

Suffolk Local Access Forum	
Title:	Agenda
Meeting Date:	25th April 2023, 2-4 pm
Author/Contact:	Anna McGowan
Venue:	Mildenhall Cricket Club, Wamil Way, Mildenhall IP28 7JU

		Paper Number
1.	14:00 Welcome to new members, apologies and housekeeping	
2.	14.15 Minutes of previous meeting	LAF 23/8 - BW
3.	14.30 Declaration of interest	
4.	14.35 Network Rail – Public Rights of Way & Level Crossings	LAF 23/9 - SK
5.	14.45 Byway 38/Restricted Byway 38A Ipswich Letter to Ipserv Ltd & IBC from BH, 24-02-2023	LAF 23/10 - SK Appendix A
6.	14.50 The England Coast Path	LAF 23/11 - AW
7.	15.00 Suffolk Energy Schemes	LAF 23/12 - AW
8.	15.15 National Highways R1S3	LAF 23/13 – DF Verbal
9.	15.20 ELMS	LAF 23/14 – DB Verbal
10.	15.25 Natural England LAF Support and Contact Spreadsheet	LAF 23/15 - BH
11.	15.30 Public Question Time	
12.	15.40 Any Other Business	
13.	16.00 Date of Next Meeting - 27 th July 2023 venue to be confirmed.	

Suffolk Local Access Forum	
Title:	Minutes of Meeting
Paper:	LAF 23/8
Meeting Date:	26th January 2023, 2-4 pm
Author/Contact:	Anna McGowan
Venue:	EDF Sizewell B Visitor Centre, off Sizewell Gap, near Leiston IP16 4UR

1. **Welcome, apologies and housekeeping**

Present: Barry Hall (BH) (Chair); David Barker (DB) (Vice Chair); Margaret Hancock (MH); Suzanne Bartlett (SB); Susan Mobbs (SM); Clare Phillips (CP); Gordon Merfield (GM); Roland Wilson (RW); Monica Pipe (MP); Joanna Spicer (JS)

SCC Officers Present: Andrew Woodin (AW); Steve Kerr (SK), David Falk (DF); Phil Watson (PW); Oliver Wastell (OW); Callum Leslie (CL) Anna McGowan (AM)
Minutes.

Apologies: Jane Hatton (JH); Anthony Wright (AWr); Cllr James Mallinder (JM); John Wayman (JW)

This meeting was preceded by a morning site visit to Sizewell Beach.

BH welcomed everyone at the meeting and introduced the two recently appointed new members of SCC staff: OW (Green Access Development Officer), and CL (Public Rights of Way Officer).

2. **Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 27th October 2022 LAF 23/1, were reviewed, agreed, and accepted.

BH said he has not yet received a response from ABP to his letter dated 25th November 2022.

3. **Declaration of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

4. **NSIPs Presentation was delivered PW, Strategic Energy Project Manager.**

PW gave an overview of NSIPs and SCC's engagement with the energy projects which include additional demands on transport, energy, and infrastructure.

PW said that to meet the SCC's target to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 there needs to be a 150% increase in green energy generation capacity. To meet this there needs to be 7 times as much infrastructure in the next 7 years as has been built over the last 32 years.

The major NSIPs in Suffolk are:

- Bramford and Twinstead
- East Anglia Green
- LRN4
- Sizewell C

These projects will require extra cables for the interconnectors to bring wind energy to the National Grid. New interconnector terminal buildings need to be built to connect to the grids. Each interconnector building at the respective terminal will cover an area of 5 hectares.

Additional infrastructure is also needed for water recycling, new reservoirs, desalination plants, water pipelines, and major road schemes.

BH - where in Suffolk will the proposed new terminals be in addition to Friston.
PW - in the AONB area in Aldeburgh, and Saxmundham.

DB - why does the EA Green grid need to go overland, affecting PROW, instead of off-shore using the Sealink interconnector.

PW – it is a matter of scope. 3 new converters would be needed at each end of the line. It is cheaper to build EA Green onshore at cost of approximately £1bn, offshore will cost approximately £3-3.5bn.

SM – asked why rural areas were identified instead of brownfield sites.

PW – Suffolk has a good network at SZC, whilst inland there are good grids from power stations. Suffolk needs to use its existing network as hard as it can before new ones being built, to avoid additional cost. However, the infrastructure cannot cope with the 150% increase in energy generation.

DB – not enough houses use renewable energy.

PW – UK network is not very good at distribution and transmission.

NSIP statutory consultees are [listed here](#) and include local authorities, Natural England etc. SLAF, other non-statutory bodies, and individuals can still object and make representations to the project promoters.

JS – asked what it means for LAFs, is there any guidance available for better engagement and a more focused approach as consultees.

PW - explained the process of making representations for NSIP consultees, giving reference to Advice Note Eight which provides more details for the public.

BH – there is no specific national guidance for local access forums. Natural England have gradually drifted away from helping LAFs despite the provisions in the CROW Act 2000. The manual of help has gone.

BH – SLAF responses can be much stronger than SCC's, this is evidenced in SLAF responses to Network Rail and SZC.

JS - SLAF need to be listened to on NSIPs.

DB – need to look at the impact of East Anglia Green on PROWs.

BH – SLAF will work together with RLAF on response(s) tailored to each area regarding East Anglia Green.

AW – the NSIPs have an enormous impact on local authority officers and asked how project promoters reimburse for officer time.

PW – There is recognition in the amount of time it takes to challenge project promoters and SCC is looking at these issues robustly. There are Planning Performance Agreements through which SCC pushes on the recovery of full costs. PPAs need to be robust and go in hard and early during the first discussions.

MP – SLAF should be strategic rather than piecemeal over PROWs.

JS – SCC should make decisions about cost recovery and tread carefully, and consider the interests of residents.

BH – Members of the RLAF view that Suffolk is in a good place in terms of looking after PROWs.

BH – thanked PW for the presentation.

Action: AW to write to Natural England for guidance on LAF responses to NSIPs, DCOs etc.
PW to send copy of the presentation to AM. AM to distribute it to SLAF members.

5. Network Rail – Public Rights of Way Level Crossings

Needham Market Gypsy Lane

SK said the works are closer to starting. The landowner/NR legal agreement is now with parties for signing. NR will not give any more compensation. There will be a joint comms between NR and SCC. There is no firm date set yet. Works will take between 8-10 weeks. The funding agreement of a £300k lump sum mitigation payment was initially to be phased with a tight deadline. Following interventions from AW NR found a precedent at Soham and have provisionally agreed to pay as a lump sum, which will need a formal sign off.

General/Countywide

This cannot be delayed.

Footpath 1 Higham

SK said the order will be sealed in early February and when advertised, SLAF will be served with the Order and Notice. It is not anticipated there will be objections at the advertising stage, as all stakeholders were in agreement at the consultation stage.

In terms of the ancillary improvement works to Higham Road/A14 verge, there is a written commitment from NR to pay for all the works. SK advised he was holding off commissioning any detailed design until it was clear the order had not been objected to. The previous cost estimates had been secured from Suffolk Highways over 2 years ago and due to the inflationary increases in materials and services it was therefore better to wait.

Footpath 6 Brantham

SK said there is no progress. There is no RCDO application.

CP said people in Brantham are using the footpath less than walkers from Stutton and Bentley.

SK added the chair of the parish council had no objection to the PROW being extinguished.

6. Byway 36/Restricted Byway 38A Ipswich

SK said this Byway is still not open. This is now with IBC to confirm the electricity account had now been set up, and a regime was in place for emptying the bins. IBC are having internal discussions about the costs of taking over and managing the POS.

There has been some antisocial behaviour at the open space and repeated complaints from a local resident about lack of security to the POS, and the rubbish being left on the site.

Two articles about the continuing denial of access to the public open access have appeared in the EADT with pictures.

The Forum is concerned at the continued lack of access to this public open space.

MH – said the Ipswich Society Newsletter featured John Norman's report in the January edition.

JS – suggested SLAF writes directly to IBC.

BH – said his letter to ABP should have been cc'd to IBC but wasn't.

BH – asked if imported aggregate needs to be transported to SZC.

Action: SK to draft SLAF letter to IBC and attach BH letter to ABP dated 25 November 2022.

7. England Coast Path

AW said there was little progress on the sections.

AW announced that a new ECP Officer, Ian Thompson, has joined the East Area PROW team, and is working with James Pickering, PROW Officer, in the West Area as part of the rights of way officer basic training programme.

AW said Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex lead officers have agreed on a regional trail. Southend and Thurrock are not on board. All 3 counties contributed to AW's initial report, which needs to be signed off by Cllr West. Norfolk will bring their expertise to the regional trail.

SM - asked where the objections are on the Aldeburgh to Hopton on Sea stretch.

AW – this is not known.

SB – asked if the ECP is going to be open this year.

AW – need to ask NE. Progress awaits the passage of the reports and objections through the planning inspectorate, and establishment on the ground.

8. Energy Schemes

Sunnica

AW said that Claire Dickson is working on a PROW mitigation strategy, and liaising with Parish Councils and Cambridgeshire to see what their expectations are for improved access.

It is considered that permissive paths should become PROW.

Updates will be put on the Planning Inspectorate website.

Updates were received on:

1. National Grid Bramford to Twinstead
2. East Anglia Green
3. Sizewell C
4. East Anglia One North and EA2 offshore windfarms and onshore infrastructure
5. East Anglia 3 offshore windfarm with onshore infrastructure

6. 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)
7. EUROLINK – interconnector between Suffolk and Belgium

9. Resources

Budgets

AW said at the moment budgets for 2023/24 appear to be about the same as this financial year.

Staffing

There are 6 new starters who are all very enthusiastic.

NSIPs and very large developments continue to stretch resources and consideration is being given to how the ROW & Access team should respond to this.

10. National Highways RS13

Fiveways Junction, Mildenhall

DF said NH have shared their final plans with SCC, which cannot be shared out. SLAF will get involved at Stage 2 if these get the go-ahead.

National Highways is expected to make a decision in March 2023 on the national RS13 schemes (32 in total).

Stage 2 is conditional on decisions made by the Department of Transport. All the plans are down to budget.

DF said there will be further updates on outcomes at the next SLAF meeting in April.

Copdock

DF said this is further down the line than the Fiveways Junction.

11. Regional LAF

BH gave updates on the recent RLAF Meeting held on 19 January 2023.

The meeting was held between 7 counties. BH noted that neither Peterborough nor Thurrock have an operating LAF.

DB said that he had received a response from Therese Coffey, MP to his letter regarding environmental land management scheme, which talked about stewardship schemes increased sums of money. There is a need to push for access.

12. SLAF Recruitment

DF gave a verbal update with the dates for new member recruitment. The deadline for applications is 26th February. An advert will appear in the EADT next week or two. Interest is sought from people with backgrounds in disability, ethnic groups, public land ownership managers, cycling, minority groups and public land managers. The appointment is for 3 years. There is no limit on how many times membership can be renewed, with the rules obliging that members are to attend meetings at least twice a year.

JS – said it is important to get a spread of interests and need to be careful about the ‘interests’ description in the ad.

DB – said that the success of the Forum is because users, land managers and other interest groups have worked positively together.

DB – noted that he will step down in April-July.

Action: AM to send out advert to all SLAF members to share with their contacts.

CP to provide AM contact details at Anglian Water.

13. Public Question Time

There were no public questions.

14. Any Other Business

SM – some signposts with cycle route signs attached to them have been knocked down and asked if they could be reinstated.

DF advised that this may not be the responsibility of SCC, but the responsibility of District Councils.

GM – said that at a Bury St Edmunds meeting it was found that the no.1 cycle route was not maintained.

JS - asked for nameplates for each member at future meetings.

Action: AW to contact Suffolk Highways to request their policy on the replacement of road signs which include the cycle route signage.

AM to arrange nameplates for next meeting.

The Meeting ended at 4.20pm

END

Suffolk Local Access Forum	
Title:	Network Rail – Public Rights of Way Level Crossings
Paper:	LAF 23/9
Meeting:	25th April 2023, 2-4 pm
Author/Contact:	Steve Kerr / Andrew Woodin
Venue:	Mildenhall Cricket Club, Wamil Way, Mildenhall IP28 7JU

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



Further to the update provided in January, it is understood the legal agreement between NR and the landowner has not yet been finalised, with only one issue outstanding relating to the size of the required works compound.

In respect of the £300K forming part of the funding agreement, on 21 February NR advised that they were looking to enter into an agreement that provides all of the funding in one lump sum, rather than through milestone payments as has been done previously with a local authority at Soham.

An email chaser was sent to NR in March, seeking clarity on when the funding will be received. No response was received but officers raised this again at the Programme Board meeting on 4 April with the Commercial Sponsor. She confirmed her legal colleagues had, in principle, agreed to proceed with the revised funding regime and she would be emailing the county council shortly with a formal update.

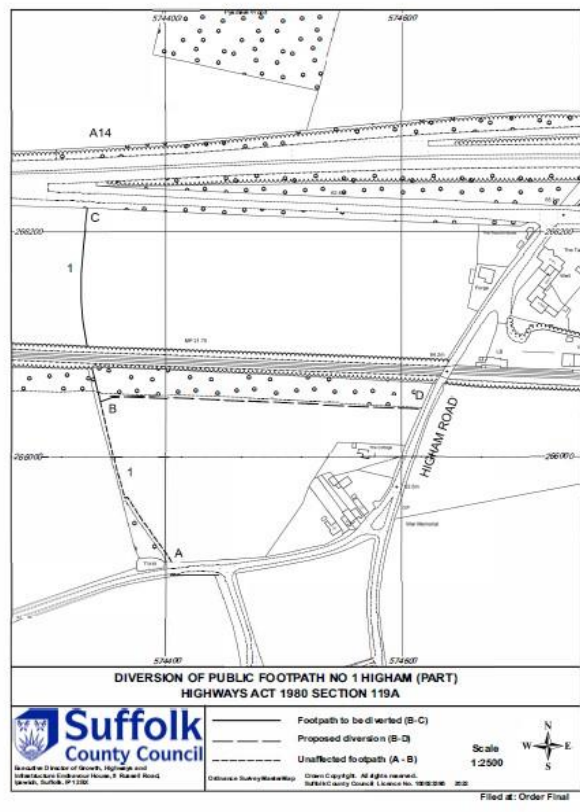
General/Countywide

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

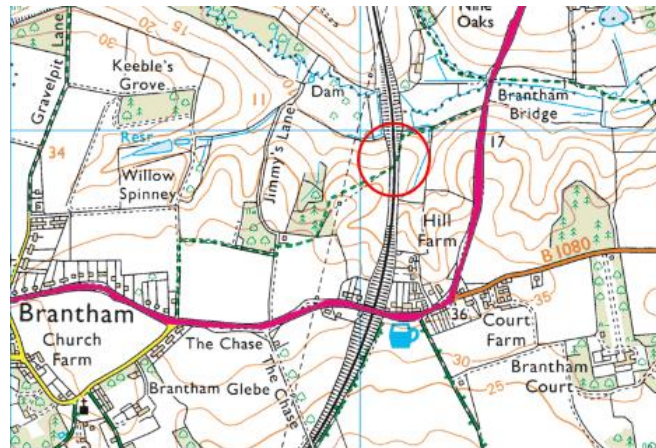
Further to the update at the Forum's January meeting, officers can report that there has been no progress whatsoever, with monthly progress meetings cancelled in advance by NR, including the last one scheduled for 23 March. NR cited lack of progress on an updated programme and the unacceptable design revisions issued by their contractor. It is understood Cambridge County Council are experiencing the same issues/delays.

Footpath 1 Higham (High Bridge)

Further to the update provided to the Forum at its last meeting, the Order was made on 15 February and advertised in the Bury Free Press on 10 March (see Order map below). The Forum was emailed a copy of the Order, Press Notice and Explanatory Statement on 7 March and these were subsequently forwarded on to the SLAF NR Working Group on 8 March. If no objections are received by the end of the statutory objection period on 12 April, the county council can confirm the order inhouse. The diversion will come into effect 70 days from the date of its confirmation, which takes account of the six-week High Court objection period and provides enough time to then undertake the works to bring the route into a fit state for use by the public. The works include some vegetation clearance, a new footbridge over a ditch at the junction with Higham Road, together with some signing and waymarking. All the associated order making costs, including the works described above, are being funded by NR.



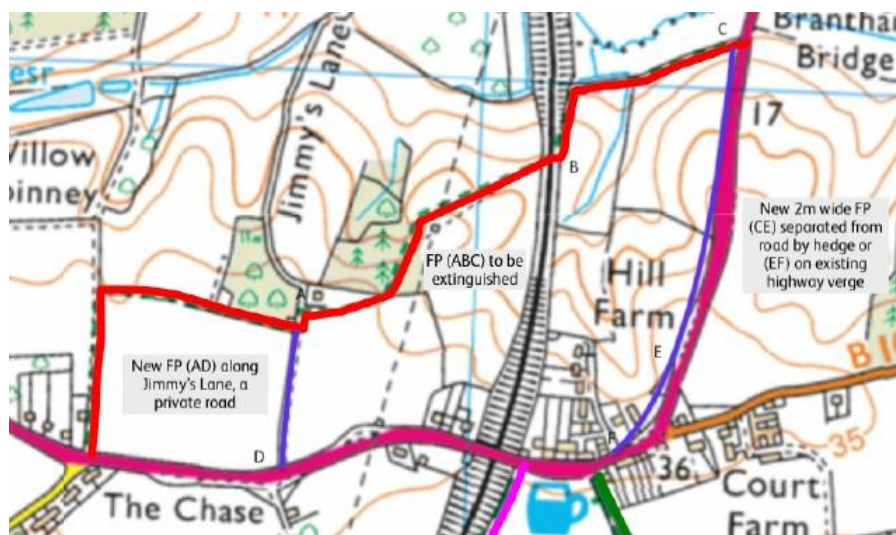
Footpath 6 Brantham (High Bridge)



Further to an email exchange in February, on 1 March NR submitted the partly completed Rail Crossing Diversion Order application for FP6 Brantham. NR are currently consulting the affected landowners. Officers are currently considering the application and will need to visit the site in due course.

The plan below shows what is being proposed. The proposed diversion would see the majority of FP6 extinguished (points A-B-C), with diversionary routes proposed along Jimmy's Lane (A-D) and along a field margin, parallel to the A137 (C-E). The section E-F appears to run along existing highway verge and is in the control of the county council.

Members will be formally consulted for their initial views once officers have scrutinised the application and proposals in more detail. Officers will also be arranging a meeting with its ROW consultant to take this case forward.



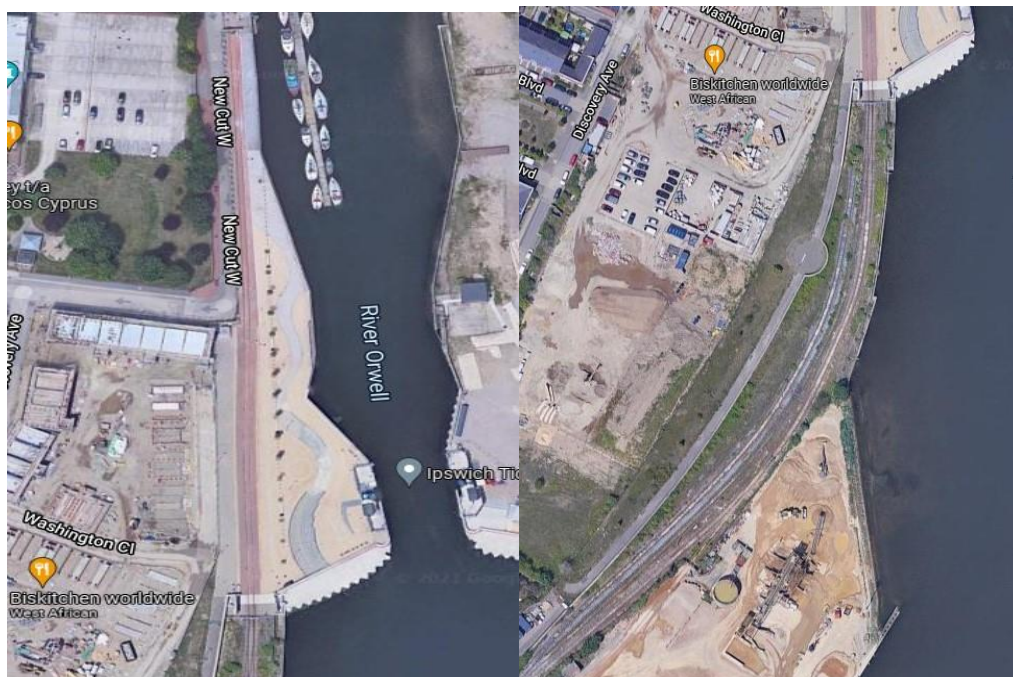
END – SK April 2023

Suffolk Local Access Forum	
Title:	Byway 38/Restricted Byway 38A Ipswich
Paper:	LAF 23/10
Meeting Date:	25th April 2023, 2-4 pm
Author/Contact:	Steve Kerr
Venue:	Mildenhall Cricket Club, Wamil Way, Mildenhall IP28 7JU

Further to the update provided to the Forum in January, unfortunately the Public Open Space (POS) is still not available to the public.

As per the minutes from the Forum's last meeting, the Chairman wrote to Ipswich Borough Council (IBC) on 24 February 2023 (Appendix A), attaching a copy of the SLAF letter dated 25 November 2022 addressed to Associated British Ports (ABP).

The Borough's Interim Head of Property responded by email on 3 March, advising they were working with the Environment Agency to agree on the level of commuted sum for the future maintenance of Griffin Wharf and that as soon as agreement is reached, the site will be made accessible to the public. Unfortunately, officers are unable to advise when those negotiations will be concluded but will be writing to all stakeholders again to advise the county council's portfolio holder will be provided with an update on progress.



END – SK April 2023

Suffolk Local Access Forum	
Title:	Byway 38/Restricted Byway 38A Ipswich
Paper:	LAF 23/10 Appendix A
Meeting Date:	25th April 2023, 2-4 pm
Author/Contact:	Steve Kerr
Venue:	Mildenhall Cricket Club, Wamil Way, Mildenhall IP28 7JU

Appendix A

SLAF
Suffolk Local Access Forum

Stuart Voss
Senior Estates Surveyor for Ipserv Ltd
and Ipswich Borough Council
Grafton House | 15-17 Russell Road |
Ipswich | Suffolk | IP1 2DE

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

Tel: 01473 260159
Email: slaf@suffolk.gov.uk
Web:
<http://publicrightsofway.onesuffolk.net/suffolk-local-access-forum/>

Your Ref:
Our Ref: 325/014/BH
Date: 24 February 2023

Dear Mr Voss

I am writing as Chair of the Suffolk Local Access Forum. As you are aware, Local Access Forums were constituted as part of the 2001 Wildlife and Countryside Act as a statutory consultee on matters of access to the countryside.

At its meeting on 27 October 2022 a site visit was undertaken to the Ipswich Waterfront, to look at various initiatives and projects that Suffolk County Council (SCC) has been involved in over the years. One of these was a visit to the Public Open Space (POS) at Griffin Wharf.

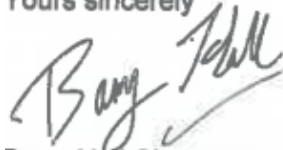
One of the actions from that meeting was to write to Associated British Ports (ABP) and cc the letter to Ipswich Borough Council. I apologise you did not receive a copy of that letter, and enclose it now for your information.

The Forum is aware of the various steps that have had to be taken before the POS can be opened up to the public and until recently SCC officers had been liaising with Paul McKim from IBC. The Forum has been made aware that Paul has now left the Borough Council and you are currently working with the Environment Agency to progress the handover of the management of the site.

You will no doubt be aware that the POS is still not yet accessible to the public and this has attracted some criticism from residents and other stakeholders, including in some recent press articles.

Now that the lighting columns are fully operational and ABP have confirmed they are ready to instruct their contractors to remove the hoarding, the Forum requests that the site is made accessible to the public as soon as possible

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barry Hall', written in a cursive style.

Barry Hall Chairman

Suffolk Local Access Forum
Title: The England Coast Path
Paper: LAF 23/11
Meeting Date: 25th April 2023, 2-4 pm
Author/Contact: Andrew Woodin
Venue: Mildenhall Cricket Club, Wamil Way, Mildenhall IP28 7JU

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 4: Determine
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
Hopton-on-Sea to Sea Palling	Open to the public

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 has provided the following updates around the Suffolk coast stretches.

The Five Suffolk Stretches

Harwich to Shotley Gate – Jonathan Clarke. Last updated 13.4.23

No change since previous report

- Stage 4 and 5 (Determine and Open)
- The proposals were published on 22 January 2020 and received 7 objections.
- Reports 4, 5 and 6 are in Suffolk.
- Coastal Access Reports 1 and 4 have been approved by the Secretary of State. Work to establish the route can now take place on these lengths.
- The Planning Inspector undertook a further visit in July 2022 and is currently considering the situation prior to advising the Secretary of State on the outstanding objections.

Shotley Gate to Felixstowe Ferry – Jonathan Clarke. Last updated 13.4.23

- 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 13.4.23

No change since previous report

- Stage 4 (Determine)
- Natural England published proposals on 9th December 2020
- 7 objections were received.

- A Planning Inspector visited the sites in November 2022 and is now considering the 7 objections.

Bawdsey to Aldeburgh – Jonathan Clarke. Last updated 13.4.23

No change since previous report

- Stage 4 and 5 (Determine and Open)
- The report was published on 3rd of February 2021.
- Report 3 has been approved by the Secretary of State.
- The Planning Inspector visited the stretch in July 2022 and is still considering the situations prior to advising the Secretary of State on the 9 objections.

Aldeburgh to Hopton-on-Sea – Jonathan Clarke. Last updated 13.4.23

No change since previous report

- Stage 4 and 5 (Determine and Open)
- Natural England published proposals on 29th January 2020.
- 23 objections were received – all on one of the 6 individual reports.
- Coastal Access Reports 1,2,3,5 and 6 were approved in June 2022 by the Secretary of State.
- Natural England is currently writing comments on the objections and representations received on Report 4.

The delay in confirming the coast path alignment for those sections still at the stage 4 determination stage has been raised with Natural England, who have themselves raised it with Defra and PINS. There is no indication on an improvement in the situation.

Ian Thompson started as the England Coast Path project officer in January. He is assessing the work and infrastructure needed to open the route between Shotley Gate and Felixstowe Ferry. This involves producing specifications so that quotes can be obtained from contractors. The quotes will then form the basis of a bid to Natural England for funding to prepare the route for opening.

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

Discussions continue with Essex and Norfolk county councils on establishing a regional trail. A report for councillors agreeing work on establishing a regional trail partnership can proceed has been prepared and awaits management sign off.

4. England Coast Path – [Progress Map for the East](#)

(See next sheet)



END
AW/SCC April 2023

Suffolk Local Access Forum
Title: Suffolk Energy Schemes
Paper: LAF 23/12
Meeting Date: 25th April 2023, 2-4 pm
Author/Contact: Andrew Woodin
Venue: Mildenhall Cricket Club, Wamil Way, Mildenhall IP28 7JU

1. Sizewell C

Although the formal commencement of the SZC Development Consent Order is not expected until later in 2023, the considerable amount of pre-commencement activity continues.

Work on the wetland creation as new habitat for marsh harrier started in October 2018 and we agreed to extend the temporary closure of BR19, with conditions, until May 26th. The county council is working with SZC on the restoration of the bridleway prior to re-opening and also the interaction of the new temporary access road with the bridleway. This new access road will cut across the bridleway and eastwards towards the main development to enable access for archaeology and ecology surveys and site clearance works.

The applications for discharging requirements for the creation of wet woodland and fen meadows have been approved. Officers are discussing the management of the public footpaths that are impacted by the works at the Benhall site.

In addition, detailed design work on the highway and bridleway works close to the main site has started and discussions continue on the design of the alternative bridleway. Officers have raised serious concerns about the acceptability of the proposed bridleway bridge and ramps in Aldhurst Farm and will continue to robustly seek the best outcome for the council and bridleway users. Design work on the two other road bypass schemes is due to start in May 2023.

2. Sunnica

The Examination for Sunnica concluded at the end of March. Both Suffolk County Council and Cambridgeshire County Council have made very strong representations regarding the impact of temporary closures, proposals for permissive access only, and the need for mitigation for public access as the main community benefit.

The last few months of the examination have involved negotiations for a s.106 agreement to cover public access mitigation. This has proved difficult with the applicant placing restrictions, through the form of landowner agreements, in

allowing creation of access in certain geographical areas. The agreement has been signed but wording has been removed to state that mitigates against the impact on public access.

The difficulties with the applicant have also been strongly reflected in the County Council's closing statements and that the scheme greatly effects public access and mitigation for this can no longer be achieved.

The County Council and other interested parties await the Examiners decision; this is expected later this year.

An over view of the Sunnica application can be found here - [Sunnica Energy Farm | National Infrastructure Planning \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](https://planninginspectorate.gov.uk/sunnica-energy-farm/)

3. National Grid Bramford to Twinstead

The scheme currently remains at pre application stage, and the county council anticipates the application will be submitted in April 2023. The Development Consent Order effects a vast number of public rights of way In Suffolk and Essex.

The County Council has requested that Public Rights of Way to be a separate topic has not yet been confirmed.

Further details can be found on the National Grid website here - [Bramford to Twinstead | National Grid ET](https://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/energy-projects/bramford-to-twinstead)

4. East Anglia Green

The scheme effects a vast number of routes in Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex. The County Council have recently been consulted on the Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping as part of wider consultation process. This remains at pre application stage and it is now anticipated the application being submitted in the 2024.

The county council awaits further discussions with the applicant's agents regarding the scheme and the cumulative and in combination effects of multiple energy projects in this area.

Further details on the EA Green scheme can be found on the National Grid website here - [About East Anglia GREEN | National Grid ET](https://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/energy-projects/about-east-anglia-green)

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

Work is not expected to start until 2024. Discussions are ongoing with SPR regarding the proposed route of the diverted public footpath at the Friston site.

6. East Anglia 3 offshore windfarm with onshore infrastructure

Works to create access off the road into construction compound along the cable route have commenced.

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)

The non statutory consultation was carried out in November 2022 together with the EIA Scoping consultation. Please see the council response that included our PRow response. (attached). 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)

8. EUROLINK – interconnector between Suffolk and Belgium

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). A non statutory consultation was carried out in late 2023 and a response sent from the PRow service -see attached.

END
AW/SCC April 2023

Attachments:



Suffolk Local Access Forum	
Title:	LAF Support and Contact Spreadsheet
Paper:	LAF 23/15
Meeting Date:	25th April 2023, 2-4 pm
Author/Contact:	Barry Hall
Venue:	Mildenhall Cricket Club, Wamil Way, Mildenhall IP28 7JU

Email from Andrew Mackintosh:

Dear Secretary and Chair

We would like to take this opportunity firstly to say hello, after what we appreciate has been a long gap in communications, but also to check the contact details we hold and to give you an update on our current support for forums.

LAF contact spreadsheet: Natural England has a statutory duty under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to hold and keep LAF contact details up to date so we need to make the LAF contact spreadsheet, which used to be editable on the LAF HUDDLE webpage, is as up to date as we can make it. **Please could you check the attached last version of the spreadsheet and send us any changes etc. to: laf@naturalengland.org.uk** (We will also check on bounced-back emails for expired addresses etc). Updated details will then be sent to .GOV content editors to update the LAF pages there.

LAF support: We'd also like to take this opportunity to introduce Danielle Radley. Danielle has recently been working on the England Coast Path program and has now moved into a role which will include some support for commons work and LAFs. With LAFs, Danielle's initial priorities will be to update our contacts and to set-up a dedicated **LAF SharePoint** site to help facilitate communications and admin between forums and between LAFs and NE. Once we have the contact list up to date we will email again to discuss the purpose, form and content of the proposed SharePoint site.

One use for the SharePoint site will be to provide a location for **LAF Annual Reports** which NE has a duty under the CROW Act to receive. We will be collating received reports and checking details etc against the .GOV website which may also be revised in the near future.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

Andrew Mackintosh

Senior Specialist: Public Access, Recreation and Rights of Way
Specialist Services
Landscape, Access, Historic environment
Natural England
Natural England Manchester office
2nd floor, Arndale House, Manchester Arndale, Manchester M4 3AQ
Office: 020802 61819
Mobile: 07799 470758

www.gov.uk/natural-england