

Suffolk Local Access Forum	
Title:	Agenda
Meeting Date:	18th January 2018
Author/Contact:	David Falk
Venue:	Brandon Country Park, Engine House

			Paper Number
1.	14:00	Welcome, apologies and housekeeping	
2.		OA Restrictions Review (Closed Session)	Verbal - BH
3.		Minutes of previous meeting	LAF 17/20 - BH
4.		Declaration of interest	
5.	14:10	Network Rail	LAF 18/01 - AW
6.	14.50	Annual Report to Cabinet	Verbal - BH
7.	15.10	ROWIP 2 Draft	LAF 18/02 - DF
8.	15.20	England Coast Path	LAF 18/03 - AW
9.	15.30	SLAF Recruitment	Verbal - DF
10.	15.40	Correspondence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Rights of Way - Restoring the Record" • Invitation from Essex LAF 	LAF 18/04 - AW LAF 18/05 - AW
11.	15:50	Public Question Time	
12.	16:00	Dates & Venues of Future Meetings	

Suffolk Local Access Forum
Title: Suffolk Local Access Forum
Meeting Date: 19th October 2017
Author/Contact: Jennifer Green
Venue: SALC Offices, Unit 11a, Hill View Business Park, Claydon, IP6 0AJ

1. Welcome, apologies and housekeeping

Present: Barry Hall (BH) (Chair), David Barker (Vice Chair) (DB), John Wayman (JW), Margaret Hancock (MH), Roley Wilson (RW)

SCC Officers Present: Andrew Woodin (AW), Steve Kerr (SK), Jennifer Green (JG)

Member of the Public: Gordon Crosby (GC)

Apologies: Jane Storey (JS), Monica Pipe (MP), Anthony Wright, Gordon Merfield (GM)

Presentation: Kim Thirlby (KT) (Natural England)

2. Minutes of previous meeting (LAF17/10)

- Recruitment to SLAF has been deferred pending start of new Green Access Manager

3. Declaration of interest

- No declarations

4. Coastal Access Update – Presentation by Kim Thirlby Natural England Access Advisor

- Kim Lead on Harwich to Shotley Gate stretch where his report is due soon. KT asked that members respect confidentiality. Access and sensitive features appraisal (ASFA) is used to assess impact of access on conservation.
- KT went through Essex stretch, showing proposed route and waymarker locations
- KT noted 3 locations where it was not possible to propose an estuary side route, including at the Wrabness development.
- On the Suffolk section, the route uses the bridle bridge over railway at Brantham, follows sea wall, including some wall to be rebuilt in co-operation with landowner at The Rough (no maintenance liability for SCC/NE).
- Then cliff top above PROW. At Crow Hall the proposed route deviates, some way inland. Reasons include respecting privacy of adjacent houses, conservation and parkland which is expected under the scheme. Alternative route is attractive. BH advised footpath at Holbrook creek affected by erosion - rollback

- East of this some new access has been created in co-operation with Landowner. A dedicated strip of permissive path to become part of Coastal Path.
- MH noted poor signage for cyclists at Harwich and KT highlighted proposed signage should help here.
- RW noted potential maintenance liabilities and KT noted a way forward will be written into report, which could include rollback.
- KT tabled written update.
- Please see separate SLAF ECP Stretch updates
- Fiona Taylor was working towards a December publication date, However Fiona is expecting to agree a revised date shortly. Please be advised KT is working towards submission early 2018.

Coastal Access Reports

- BH noted Natural England is still optioning use of ferry's, eg Deben. KT noted estuaries are discretionary therefore NE have to make a case to use them.
- BH noted how important SLAF believes a trail along estuary is.
- Claire Cadman/KT are NE advisors for Deben. AW asked if Claire can attend next SLAF meeting in January.
- ACTION
 1. Thanks to KT for presentation
 2. SLAF to contact KT and possibly MP's to make a case for route to use estuaries
 3. BH to visit drop in 17th November 2017 10.30 Woodbridge Library also 30th November 2017 at Hollesley Village Hall.
 4. **JG** to circulate KT's tabled notes

5. Network Rail Level Crossings

Gipsy Lane

- SK reminded SLAF how long this case has gone on, and the different options put forward, from closing level crossing with no alternative to building an underpass. Conversion of existing culvert at River Batt was the favoured option locally.
- SK stated he took a report to SCC's Development & Regulation Committee yesterday to approve a diversion order, despite an objection from the affected landowner.
- AW noted phases to the scheme, this is phase 1, the diversion of footpath to culvert and closure of Gipsy Lane and FP6
- Time scales -
 - planning by end of October
 - Meeting with landowner 30th October 2017
 - Order made only when consents and other conditions, including construction and costs are completed
 - SK explained extinguishment of FP6 will be pursued irrespective of Gipsy Lane
- GC noted SCC should have regard to the landowner's genuine concerns and impact on him and Gipsy Lane flooding.
- GC noted NR's report on culvert engineering required changes to River Batt.

6. Network Rail Transport & Works Act Order Trimley/Felixstowe

Steve Kerr gave an update to the meeting and noted the following points:

- Felixstowe pre-inquiry meeting was held on 6th October.
- The public inquiry is 22nd January 2018.
- Aesthetic impact of bridge is contentious.
- A further usage survey was undertaken, with the results available in November.
- Gordon Leverett, a local Rambler, has objected and would like to meet NR.

Lime Kiln Quay

- It was noted there had been an accident this week on this line nearby

Suffolk TWAO

- The public inquiry starts 13th Feb 2018 and there is a pre inquiry meeting on 1/11/17 at Ashlar House in Bury.

ACTION – JG circulate Public inquiry details separately.

- SK noted Essex public inquiry started this week

ACTION – SCC ensure SLAF have correspondence from DfT

ACTION – BH to contact ECC AND CCC LAFS

7. Restructure

- AW gave an update based on the written report

8. A.O.B

- AW briefed the meeting that Jacobs Engineering Ltd have been commissioned by Suffolk County Council to develop proposals for the A12 bypass between Wickham Market and Friday Street and want SLAF's comments. **ACTION:** AW will circulate details to Anthony Wright, Jane Hatton and RW for their input on walking, cycling and equestrian use.
- AW noted Natural England want to consult SLAF on extending long term open access restrictions. He will facilitate this with BH and Gordon Merfield, SLAF's open access working group.

9. Public question Time

10. Next Meeting

ACTION SCC to circulate dates for 2018 taking account of council meeting dates and Suffolk Show date.

END

Suffolk Local Access Forum
Title: Network Rail – Public Rights of Way Level Crossings
Meeting: 18th January 2018
Author/Contact: Steve Kerr
Venue: Brandon Country Park, The Engine House

Introduction

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



Needham Market Gipsy Lane and FP6

Further to the update provided at the last Forum's meeting, the matter was reported to the Development and Regulation Committee on the 18 October 2017.

The Committee agreed to make the rail crossing diversion and extinguishment orders for Gipsy Lane and FP6 Needham Market/FP36 Creting St Mary,

subject to all necessary consents being secured by the applicant and NR entering into a costs agreement to defray all costs incurred by SCC (including any landowner compensation). The report and associated minutes can be viewed by clicking on the following link.

<http://committeeminutes.suffolccc.gov.uk/meeting.aspx?d=18/Oct/2017&c=Development and Regulation Committee>

Planning permission for the culvert has not yet been granted but this decision is expected shortly. Officers are meeting NR representatives on 17 January to review progress on the draft costs agreement, the status of the applicant's planning application and agree next steps.

Halesworth Station - Barrow crossing



NR have not provided SCC with any further update relating to the above crossing.

Felixstowe Branch Line Improvements – Transport and Works Act Order (TWAO)



The above public inquiry is still on course to open on Monday 22nd January 2018 at the Legends Suite at Ipswich Town Football Club. SCC have not objected to the Order and will not be presenting evidence at the Inquiry.

General/Countywide

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

Further to the Forum's last update, the public inquiry for Suffolk is to open at 10 am on 13 February 2018 at **Ashlar House, 23 Eastern Way, Bury St Edmunds IP32 7AB**. The Inquiry will run for approximately 16 days between the following dates (note the Inquiry does not sit on Mondays):

Tue 13/2/ - Fri 16/2/18; Tue 20 – Fri 23/2/18; Tue 27/2 – Fri 2/3/18 and Tue 13/3 – Fri 16/3/18. The Inquiry will not sit the week 5/3 - 9/3/18.

In the run up to the Christmas break the Council was informed by the Department of Transport that, due to NR's failures to capture all landownership interests and the need to serve the requisite statutory notices (allowing 42 days for any comments), that the Inquiry was to be adjourned until further notice. This decision was reversed shortly afterwards and the opening date of the 13 February 2018 reinstated. The Secretary of State for Transport

has also recently advised that the original opening venue for the Inquiry (Ipswich Town Hall and Corn Exchange) has been changed to Bury St Edmunds (see above), and that further venues at Ipswich and Newmarket will be communicated to all interested parties in due course.

Further details on the Suffolk TWAO can be found via the following link:

<http://suffolk-level-crossings.persona-pi.com/>

Officers have engaged a barrister to represent them at the Inquiry and are currently working hard to meet the Secretary of State's deadline for receipt of Proofs of Evidence, this being the 16 January 2018. Upon receipt, copies of all parties' Proofs will be uploaded to the Inquiry website.

The Order initially proposed to close 24 crossings but this number has been subsequently reduced to 23, following NR's discovery that they had failed to serve the requisite statutory notices on all land interests relating to S05 (Pannington Hall) – FP34 Wherstead, leading them to withdraw this crossing from the Order.

The public inquiry for the 'Essex (and others) Level Crossing Reduction Order' has been adjourned until at least the summer of 2018, again for reasons relating to NR's failure to identify all land interests.

Cambridgeshire's inquiry opened on 28 November 2017 and was scheduled to reconvene on 10 January for its final week. This has been deferred due the Inspector currently being unwell. Further information on this inquiry and the deposited documents can be found via the following link:

<http://cambridge-level-crossings.persona-pi.com/>

END – SK & AW/SCC Jan 2018

Suffolk Local Access Forum	
Title:	ROWIP 2 Draft
Meeting:	Thursday 18th January 2018
Author/Contact:	David Falk
Venue:	Brandon Country Park, The Engine House

Following on from work completed by the Green Access Team, the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) 2016-2026 draft will be published later this year. The following key headings and their content is as suggested below:

- Forward (less than 1 side)
 - To include introduction from Cabinet Member representing Highways
- Executive Summary (less than 1 side)
 - Precis of full report
- Suffolk's Countryside (less than 1 side)
 - A general introduction to set the scene for the county. This will relate to the natural and built landscape (AONB's, Protected Areas, Heritage Coastline, Historic Towns and Villages), and to special aspects of the county including its rural nature, and access of the countryside through long-distance trails and promoted routes
- Green Access (approx. 2-3 pages)
 - What is meant by Green Access and its importance to SCC priorities
 - An explanation of PRoW and Open Access with reference to legislation and Suffolk
- ROWIP (3-5 pages)
 - An explanation of a ROWIP, followed by a summary of the ROWIP 2006-2016
 - The ROWIP 2016-2026 with a description of how it has been developed, including detail on the research, consultation and results. This will include a series of relevant graphs/tables of research findings to identify the ROWIPs Key Objectives.
- Key Objectives (this could be the Action Plan below)
 1. Infrastructure – Recording, Protecting and Maintaining the Network
 2. Planning – Building Green Access into the Future
 3. Promotion – Growing The Economy
 4. Communities – Building Resilience, Improving Health
- Action Plan – Delivering the ROWIP

END

Suffolk Local Access Forum	
Title:	England Coast Path
Meeting:	Thursday 18th January 2018
Author/Contact:	David Falk
Venue:	Brandon Country Park, The Engine House

From: Fishwick, Sally (NE)

Sent: 30 November 2017 09:53

To: Barry Hall

Cc: David Barker (Local Access Forum); Taylor, Fiona (NE); Thirlby, Kim (NE); Chellis, Laura (NE); Annette Robinson; Andrew Woodin; Cadman, Claire (NE); Clarke, Jonathan (NE)

Subject: RE: COASTAL ACCESS - LETTER FROM SUFFOLK LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Dear Barry

Thank you for your letter of 15th November. It's good to hear that Fiona and Kim's presentations were well received and that the Forum's happy with the progress being made on their stretches.

It's great to be working on all sections of the England Coast Path in Suffolk, this is a significant milestone in the delivery of the trail in the county. Whilst some stretches are more progressed than others, we have allowed adequate time and resources to do this work, and I would like to reassure the Local Access Forum that we will apply our estuary discretion consistently across all sections of the coast.

We note the Forums' deep reservations about relying on the existing ferry crossings, and their preference for aligning around the estuaries noting the recreational and economic benefits they feel this would bring. Our staff will be exploring this in detail over the coming months, as they consider the statutory criteria we must take into account when deciding whether to use our estuary discretion on the 3 new stretches we started this year. These criteria can be found in section 10 of the governments Coastal Access Scheme. We would be happy to share our findings with the Forum later in 2018 as we did for the early stretches.

When we publish our proposals for the Suffolk stretches we will explain how we've used our discretion in the Overview section of our Coastal Access Report. This will include our findings in relation to each of the statutory estuary criteria as well as the alignment options we have considered and our reasons for our chosen option. We hope you will be happy with the approach we have taken, but if not Forum members will be able to make representations on our proposals both as a group and as individual stakeholders.

I hope I have allayed your concerns, but do contact me if you'd like to talk further about our delivery of the England Coast Path in Suffolk.

Regards

Sally Fishwick

SLAF
Suffolk Local Access Forum

Ms S Fishwick, Delivery Leader,
Natural England

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Phoenix House, Goddard Road,
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Suffolk
IP1 5NP

Tel: 01473 264774
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Email: slaf@suffolk.gov.uk
Web: <http://publicrightsofway.onesuffolk.net/suffolk-local-access-forum>

Your Ref:
Our Ref:
Date: 15/11/2017

Dear Ms S Fishwick

Re: England Coast Path in Suffolk

The Suffolk Local Access Forum has over the past few months had presentations regarding progress on the sections of the England Coast Path in Suffolk, Hopton to Aldeburgh from Fiona Taylor and Harwich to Shotley Gate from Kim Thirlby. They were pleased to see the progress that been made and are awaiting the publication of the formal consultation documents early in 2018.

They are however concerned that there is still work to be done on the remainder of the Suffolk coast particularly the estuaries and that in order to avoid perceived conflict with conservation and to achieve the timescale some may be excluded. SLAF would resist any effort to water down the process as members want to see a continuous route in Suffolk including the estuaries and officers from the County Council are already in discussions with counterparts in Essex and Norfolk on managing and promoting a regional path and therefore any gaps or unreliability will have regional implications.

SLAF would not be prepared for the Coast Path in Suffolk to rely on ferry crossings and not give the public the opportunity to enjoy Suffolk's unique estuarine land and waterscapes. The use of ferries in Suffolk is not a practical proposition as their reliability and long term viability is uncertain. The four ferry crossings are seasonal at best, three offering a regular daily service from end of May to end of September and weekends April/May and October and the other, weekends only Easter to end of October. Has Natural England looked into evidence of the ferries' viability and reliability over the years?

The estuaries themselves offer a different walking experience to the coast, with interesting places such as Woodbridge on the Deben at the first crossing point of the estuary and small attractive riverside villages with good pubs. As destinations on the ECP these communities will have the opportunity to benefit economically. For the most part the gaps in existing public access along the Deben and Alde & Ore estuaries are relatively limited and a solution to them easily achievable and which should not be undeliverable for reasons of conservation.

Walkers will still have the option of using the ferries when operating, and many will. This will itself reduce the impact on wildlife along the estuaries, and increase the viability of the ferries. A win-win situation, but if the ECP is reliant on ferries only, Suffolk will not have true coastal access as defined by the guidelines which requires the path to be taken to the first (land) crossing point of the estuary.

Yours sincerely

A Woodin pp Barry Hall, chairman of the Suffolk Local Access Forum

Suffolk Local Access Forum	
Title:	Rights of Way: Restoring the Record
Meeting Date:	Thursday 18th January 2018
Author/Contact:	David Falk
Venue:	Brandon Country Park, The Engine House



Natural England
Nobel House, Area 3A
17 Smith Square
London
SW1P 3JR

Dear LAF,

Please find enclosed a copy of "Rights of Way: Restoring the Record" 2nd edition, by Sarah Bucks and Phil Wadey. We thought it would be useful if LAFs had their own copy of the book so that anyone involved with the LAF and who is interested in researching historic rights of way can have access to a copy.

Some LAFs have already held training days with Phil Wadey and Sarah Bucks, I was fortunate to be able to attend one of these and found the day really informative. If you cannot attend a training day the book is a good alternative, and an interesting read, especially if you are a cartophile like me!

If you have any interesting news about how your LAF is involved with work to complete the Definitive Map it would be great to hear about those. You can share your news on Huddle. I'd be particularly interested if any LAFs are reaching out to other interested groups like local history groups and parish councils. Some LAFs are already working well with their local authority and are co-ordinating the activity of volunteers - it would be great if you could share what you are doing on Huddle so that we can all learn from each other.

Finally I'd like to thank all members of LAFs for all the time you already give to your LAF.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pippa".

Pippa Langford

Principal Specialist Commons and Public Rights of Way

Suffolk Local Access Forum	
Title:	Invitation From Essex LAF
Meeting:	Thursday 18th January 2018
Author/Contact:	David Falk
Venue:	Brandon Country Park, The Engine House

From: Shirley Anglin

Sent: 20 December 2017 08:33

To: Haggett Camilla; Richard Cuthbert; Andrew Woodin; Paula Watts

Cc: Garry White

Subject: Local Access Forums

Dear Camilla, Richard, Andrew and Paula,

I write on behalf of the Essex Local Access forum who would like to revisit the idea of the Chairs and vice-Chairs of all our LAF's meeting on an annual basis. I understand that regional meetings were held when Natural England gave more resource to support the LAF's. Our LAF found these very helpful in achieving an active and relevant forum.

Essex would be happy to host the first meeting, perhaps in the spring, to see how useful a meeting would be and how the LAF's receive it. I would anticipate it being no more than an afternoon with light refreshment provided.

There will always be matters that are relevant regardless of boundaries, currently of course the Network Rail Crossing Reduction Order would be a good example.

What are your thoughts? Would you be happy for me to approach your LAF's?

Regards

Shirley Anglin | PROW and Localism Officer



www.essex.gov.uk/highways

Essex Highways is a partnership between
Ringway Jacobs and Essex County Council