguishment of the route marked A-E-H-B, with the circular walk provision between G-A-C but only if the field edge route D-I can also be delivered.

Officers have yet to receive a response from the railway operator.

Footpath 13 Bacton

Further to the update at the Forum's last meeting, officers met with Babergh Mid Suffolk (BMS) on 23 April to discuss the planning history affecting this level crossing, following which BMS sent its response to NR, advising that it was not prepared to administer a Rail Crossing Extinguishment Order and suggesting the safety risk at the crossing could be adequately mitigated by installing Miniature Warning Lights and increasing the height of the netting alongside the railway line at Bacton Football Club, to prevent footballs from being kicked onto the railway corridor.

The county council anticipates NR will be in future contact to establish if it is prepared to administer the order and will need to consider its position when that approach is made.



Suffolk Road Rail Partnership (SRRP)

As advised at the Forum's meeting in April, officers met NR on 12 April. Items discussed included: -

- long term county council highway and NR strategies
- ensuring NR are notified of planning application consultations for large scale developments. Closer liaison with NR on Sizewell C project.
- Addressing fault resolutions at road level crossings, including road signage/markings and vegetation clearance
- Wherever possible, proactively addressing non-DDA compliant level crossing furniture at PROW crossings by replacing stiles with gates

Meetings are currently scheduled for four times a year, with the next Teams meeting arranged for the 19 July.

END
SK/SCC July 2024

Suffolk Local Access Forum	
Title:	The King Charles III England Coast Path
Paper:	LAF 24/20
Author/Contact:	Andrew Woodin
Meeting:	25th July 2024, 2:00-4:00pm
Venue:	Tuddenham St Mary Village Hall IP28 6FB

1. Progress on Establishing The England Coast Path (ECP)

The latest information from Natural England’s (NE) on its progress for the ECP in Suffolk and Norfolk is shown on their website. The progress report update dates are shown in the links.

Stretch name	Progress
Harwich to Shotley Gate	Four out of six reports at Stage 4, two at Stage 5
Shotley Gate to Felixstowe Ferry	Stage 5: Approved (not yet available for public use – work to establish the route is currently taking place)
Felixstowe Ferry to Bawdsey	Stage 5: Approved. (Not yet available for public use – work to establish the route is currently taking place)
Bawdsey to Aldeburgh	Four out of five reports at Stage 4 and one at Stage 5
Aldeburgh to Hopton-on-Sea	One out of six reports at Stage 4, others at Stage 5 (not yet available for public use – work to establish the route is currently taking place)

The remaining stages to establish Coastal Access in Suffolk are as follows:

Stage 4: Determine

After the report has been published, there’s an opportunity to comment on the proposals. At this time:

- anyone who wishes to comment can make a representation on the report
- owners or occupiers can submit an objection relating to particular aspects of the proposals

See the guidance about how to comment for more information.

Once the period to comment on the proposals has ended, the Secretary of State will decide whether to approve the proposals in Natural England’s report. When making a decision, any representations or objections that have been submitted will be considered along with the recommendations from the Planning Inspectorate.

Stage 5: Open

The Secretary of State approves the route of the England Coast Path on this stretch, or a report within the stretch.

Preparations are then made on the ground and the necessary legal paperwork is completed. Once complete, the new public rights of access will come into force on the stretch.

Note: Whilst individual reports for sections within a stretch can be approved, in Suffolk stretches will not normally be launched until all of the Coastal Access Reports comprising the stretch have been approved.

Further information on the England Coast Path can be found [here](#).

2. The Stretches in More Detail

Natural England have provided this update on the national situation:

Status of proposals	Number of miles
Total mileage submitted to government	2674
- complete and open for public use	1075
- approved by government and work to establish the route taking place, or awaited	1267
- awaiting government decision	332
Yet to be submitted	26

Due to the election no Government announcements about stretch approvals could be made in the pre-election period after 25th May. However, the FFB stretch was approved on 7th May (see below). The new Secretary of State will receive training on KCIIECP responsibilities.

The latest information from Natural England's on its progress for the King Charles III England Coast Path in Suffolk is shown on their website. The progress report update dates are shown in the links at the start of the report and more detail from Natural England is shown in the table below.

The Five Suffolk Stretches

Harwich to Shotley Gate – Jonathan Clarke. Last updated 8.7.24
No change since previous report

- Stage 4 and 5 (Determine and Open)
- The proposals were published in January 2020 and received 7 objections.
- Reports 4, 5 and 6 are in Suffolk.
- Coastal Access Reports 1 and 4 have been approved. Work to establish the route can now take place on these lengths.

- The Planning Inspector undertook a further visit in July 2022 and in July 2023 there was the opportunity to submit further representations about an objection in the Essex part of the stretch. We are waiting to hear the decision from the Secretary of State

Shotley Gate to Felixstowe Ferry – Jonathan Clarke. Last updated 8.7.24

- Stage 5 (Open) – but not yet available for use
- Work to establish the route is now taking place.

Felixstowe Ferry to Bawdsey – Jonathan Clarke. Last updated 8.7.24

- Stage 5 (Open) – but not yet available for use
- Natural England published proposals in December 2020
- 7 objections were received.
- Two reports were approved in May 2023.
- On 7th May 2024 the Secretary of State **APPROVED** the remaining sections without change and the details are at [Coastal access: Section 52 notice for Felixstowe Ferry to Bawdsey - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Bawdsey to Aldeburgh – Jonathan Clarke. Last updated 8.7.24

No change since previous report

- Stage 4 and 5 (Determine and Open)
- The report was published in February 2021.
- Report 3 has been approved but work has not started.
- The Planning Inspector visited the stretch in July 2022 to consider the objections, and we are waiting to hear the decision from the Secretary of State.

Aldeburgh to Hopton-on-Sea – Jonathan Clarke. Last updated 8.7.24

No change since previous report

- Stage 4 and 5 (Determine and Open)
- Natural England published proposals in January 2020.
- 23 objections were received – all on Report 4.
- Reports 1,2,3,5 and 6 were approved in June 2022.
- The Planning Inspector did site visits in April 2024.
- Work to establish the route is now taking place

3. Suffolk Progress

The project officer has continued to predominantly focus on the establishment works on the two stretches covering Shotley Gate to Felixstowe Ferry and Aldeburgh to Hopton. All works will be funded by Natural England by applying for grants from them. The breadth of the establishment works is broad, ranging from tree safety surveys, design and construction of structures such as boardwalks, bridges, and steps, new interpretation boards, bespoke heritage signs in conservation areas as well as the more familiar installation of new signposts and waymark posts. The county council has developed new technical specifications and a GIS method for recording works including the production of bespoke maps

and scheme details for the works packs needed for the quotation process, in line with the requirements of the Natural England grant scheme. Understanding and clarifying the many legal and technical aspects of the National Trail works and grant process with Natural England has been a key piece of work during this initial period.

Several works packages had been put out to tender over recent months, namely:

- Installation of signs and waymarking from Aldeburgh to Hopton,
- Surface improvement and structures (bridges) at Dunwich (Aldeburgh to Hopton stretch),
- Revetment works and installation of steps at Thorpeness (Aldeburgh to Hopton stretch),
- Boardwalks and surfacing works at Walberswick (Aldeburgh to Hopton stretch).

Following successful completion of tenders and grant applications, works commenced in early January 2024 on the Shotley Gate to Felixstowe Ferry section, with the majority of the works completed by early April 2024. Works that were outstanding due to winter ground conditions are nearing completion with the culvert works completed within the Orwell Park Estate. The County Council have now received grant approval for the remaining fencing and associated works on the Estate, with those works being undertaken shortly.

The team will shortly commence the signing works with these programmed to be installed in September 2024. This will tie in with the delivery of the outstanding works with a view to the route being opened in late October 2024. We await a confirmed date for opening from Natural England.

Discussions continue between SCC Public Health, National Highways, Natural England and the Development & Improvement Manager on access by the King Charles III England Coast Path over the Orwell Bridge have continued. National Highways have agreed to replacement steps, but the County Council are seeking agreement to a resting point on the embankment and information signs, these discussions continue and we hope to have full resolution to the outstanding matters shortly.

Following verification of the infrastructure required on on the Aldeburgh to Hopton stretch which was surveyed by Natural England (with SCC) in 2017/18, starting with the confirmed reports from Aldeburgh to Southwold and from Pakefield to Hopton. Several grant applications have been submitted and we are awaiting full approval with works due to commence in September 2024. This is due to ecology restraints.

The project officer will be continuing to push on delivery of these two sections over the autumn. We currently do not have a set date for the opening of this stretch and are currently in discussion with Natural England to look at opening over the winter of 24/25.

The planning inspectorate visit the Southwold to Pakefield stretch in late March to consider objections. The Operations Manager attended the site visits as an advisory role. We now await a decision from the Secretary of State, we do not

anticipate receiving this within the next few months. No decisions are provided during pre-election period resulting in further delay.

Following the approval of the Felixstowe Ferry to Bawdsey stretch on 7 May 2024, the team have verified the works required on site and raised a number of queries with Natural England. A joint site visit has been undertaken with Natural England and a number of landowners; we are currently working through the queries. Once resolved we anticipate issuing tenders in the coming months.

The team are working closely with the RAMS Manager (Suffolk Coast Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy) and Natural England to review all mitigation information signs. This is a positive area of work that will unify information signs on the trail and wider RAMS areas.

Natural England have advised that funding is available for a second project officer. As works are currently on target for delivery we are not in a position to progress with a second officer. Implementation work is progressing well on the approved sections. This will remain under review.

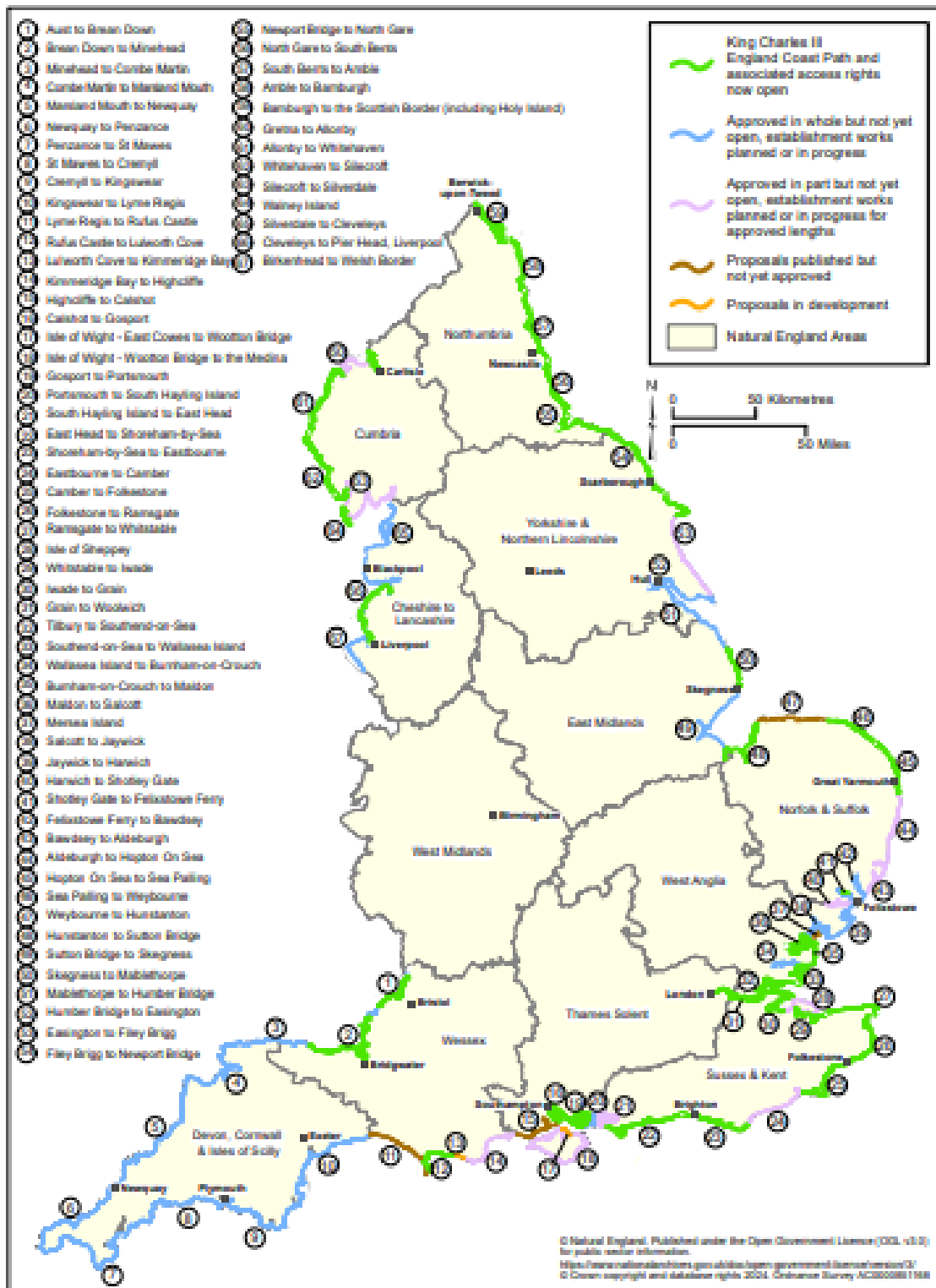
The Operations Team have established fortnightly meetings with Natural England representatives. We have carried out a two positive site visits with Natural England on both Aldeburgh to Hopton and Felixstowe Ferry to Bawdsey stretches, these were carried out in late April and early June. This enabled us to discuss delivery of works and to meet with third parties on interpretation and works requirements. We have agreed that this will continue with remaining stretches following approval.

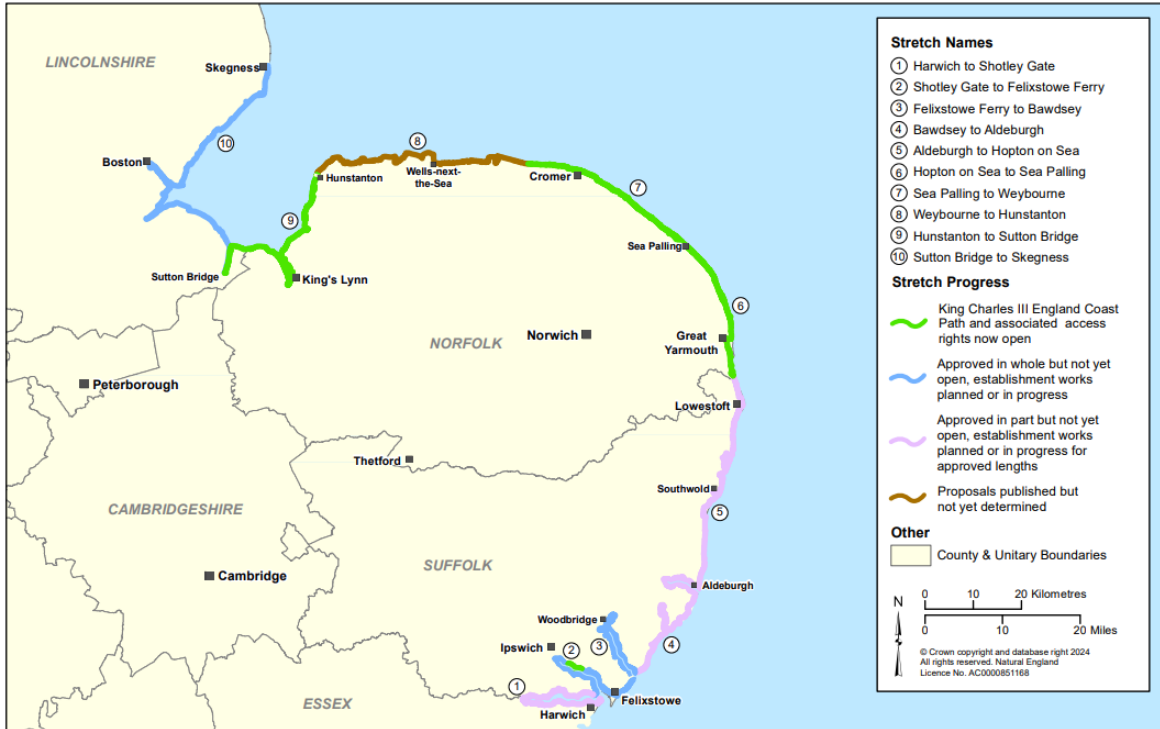
4. Future Management of the England Coast Path in the East of England

Following the withdrawal of one of the regional councils from the creation of a regional trail and partnership, the county council will review the best way of maintaining and marketing the King Charles III England Coast Path in Suffolk.

The amount of national trail maintenance grant access authorities and trail partnerships receive from Natural England is worked out using a funding formula. As reported at the last meeting the formula is being reviewed, and this process is ongoing, following the establishment of a review working group. The review will not affect 24/25 grant offers.

6. England Coast Path – [Progress Maps](#)





END
AW/SCC Jul 2024

Suffolk Local Access Forum	
Title:	SLAF Annual Report 2023-2024
Paper:	LAF 24/21
Author/Contact:	David Falk
Meeting:	25 July 2024, 2:00-4:00pm
Venue:	Tuddenham St Mary Village Hall

SLAF members need to comment on the draft Annual Report 2023-2024.

The first heading ‘What are the key issues to consider’ summarising the forum’s key issues during the period October 2023 – July 2024 and form the first part of the report for Cabinet. These key issues are grouped into 2 heading: Energy Schemes; and Green Access.

Member comments are required if this needs editing.

Member comments are also required if further edits are required within the report.

A request has been made for the SLAF Chair to present the report to Cabinet on 10 September 2024. The Vice Chair has been asked to also attend.

What are the key issues to consider?

Suffolk’s Energy Schemes:

The forum fully recognises the importance of developing sustainable options for energy production in the UK and supports Suffolk County Council’s ambitions to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030. However, the forum is concerned with the seeming lack of coordination between schemes, especially on the Suffolk coast with its numerous conservation and environmental designations, and its extensive green access network.

Response: The Council recognises concerns over the numerous projects and the key role Suffolk plays nationally but will work to ensure appropriate mitigation for green access is integral to all proposals.

Improving Suffolk’s Green Access network:

The forum welcomes new green access initiatives including the delivery of a new bridleway link between Bury St Edmunds and Horringer, the potential of a new National Trail for Suffolk in the King Charles III England Coast Path, and the opening of the public open space at Griffin Warf in Ipswich.

The forum also see the creation of more off road walking and cycling routes, funded mainly through development, will help support national policies to encourage and promote walking and cycling.

Response: The Council recognises the value of such initiatives and the benefits they bring to Suffolk's communities and will endeavour to continue to deliver such projects in line with the Suffolk Green Access Strategy 2020-2030.

Main body of report

Suffolk Local Access Forum Annual Report 2023/24

Administration and Meetings

1. SCC's Rights of Way and Access team provides secretariat services and recruits new members but the forum have their own logo, letter heading, email address and website page at <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/public-rights-of-way-in-suffolk/suffolk-local-access-forum>.
2. The cost of administering the forum in 2023-24 was £1,599.54.
3. The forum met on 26 October 2023, 25 January 2024, 25 April 2024, and 25 July 2024. All meetings were open to the public
4. At meetings the forum received updates and briefings covering:
 - a) Suffolk Energy Schemes
 - b) Network Rail level crossing closures
 - c) King Charles III England Coast Path
 - d) New Cut West Public Open Space
 - e) National Highways Fiveways Junction Barton Mills proposals
 - f) East Suffolk Council Felixstowe Garden Neighbourhood Masterplan
 - g) Open Access seasonal closure review
 - h) Consolidation of Suffolk's Definitive Map
 - i) Legislation regarding converting footpaths to bridleways
 - j) Bridleway Creation Order consultation
 - k) Definitive Map Cut Off Date 2031
 - l) Bury St Edmunds to Horringer bridleway link
 - m) SLAF Terms of Reference
 - n) Site visits have been arranged to see issues on the ground at
 - o) Fiveways, Barton Mills;
 - p) North Felixstowe Garden Neighbourhood;
 - q) Gipsy Lane level crossing and Gipping Valley Path, Needham Market;
 - r) Cavenham Heath Open Access site.
5. The forum thanks the Rights of Way and Access team for their on-going support, advice and assistance which is vital to the forum performing their duties.

SLAF Main Activities in 2023/24

Suffolk Energy Schemes

6. During the year the forum have received detailed updates and have commented on:
 - a) National Grid Sea Link (Suffolk to Kent)
In December 2023, the forum responded to National Grid's consultation on Sea Link. The forum objected to the scale of a proposed converter station, requested clarity on the alignment of cable trenches, and asked that a Public Right of Way Management Plan was published and agreed prior to construction work commencing.
 - b) Sizewell C
 - c) Sunnica

- d) National Grid Bramford to Twinstead
- e) Norwich to Tilbury
- f) Scottish Power East Anglia ONE North and East Anglia TWO offshore windfarms
- g) Scottish Power East Anglia THREE offshore windfarm
- h) National Grid LionLink (Suffolk to Belgium)

King Charles III England Coast Path

- 7. In November 2023 the forum wrote to Natural England (NE) requesting an update on the delivery of the King Charles III England Coast Path in Suffolk, expressing frustration at the lack of progress, and requesting NE commit to funding implementation costs and ongoing maintenance due to delays. NE responded in December 2023 advising they had little control over timescale but had agreed to additional resources in SCC to deliver the path.
- 8. The forum received advice on pedestrian access over the Orwell Bridge being part of the King Charles III England Coast Path. The forum requested assurances from SCC that public health precautions and consultations had been made.

A11 Fiveways Junction, Barton Mills

- 9. In January 2024 the forum wrote to National Highways asking for a progress update on proposals to develop the A11 Fiveways junction at Barton Mills. National Highways responded the following day advising that all major road schemes under the Third Road Investment Strategy (RIS3) were awaiting guidance from the Department for Transport and would likely be considered under RIS4 which carried a timeline beyond 2030.

Horringer Bridleway 7

- 10. In August 2023 the forum wrote to Cllr Paul West as Cabinet Member for Ipswich, Operational Highways and Flooding, regarding Horringer Bridleway 7 to urge SCC to bring forward capital funding to enable the construction of an all-weather surface along the route.

Griffin Warf Public Open Space, Ipswich

- 11. In August 2023 the forum wrote to SCC to press for a swift opening of the Public Open Space (POS) at Griffin Warf in Ipswich. The forum was pleased to see the POS finally opened to the public in February 2024.

SLAF Membership

- 12. The forum had 17 members during the period covered by this report. Three members stood down, including David Barker who was Vice Chair and had been on the forum since its inception in 2003, and one new member joined. There are 14 members as of July 2024.
- 13. The full list of members is in Appendix A.

Working Groups:

The forum has the following working groups:

Topic	Membership
PRoW Severance, including Network Rail and National Highways	Barry Hall, Clare Philips, Roley Wilson

Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs)	Suzanne Bartlett, Barry Hall, Roley Wilson, Anthony Wright, Gordon Merfield
England Coast Path	Barry Hall, Susan Mobbs, Roley Wilson
Planning and Development	Roley Wilson, Monica Pipe, Anthony Wright, Margaret Hancock

Barry Hall

Chair of Suffolk Local Access Forum

Christopher Bower

Vice Chair of Suffolk Local Access Forum

August 2024

Sources of further information

The public have a right to inspect any documents included in this box – they are therefore in the public domain once the agenda is published. Background papers used in preparing the report must be kept by the report author for four years from the date of the meeting.

If there are no sources of further information, don't delete the box. Please insert the wording "No other documents have been relied on to a material extent in preparing this report".

a) Local Access Forums:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-access-forums-participate-in-decisions-on-public-access>

b) Suffolk Local Access Forum web pages and membership

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/public-rights-of-way-in-suffolk/suffolk-local-access-forum>

c) Suffolk Local Access Forum meeting 26 October 2023

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/asset-library/imported/2023-10-26-SLAF-Papers.pdf>

d) Suffolk Local Access Forum meeting 25 January 2024

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/asset-library/2024-01-25-SLAF-Agenda-and-Papers-PUBLISH.pdf>

e) Suffolk Local Access Forum meeting 25 April 2024

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/asset-library/2024-04-25-SLAF-Agenda-and-Papers-websreite.pdf>

f) Suffolk Local Access Forum meeting 25 July 2024

g) The Suffolk Green Access Strategy: Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2020-2030:

Appendix A

Suffolk Local Access Forum – Members Details

SLAF Membership August 2023 – July 2024

The forum had 17 members during the period covered by this report.

Barry Hall (Chair) – Barry is a retired local government officer with experience of working on countryside and rights of way projects. Barry retains an interest in countryside access as a member of the RSPB, Suffolk Wildlife Trust and National Trust. *Barry has been a member of SLAF since October 2007 and Chair since January 2016.*

David Barker MBE (Vice Chair – until January 2024) – With his wide experience within the NFU, CLA and as a former Countryside Agency commissioner, David seeks to balance all interests in countryside access. David was also Chair of Creating the Greenest County. *David has been a member of SLAF since its inception in July 2003 and has been Vice Chair since April 2010. David stood down from the forum in October 2023 after 20 years of service.*

Christopher Bower (Vice Chair – January 2024 onwards) – Chris is a keen cyclist who enjoys off-road hiking, biking, and running, exploring the natural environment, and participating in ultradistance cycling events. As a Cycling UK advocate, he has created a long-distance multi-terrain cycling route around Suffolk to encourage responsible green access and improve physical, mental, and environmental health. *Chris became a member of SLAF in April 2023 and took on the role of Vice Chair in January 2024.*

Suzanne Bartlett – Having been brought up on a farm near Framlingham, Suzanne spent most of her life living and working in Suffolk. Since retiring as a librarian, she has dedicated more time to walking and cycling in the countryside, whilst continuing as a self-employed writer and researcher. She is particularly concerned with promoting the benefits of outdoor activities for both physical health and mental well-being. *Suzanne has been a member of SLAF since October 2018.*

Margaret Hancock – Margaret is a Blue Badge Tourist Guide with a particular interest in promoting sustainable tourism. She is keen to encourage visitors to explore Suffolk by public transport, walking and cycling to benefit the local economy and preserve the peace and tranquillity of the county. Margaret has experience of supporting children and young people with disabilities, enabling them to access leisure facilities. *Margaret has been a member of SLAF since April 2010.*

Jane Hatton – Jane has always lived in Suffolk enjoying the countryside as both a horse rider and dog walker. Jane has a background in Sales and Marketing and has previously been the Sudbury Town Centre Manager. She works to improve access for the community into the countryside with an interest in promoting the benefits to health and tourism and has introduced new walks for both the Suffolk Walking Festival and Walking for Health. *Jane was a member of SLAF since October 2013 and stood down in January 2024.*

Gordon Merfield – With a background in agriculture, since the 1980's Gordon has been active in participating and coaching field sports events as well as being interested in the wider countryside and walking in foreign countries. *Gordon has been a member of SLAF since September 2004.*

Susan Mobbs – Susan is a walker and a cyclist mainly because of the opportunities they give her for exploring landscape, history, and nature at close hand. She is a volunteer with the Suffolk Wildlife Trust, doing practical work on local reserves, and a member of the Long-Distance Walkers Association. Her professional background is in social care and social and community development, and she is keen to see improved access to the countryside and outdoor activities for people of all ages and abilities. *Susan has been a member of SLAF since October 2018.*

Clare Phillips – With a background in journalism, Clare has worked on the BBC's 'Farming Today' programme and presented countryside documentaries for BBC Radio Suffolk. Clare enjoys off-road running and walking in the Suffolk countryside, organises several Trail Races, and runs each year for her running club. She is a horse-rider and a Trustee of Ipswich Riding for the Disabled Group with experience of working with a wide range of riders with disabilities. Clare also chairs the footpaths sub-committee of Brantham Parish Council. *Clare has been a member of SLAF since October 2018.*

Monica Pipe – Monica farms just north of Ipswich and has many well-used footpaths on her land including the promoted long-distance trail, the Fynn Valley Walk. *Monica has been a member of SLAF since its inception in July 2003.*

Adrian Shepherd – Adrian is General Manager of National Trust Ickworth Estate. The Trust was founded on the principle of maintaining spaces for people to enjoy and benefit from, and this is what motivates Adrian in his work. In his professional capacity he is committed to making the estate more accessible to cyclists, walkers, and horse riders, and developing sustainable travel options to National Trust properties. Away from work, Adrian is a walking enthusiast. *Adrian has been a member of SLAF since April 2023.*

Councillor Joanna Spicer – Joanna has lived in Suffolk for over 50 years having come to live here in 1972 to work for the newly formed East Anglia Tourist Board as the Information Officer. She was first elected to Suffolk County Council in 1989 and represents the 16 rural villages of the Blackbourn Division, north-east of Bury St Edmunds. Joanna is not only a keen walker, but also works with parish councils and landowners to press for additional rights of way and green space to be a larger part of new developments. *Joanna has been a member of SLAF since June 2022 representing Suffolk County Council.*

Councillor Edward Thompson – Edward is Liberal Democrat District Councillor for Martlesham and Purdis Farm. *Edward joined SLAF in July 2024, replacing Cllr Whitelock in representing District and Borough County Council's interests.*

Jim Wayman – Jim works for a company representing east Suffolk potato farmers. He has an interest in balancing the needs of landowners and farmers with maintaining the natural beauty of Suffolk's landscapes and ensuring there is access for all to enjoy the countryside for recreation. *Jim has been a member of SLAF since April 2023.*

Councillor Sarah Whitelock – Sarah is a Green Party District Councillor for Aldeburgh and Leiston and in 2016 became voluntary secretary of the Aldeburgh Business Association (ABA). She has a keen interest in renewable energy with specific concerns over proposals for Sizewell C. *Sarah joined SLAF in January 2024 replacing Cllr James Mallinder in representing District and Borough Council's interests. She stood down in July 2024.*

Roley Wilson – Roley is actively involved in the promotion of the health benefits of walking for all. He has a lifelong interest in nature and open-air pursuits. During a 33-year career in the police one of his many postings involved being the Wildlife Liaison Officer for Suffolk. He is a member of the Ramblers and since retirement has spent an increasing amount of time in volunteer activities for that organisation. A keen bird watcher and member of the RSPB and Suffolk Wildlife Trust he has a passion for ensuring that everyone has free and responsible access to the countryside. *Roley has been a member of SLAF since October 2013.*

Anthony Wright – A long-term cyclist and walker, Anthony has worked with several local authorities and publishers on the production of cycling and walking guides. For 15 years before retiring Anthony worked part-time for the national sustainable transport charity Sustrans as its Area Manager for Norfolk and Suffolk, while also working part-time as a Suffolk County Council Cycling Officer. He maintains an active interest in developing cycle routes and advises the Highways Agency and Norfolk & Suffolk Highways of their responsibilities for non-motorist users' safety on the highway. *Anthony has been a member of SLAF since its inception in July 2003.*

END
DF July 2024