

Environmental Information Regulations – Response - 26876

On 10th January, whilst walking on footpath 22a, XXXX turned XXXXX ankle as a direct result of a defective and uneven surface. The ankle injury that XXXX suffered caused significant pain and disruption and XXXXX was off work for a week and I am still experiencing pain.

This incident was reported on the Suffolk Highways reporting tool, but closed, on the 2nd February, with the comment of no further action needed. No response has been provided to XXXX. This incident was also been reported to XXXXXX of the Bury St Edmunds office, with photographs supplied.

Suffolk County Council has a clear duty of care to ensure that highways and footpaths are maintained in a safe condition for public use. In this instance, that duty has not been met. The condition of the surface presents a foreseeable risk to pedestrians, and I am concerned that others may be injured if the defect is not promptly addressed.

Concerns about the surface of the footpath, the method on construction (is it fit for purpose) and the slope to the footpath, have previously been forwarded to the Highways department, following completion of the recent project by Network Rail for Suffolk County Council. The original footpath surface, was disturbed without landowner consent and we assume without permission from the Highways department. In certain places the slope to the footpath exceeds the maximum cross fall of 1:40.

The highways department have also confirmed that they are still awaiting the completion certificate/TOC from the contractors. Therefore should the County Council have opened the footpath without all of the legal certification?

I now request confirmation of:

*A) The inspection and maintenance schedule applicable to this location.
Inspection and maintenance undertaken on an ad-hoc or responsive basis.*

*B) What remedial action will now be taken, by whom and when.
Following survey, no remedial action will be taken.*