

Norfolk Local Access Forum

Date: **Wednesday 6 July 2022**

Time: **9.30am**

Venue: **Council Chamber, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich**

Persons attending the meeting are requested to turn off mobile phones.

Membership:

Mr Martin Sullivan (Chairman)
Mr Ken Hawkins (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr Lana Hemsall (Sustainable Transport Member Champion)

Mr Chris Allhusen
Mr Paul Baker
Mrs Elizabeth Meath Baker
Mr Fraser Bowe
Cllr Penny Carpenter
Mr Andrew Darby
Ms Karen Davidson
Ms Rebecca Durant

Mr Simon Fowler
Ms Ruth Goodall
Ms Birgit Griem
Mr Kevin Grieve
Ms Anne Killett
Mr Rob Lodge
Ms Sarah Morgan
Mr Niall Pettitt
Cllr Maxine Webb

**For further details and general enquiries about this Agenda please contact the
Committee Officer:**

Nicola Ledain on 01603 223053 or email committees@norfolk.gov.uk

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Advice for members of the public:

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However, if you wish to attend in person it would be helpful if you could indicate in advance that it is your intention to do so as public seating will be limited. This can be done by emailing committees@norfolk.gov.uk

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A g e n d a

1 To receive apologies and details of any substitute members attending

2 Chair's Announcements

3 Minutes

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 27 April 2022

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4 Members to Declare any Interests

If you have a **Disclosable Pecuniary Interest** in a matter to be considered at the meeting and that interest is on your Register of Interests you must not speak or vote on the matter.

If you have a **Disclosable Pecuniary Interest** in a matter to be considered at the meeting and that interest is not on your Register of Interests you must declare that interest at the meeting and not speak or vote on the matter

In either case you may remain in the room where the meeting is taking place. If you consider that it would be inappropriate in the circumstances to remain in the room, you may leave the room while the matter is dealt with.

If you do not have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest you may nevertheless have an **Other Interest** in a matter to be discussed if it affects, to a greater extent than others in your division

- Your wellbeing or financial position, or
- that of your family or close friends
- Any body -
 - Exercising functions of a public nature.
 - Directed to charitable purposes; or
 - One of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union);

Of which you are in a position of general control or management.

If that is the case then you must declare such an interest but can speak and vote on the matter.

5 To receive any items of business which the Chairman decides should be considered as a matter of urgency

6 Public Question Time

Fifteen minutes for questions from members of the public of which due notice has been given. Please note that all questions must be received by the Committee Team (committees@norfolk.gov.uk) by **5pm Friday 1 July 2022**. For guidance on submitting a public question, view the Constitution at www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/councillors-

[meetingsdecisions-and-elections/committees-agendas-and-recent-decisions/ask-aquestion-to-a-committee](#)

7 Local Member Issues/Questions

Fifteen minutes for local member to raise issues of concern of which due notice has been given. Please note that all questions must be received by the Committee Team (committees@norfolk.gov.uk) by **5pm on Friday 1 July 2022**.

8 Feedback from events attended by NLAF members

9 Meetings Forward Plan

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10 NLAF Subgroups' report (Permissive Access; PROW; NAIP; Vision and Ideas; Joint Communications)

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Report by Member of the NLAF

11 Pathmakers Projects

To Follow

Report by Member of the NLAF

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Report by the Director of Culture and Heritage

13 NCC Member Sustainable Transport update

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Report by the Director of Culture and Heritage

14 Major Infrastructure Projects and Planning

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Report by the Director of Culture and Heritage

Tom McCabe
Head of Paid Services
County Hall
Martineau Lane
Norwich
NR1 2DH

Date Agenda Published: 28 June 2022



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Norfolk Local Access Forum
Minutes of the Meeting Held on 27 April 2022
at 10.30am at County Hall, Norwich

Member:

Martin Sullivan - Chair
Ken Hawkins
Chris Allhusen
Penny Carpenter
Vic Cocker
Andrew Darby
Simon Fowler
Kevin Grieve
Lana Hemsall
Suzanne Longe
Elizabeth Meath Baker
Maxine Webb

Representing:

Motorised Vehicles / Pathmakers
Walking
Landowners
Norfolk County Council
Walking
All Abilities Access
Walking / Pathmakers
Health and Wellbeing
Norfolk County Council
Equestrian
Landowners
Norfolk County Council

Officers Present:

Matt Hayward
Nicola Ledain
Katy Owen
Ed Stocker
Su Waldron
Russell Wilson

Lead Project Officer Walking and Cycling
Committee Services Officer, Democratic Services
Protected Landscapes Manager
Farming in Protected Landscapes Adviser
Project Officer (Environment Team)
Senior Trails Officer (Infrastructure)

1. Apologies for Absence

- 1.1 Apologies had been received from Andy Brazil, Fraser Bowe, Ruth Goodall, Paul Rudkin, David Hissey, Mike Edwards, Bethan Edmunds, Niall Pettitt and Jason Moore.

2. Chair's Announcements

- 2.1 The Chair thanked those members who were retiring from the NLAF; Andy Brazil, Vic Cocker, Bethan Edmunds, Mike Edwards, David Hissey, Suzanne Longe, Louise Rout and Paul Rudkin. He also welcomed the new members that were at the meeting today as observers; Rob Lodge, Karen Davison, Paul Baker, Birgit Griem, Rebecca Durant, Sarah Morgan and Anne Killett.

3. Minutes

- 3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2021 were confirmed as a true record.
- 3.2 The vice chair added that it would be useful for everyone to have notes of the informal meeting that had been held on 26 January 2022 and they are included as an appendix to these minutes.

4. Declarations of Interest

- 4.1 There were no interests declared.

5. Urgent Business

- 5.1 There was no urgent business.

6. Public Question Time

- 6.1 No public questions were received.

7. Local member Issues / Questions

- 7.1 There were no member questions received.

8. Feedback from Events

- 8.1 The vice chair reported that a note regarding the events attended had been circulated. He highlighted that the Suffolk LAF had met, and the next meeting was on 28th April which he would not be able to attend. He noted that the Broads LAF who met in March had a presentation from the Water, Mills and Marshes project which may be of particular interest to the NLAF.

9. Meetings Forward Plan

- 9.1 The NLAF received the annexed report which outlined agenda items for the forthcoming meetings.
- 9.2 The Chair reminded NLAF members to put forward further agenda items for consideration at any point either by contacting him, the vice chair, or the officers.
- 9.3 The NLAF **NOTED** the Forward plan.

10. NLAF Subgroups' report (Permissive Access; PROW; NAIP; Vision and Ideas; Joint Communications)

- 10.1 The NLAF received the annexed reports which set out the latest discussions and recommendations of the sub-groups of the NLAF.
- 10.2 Permissive
The chair of the subgroup reported that it had been a very frustrating 6-12 months. They had written to Ministers, Members of Parliaments and DEFRA about bringing back permissive paths into the Environment Land Management Schemes project but had received very little response and therefore he had no further update. The subgroup had been disbanded for the time being but if any matters arose, they could be discussed as part of the other subgroups.
- 10.3 Public Rights of Way (PROW)

The chair of the subgroup highlighted the following points.

- The subgroup was disappointed that although the NLAF had generated some points for consideration in response to the consultation around the Transport Asset Management Plan, the points had not been transmitted into the process. This had since been followed up with officers, but the points had not made a difference so far. The chair of the subgroup was exploring the possibility of taking them forward in some way. It wasn't clear how topics and comments discussed by NLAF were reported into the main council system, and he suggested that there needed to be a mechanism of how the minutes of the NLAF filtered into other the wider system. It was suggested that the Infrastructure and Development Select Committee could receive the minutes of the NLAF as part of the NAIP report twice yearly.
- A planning application affecting East Winch footpath 2 had been reviewed and noting that NCC had made lengthy comments, the NLAF were in support of the NCC response and therefore didn't feel an additional response was necessary
- Officers within NCC had reported steadily increasing numbers of Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMO), and had an increase in staffing resources however, the level of applications were still outstripping the staff allocated to deal with it. It was agreed that an update would be brought to the next meeting regarding the DMMO applications.
- The NLAF's comments on the LTP4 Implementation Plan consultation would be submitted.

10.4 Norfolk Access Improvement Plan (NAIP)

The last meeting had taken place in March. The NLAF noted that the work that had been done around achieving the NAIP had been tremendous.

10.5 Vision and Ideas

The Chair of the subgroup reported that the last meeting was held in January. The group had been seeking a way to extract value from the network, especially the ordinary footpath network as it needed to be thought of as an asset rather than a liability where costs always needed to be cut. The NLAF had recently received a report from the subgroup which showed that the economic and health benefits outweighed the costs of maintaining the network. The County Council had several future initiatives ongoing which would provide funding for the networks and secure the future of the network. This report would be circulated again for the benefit of the new members. The chair of the subgroup was standing down as a member of the NLAF and therefore the NLAF would need to find a new Chair for the group. In the interim the Chair of the NLAF would stand in as chair of the subgroup.

10.6 The NLAF

- i. **NOTED** the PROW minutes from 4th April 2022
- ii. **ADOPTED** the title Community Access Warden by the NLAF to label parish volunteers
- iii. **SUPPORTED** NCC's position regarding a planning application affecting East Winch FP2
- iv. **AGREED** to ask NCC for its plan for dealing with increasing numbers of DMMO applications and to request an update at the next meeting
- v. **AGREED** to invite NLAF members to write to their MPs regarding the lack of public access in emerging government programmes such as ELMS, referencing a list of concerns
- vi. **NOTED** NAIP monitoring report (October 2021 to March 2022) and subgroup

minutes from meeting on 10th March 2022

- vii. **NOTED** that officers would explore potential for NLA minutes to be received by the I and D Select Committee twice a year with the NAIP report.

11. Pathmakers Projects

- 11.1 The NLA received the annexed report which updated the Forum on the activities of Pathmakers.
- 11.2 Pleased to report that an events manager had been appointed for the walking festival for the NCC Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. The walking festival would be aimed at those who don't normally walk either through disabilities or socio-economic background. There would also be some funding associated with this.
- 11.3 The NLA **NOTED** the report.

12. Protected Landscapes and Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL)

- 12.1 The NLA received the annexed report and presentation which outlined the Norfolk Coast partnership response to the Glover review and Government recommendations. The report also explained the Defra funded Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) program.
- 12.2 In response to a question regarding the level of confidence that ELMS and other land management schemes would provide funding if the Government does not, Officers explained that it was a case of not how much money was given, but how that was used and how opportunities were taken advantage of to deliver the aims. There was a high profile around diversity, equality and inclusion and a lot of the initial and pilot phases of schemes had a lot of emphasis on this. The Landscape Recovery ELMS pilot in Norfolk did include 30 evaluation points on innovative approaches to access in the countryside (which could be used for upgrading existing routes).
- 12.3 Members of the Forum were concerned that the wider ELMS scheme (once finalised) might not include restoring access. Officers confirmed that this was currently the case unfortunately.
- 12.4 With the FiPL scheme, landowners within the Norfolk Coast AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) could apply for funding for projects that met the criteria, and access was a main focus for this year's funding. Forum members were invited to spread the word about the scheme to encourage local funding applications. More detail here <https://www.norfolkcoastaonb.org.uk/>
- 12.5 Members highlighted that the previous permissive paths schemes (funded through the previous Countryside Stewardship scheme) were short lived but had been hugely successful. When the scheme ended, people were upset about the closure of their local permissive paths. Landowners had tried to retain the paths to help local tourism, but without ongoing payment for maintenance etc. there was not enough incentive to do so. There was therefore concern that this program would again be successful but too short and would disappoint a lot of people once again when it finished.
- 12.6 The NLA **NOTED**

1. The Norfolk Coast Partnership response to the Glover review and subsequent Government recommendations
2. The presentation on the Defra funded Farming in Protected Landscapes (FIPL) program

13. Countryside Access Arrangements update

- 13.1 The Forum received the annexed report which highlighted this work in terms of the volumes of customer queries received and responded to. The paper highlighted the work in terms of the volumes of customer queries received and responded to. The paper also highlighted other key areas of work.
- 13.2 The Senior Trails Officer highlighted that some of the schemes in the report had been success in receiving additional funding through Natural England meaning that some schemes were predominantly funded externally.
- 13.3 The Forum acknowledged the work that had been carried out through the various projects, and how much it had changed the access of the networks for individuals.
- 13.4 The NLA **NOTED** the progress made to date since the Countryside Access Officer posts were introduced.

14. NCC Member Sustainable Transport update

- 14.1 The Forum received the annexed report which provided a summary of the key walking and cycling projects relevant to the Local Access Forum.
- 14.2 The lead project Officer reported as an update that with reference to point 2.2, NCC had been successful in October 2021 in getting some funding from Department for Transport Capability fund which would help deliver a Norfolk-wide Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). This would deliver a mapping of all the key priority active travel routes across Norfolk and would provide a prioritised list of infrastructure improvement for the short, medium and long term. As part of this there would also be a report which would cover the different stages of the delivery of the plan and would provide the local context. Due to having the list of improvements, that would help with applying for future funding such as Active Travel Funding which was due to be set up later in the year. They were already working with Countryside Access Officers to identify the prioritised routes and had reviewed all the neighbourhood plans that had been submitted and were also working with District Councils. Through the plan, engagement had started and there had been positive press regarding the plan. Officers confirmed that the Dereham LCWIP was in an advanced stage of development and would be included as part of the Norfolk LCWIP document due to be completed by the end of the year.
- 14.3 The NLA **NOTED** the progress of the walking and cycling projects as outlined in the report.

15. Major Infrastructure Projects and Planning

- 15.1 The Forum received the annexed report which updated them on the major infrastructure projects that were currently underway in the County which impacted on Public Rights of Way.
- 15.2 The NLAF **NOTED** the table of major infrastructure projects in Norfolk.

The meeting closed at 12.22pm

**Martin Sullivan, Chair,
Norfolk Local Access Forum**



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Virtual meeting 2022 January 26th at 1030

M I N U T E S

Present NLAf members: Ken Hawkins (KH); Simon Fowler (SF); Kevin Grieve (KG); Suzanne Longe (SL); Vic Cocker (VC); Cllr Lana Hemsall (LH); Niall Pettitt (NP); Cllr Penny Carpenter (PC); Cllr Maxine Webb (MW); Elizabeth Meath-Baker (EMB); Ruth Goodall (RG)

Present NCC officers: Russell Wilson (RW); Matt Hayward (MH); Su Waldron (SW)

Apologies: Martin Sullivan; Chris Allhusen; Mike Edwards

Chairperson: Ken Hawkins

Minutes: Su Waldron

Item	Actions
<p>1. <u>Welcome and introductions</u></p> <p>ALL present introduced themselves.</p> <p>KH noted that it was regrettable that no formal decisions could be made as the virtual meeting was not in public. Covid restrictions had led to NCC cancelling the formal in-person meeting meaning that the meeting could only comprise updates and progress reports.</p> <p>The NLAf did however have a mechanism to deal with consultations between meetings, which would be used to progress actions</p>	
<p>2. <u>Events attended.</u></p> <p>KH had written a report to update the Forum on recent other Local Access Forum meetings. The report can be accessed on SharePoint here. ALL were encouraged to read it.</p> <p>KH had observed that there was a general thread throughout, concerning a lack of information or clarity regarding Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS) payments for creating new public access (permissive access).</p> <p>SF urged each NLAf member to write independently to their local MP to highlight the issue. This view was supported by KH and VC. KH recommended that letters highlighted the opportunity to improve on the previous scheme (Countryside Stewardship payments), where some landowners offered paths that suited their own needs, but there was no necessity to create access that joined up with other paths or offered benefit to local communities.</p> <p>Cllr LH offered to raise the issue at the next NCC Sustainable Transport group meeting.</p> <p>SW to follow up with Nicola LeDain on an invitee to the next NLAf meeting from Defra to talk on ELMS.</p>	<p>ALL to write to their MP to highlight the lack of funding through ELMS for permissive access.</p> <p>LH to raise the same issue at Sustainable Transport mtg</p>

Item	Actions
<p>MH pointed out that the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) scheme does involve an access element and NCC was involved in a pilot involving landowners in the Norfolk Coast AONB</p> <p>KH reported a new mapping tool available from Natural England for mapping areas of open access https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/GreenInfrastructure/Map.aspx</p>	<p>SW to follow up on invitee to speak on ELMS at next NLAFF</p>
<p>3. <u>Informal updates from Subgroup Chairs and Pathmakers</u></p> <p><u>Permissive Access Subgroup</u> – no update. Notes from meeting with Cllr Aquarone here.</p>	
<p><u>Vision and Ideas Subgroup</u>. VC had met with John Jones and MH in October to clarify spend by NCC on Public Rights of Way (PROW) in Norfolk (notes here). MH agreed to attend the April NLAFF meeting to expand on the Greenways to Greenspaces NCC initiative to align public access and nature recovery (top down approach and long-term plan).</p>	<p>MH to bring report on approach and long-term plan for the NCC Greenways and Greenspaces initiative.</p>
<p><u>NAIP subgroup</u></p> <p>The group had not met recently. SW to set up meeting for members which would include NLAFF discussion on Statement of Action Objectives not started</p>	<p>SW to set up virtual meeting for NAIP subgroup</p>
<p><u>Communications subgroup</u> – no update. Group in need of a Chair: NLAFF members were invited to register interest with SW.</p>	
<p><u>Pathmakers CIO</u></p> <p>SF said that Pathmakers is working on Geovation phase 2 (further development of a walking app with GoJauntly), HLF funding for a communications plan (update to come to NLAFF in April); UEA Environmental Sciences undergraduate projects; a walking festival as part of the Jubilee events (but taking place later than June).</p>	<p>SF to share Pathmakers communications plan with NLAFF at next meeting</p>
<p><u>PROW subgroup</u></p> <p>Notes from the meeting are here and report here. Additional informal meetings to be arranged at 6 monthly intervals between the NLAFF Chair and Vice Chair and NCC staff will allow exploration of topics such as enforcement.</p> <p>2026 deadline: the group will put a formal request to NCC at the earliest opportunity to advocate for a 5 year extension to the deadline for registration for lost paths. NCC Councillors were asked to take note.</p>	
<p>SW was asked to check currency of membership of all subgroups, chairs, terms of reference etc, for the July meeting.</p>	<p>SW check currency of membership of</p>

Item

Actions

all subgroups,
terms of
reference, chairs
etc. by July NLA

4. Informal update Norfolk Trails / Countryside Access

RW provided an update on work on Norfolk Trails, ranging from installation of a new footpath at Roydon Fen with Norfolk Wildlife Trust; repairs to steps on the Paston Way; issues fixed at Gorleston to repair the National Trail; repairs to FP7 at Cromer; CIL funding for improvements at Rockland FP6 to link to community facilities; preparations for Kett's Country Trail, a new long distance trail over 18 miles (including circulars) between Wymondham and Norwich (but all on existing ROW); improvements to Marriott's Way including surface and gradient improvements, tree work, heritage interpretation; improvements to the Bure Valley Path funded through Interreg (Experience) and CIL; improvements at Brancaster FP9 and Thornham FP3. Presentation available to view [here](#).

ALL thanked RW for his update and all the work ongoing.

KG said he was keen to follow up on NAIP actions to improve mental health and wellbeing through countryside access.

MW said that it would be good to ensure good linkage between access and other NCC initiatives such as Bus Back Better to help deprived areas in Norwich connect with new access opportunities. RW said there were good initiatives ongoing to improve signage from Milecross to the Marriott's Way which would help.

MH mentioned extension of the Beryl bike scheme to improve access to the Marriott's Way.

MH, MW, RW to meet to discuss further.

PC asked about links with Public Health team: RW and MH confirmed they worked closely with them.

VC had ongoing concerns over the boardwalk at Cley and a diversion at Holme. RW explained that the Cley boardwalk was not an NCC initiative (Environment Agency) but would be open once the safety audit was completed. The diversion at Holme was necessary to accommodate ecological survey work, and used the nearest ROW possible.

KH invited all to read the Countryside Access Arrangements report [here](#).

MW, RW, MH to
meet to look at
joining up NCC
initiatives for
deprived wards
in Norwich

ALL invited to
read the

Item	Actions
<p>5. <u>NCC Environment Team and NSIPs update</u></p> <p>MH updated the meeting on all the various initiatives ongoing through the Greenways to Greenspaces project including a new Norwich cycle map which includes the location of Beryl Bikes; active travel fund and e cycle extension fund which will make electric bikes available for hire at Wymondham and Drayton.</p> <p>NSIP update given, including deadlines for various stages of the major projects including onshore windfarm cabling, road schemes etc.</p> <p>Presentation and NSIP update available here.</p> <p>Further details of e bikes through Torque here: https://www.torque-ebikes.co.uk/</p> <p>PC asked how the NLAF developed responses to NSIP consultations (such as the windfarm cabling) as she would not wish to put her individual name against a response. KH said that responses were developed with the whole NLAF to ensure they represented what the membership felt.</p>	<p>Countryside Access Arrangements report</p>
<p>6. <u>Reaching Young People</u></p> <p>NP introduced the topic of raising awareness amongst young people of the benefits of engaging with the outdoors. Just 45% of young people are as active as they should be – and the pandemic has made this worse, leading to long-term challenges around mental health. There are many reasons which contribute to this, including a lack of access to funds for transport to get to green spaces. Norfolk is in the bottom 3 of English counties for activity (Sport England report).</p> <p>NP asked members to consider where the focus of effort would lie with engaging with young people (with the NLAF or NCC or other)?</p> <p>KH said that the NLAF wanted to ensure that responses provided to any consultation would include the views of young people (amongst all the other groups whose interests are represented on the NLAF).</p> <p>KG and MW felt that a subgroup could be setup to engage directly with young people to ensure the NLAF represents them fairly.</p>	<p>NP to scope out best mechanisms to engage with young people, with NLAF members</p>

Item	Actions
KH asked NP to formulate some ideas around this – reach out to all NLAF members to scope out best mechanisms to engage with young people (given that it would not be easy for them to join the NLAF directly under current arrangements).	
7. <u>Members’ informal updates</u> nil	
8. <u>Update on refreshment of NLAF membership</u> Membership will be refreshed in April as current members’ terms of appointment come to an end. All are most welcome to re-apply for membership. (Recent appointments Andrew, Niall, Fraser, Ruth and Kevin and their interest areas they represent are unaffected as their terms extend to 2024).	ALL members whose terms are coming to an end to reapply for membership if they wish to be considered for a place on the Forum
14 vacancies in total and NCC will appoint to a range of countryside access interest areas.	
Recruitment now open on the NCC website – please visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/nlaf to apply. Closing date is 25 th March 2022. Please encourage applications within groups you are involved with and in your community.	
Appointments will be confirmed in April 2022	
9. <u>Looking ahead</u> Consultation deadlines coming up include a response to the Glover Review required by April 9 th . https://consult.defra.gov.uk/future-landscapes-strategy/government-response-to-the-landscapes-review/ Please send your thoughts to MS and KH by the end of February.	ALL to send comments on Glover Review consultation to MS and KH by 28 th Feb
10. <u>Keeping in touch</u> Next meeting 27 th April 2022	

Norfolk Local Access Forum

(Forum member report)

Report title:	Meetings Forward Plan
Date of meeting:	6 th July 2022

Summary

A plan for agenda items for future NLAF meetings has been prepared for discussion and agreement.

Recommendation

To agree and add to the agenda plan (Appendix 1) for future meetings of the NLAF with suggestions, proposals and timings for agenda items

1.	Proposal
1.1.	<p><u>Standing agenda items are as follows:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairman's announcement (not a report) • Feedback from conferences and events attended by NLAF members (not a report) • Meetings forward plan (NLAF member report) • Sub groups' meetings (NLAF member report) • Pathmakers update (NLAF member report) • Countryside Access arrangements (NCC report) • NCC Member Champion for Sustainable Transport (NCC report) • Major infrastructure projects update (NCC report)
1.2.	<p><u>Future Agenda topics and timetabling for agreement and timetabling:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water based activities • Path widths standards for new paths arising from development • LCWIP • Cycling and Walking Strategy • Windfarm routes • Access for all • Highways Team Highlights • Data counters and footfall on Norfolk Trails • Cutting contract • Felmingham site visit (Weavers' Way, RDPE surface improvements) • Agriculture and Environment Bills • Public access on County Farms • CRM – in depth look at the reporting system over a 12 month period • Community Access Wardens – Norfolk ALC and NCC webinars and meetings
2.	Recommendations
2.1.	To agree proposals and timings for future agenda items

3.	Evidence
3.1.	See proposal

If you have any questions about this report please get in touch with:

NLAF member name :	Martin Sullivan
Email addresses :	martinsullivan4x4@yahoo.co.uk
Phone number	Via 01603 222810



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Norfolk Local Access Forum (red are standing agenda items)
6th October 2021
Chairman's announcement (not a report)
Feedback from conferences and events attended by NLAF members (not a report)
Meetings Forward Plan NLAF MEMBER REPORT
Sub-groups' NLAF MEMBER REPORT (Permissive Access; PROW; NAIP; V and I; Communications)
Pathmakers NLAF MEMBER REPORT
Countryside Access Arrangements NCC REPORT
NCC Member Champion Sustainable Transport update NCC REPORT
Major infrastructure projects NCC REPORT
Election of Chair/Vice Chair
Welcome to new NLAF members
ELMs presentation (Natural England) - access elements, timescale
Monument
January 26th 2022
Chairman's announcement (not a report)
Feedback from conferences and events attended by NLAF members (not a report)
Meetings Forward Plan NLAF MEMBER REPORT
Sub-groups' NLAF MEMBER REPORT (Permissive Access; PROW; NAIP; V and I; Communications)
Pathmakers NLAF MEMBER REPORT
Countryside Access Arrangements NCC REPORT (to include forward plan for Trails work)
NCC Member Champion Sustainable Transport update NCC REPORT
Major infrastructure projects NCC REPORT
Off-site meeting arrangements (not a report)
ELMS - access elements, timescale
Follow up on NAIP monitoring - objectives from SOA not yet started (included in subgroups' report)
Reaching young people (tbc)
Farming in protected landscapes (tbc)
April 27th 2022
New members attend informally (as members of the public). Last meeting for existing members who haven't
Chairman's announcement (not a report)
Feedback from conferences and events attended by NLAF members (not a report)
Meetings Forward Plan NLAF MEMBER REPORT
Sub-groups' NLAF MEMBER REPORT (Permissive Access; PROW; NAIP; V and I; Communications)
Pathmakers NLAF MEMBER REPORT
Countryside Access Arrangements NCC REPORT (to include capital maintenance fund projects RW)
NCC Member Champion Sustainable Transport update NCC REPORT
Major infrastructure projects NCC REPORT
Jubilee trail at Dereham - Gressenhall
Boardwalk at Cley (tbc)
Community Path Champions - Norfolk ALC online webinars for parish councils - outline plans (tbc)
Funding for PROW - overview of projects developing access (Greenways etc) - scope for future detailed reports
Landscapes review and Fipl
July 6th 2022
Welcome to new members
Chairman's announcement (not a report)

Norfolk Local Access Forum (red are standing agenda items)
Feedback from conferences and events attended by NLAF members (not a report)
Meetings Forward Plan NLAF MEMBER REPORT
Sub-groups' NLAF MEMBER REPORT (Permissive Access; PROW; NAIP; V and I; Communications)
Pathmakers NLAF MEMBER REPORT
Countryside Access Arrangements NCC REPORT (to include capital maintenance fund projects RW)
NCC Member Champion Sustainable Transport update NCC REPORT
Major infrastructure projects NCC REPORT
FOR CONSIDERATION
Water based activity report (tbc)
Path widths standards (for new paths arising from development) (tbc)
LCWIP (tbc)
Cycling and Walking Strategy (tbc)
Windfarm Routes (tbc)
Access for all (tbc)
Highways Team highlights (TBC)
Update - data counters and footfall on Norfolk Trails (TBC)
Cutting contract (TBC)
Felmingham location site visit (Weavers' Way - RDPE surface improvements (TBC)
Agriculture and Environment Bills
ELMs presentation (Natural England) - access elements, timescale

Report title:	NLAF subgroups' report (PRoW; NAIP; Vision and Ideas);
Date of meeting:	6 th July 2022

Summary

The NAIP subgroup and Vision and Ideas subgroup did not meet during the reporting period (since the April NLAF meeting), so this report concerns the PRoW subgroup only.

Recommendations for the NLAF:

PRoW subgroup

To consider the recommendations made in the Minutes of the PRoW subgroup meeting of 23 June 2022 (Appendix 1 and summarised below).

Two of the three recommendations made seek additional resources. The PRoW subgroup is fully aware that NCC is under continuing and increasing pressure to reduce its expenditure. Nevertheless, these recommendations are made

- 1 because they involve statutory duties, where lack of resource is not an acceptable reason for failure to undertake the duty, and
- 2 because the lack of resource is putting at risk the achievement of other well recognised policies (eg the Norfolk Access Improvement Plan) and aspirations (to provide the infrastructure needed to enable people to pursue their own health and well being)

NLAF has in the recent past produced a report using NCC's own data which shows that the limited expenditure on public access provides returns many times greater both in economic terms (spending by people using the access network) and health (the improvement of health and prevention of illness, physical and mental, that access to the countryside brings). The public rights of way network gives people that access, often directly from their doorsteps.

Recommendations – see 3 recommendations from the PRoW subgroup below

	<u>Recommendations</u>
1.1	<p>7.1.1 NLAF should express concern to NCC that it seemed inevitable that statutory obligations regarding rights of way maintenance were not being met; arguably more importantly, the state of the rights of way network was preventing people from securing the health and well being benefits of access to the countryside.</p> <p>Evidence: The report made to the subgroup (and in this agenda to NLAF) states (2.4, 2.5): “the Mayrise system of logged requests for service had at 16th June 2022, 1473 open issues for Public Rights of Way (continues to increase). ... Most enquiries received continue to be regarding damaged or missing signs, non-reinstatement, obstructions, overgrown surface, overgrown hedges/ trees and surface condition. The rise in cases is primarily attributed to the impact of Covid 19. While the country went into lockdown Central Government advice was that local outdoor exercise was promoted for wellbeing and there was evidence of significant increases in walking, running and cycling on village/local path</p>

	<p>networks across the Country. There were also isolated cases of landowners using Covid as an excuse to close some paths. Naturally, additional use has led to an increase in complaints about the condition of the local path network. There remain considerable backlogs to work through. This has been recognised within the ROW profession nationally and some LA's are now re-evaluating the importance of adequately maintaining local path networks and several Eastern Region Councils have recently reported increases in staff numbers and maintenance budgets. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the increased use of local networks continues with people having formed new habits of getting outdoor exercise."</p>
1.2	<p>7.2.3 NLAF should request that NCC be asked to investigate whether its reporting system was providing timely and accurate information to those reporting issues.</p> <p>Evidence: NCC encourages reporting of issues to be made through its online system, and NLAF has several times supported this and tried to encourage path users acting as NCC's 'eyes on the ground' to use this system, recognising it as a vital part of the reactive system that NCC has established. NLAF also recognises the many improvements made to the system over recent years. It has therefore been disturbing to receive a report that a significant problem which was reported allegedly received an acknowledgement but no more, while a second report (by a different person but concerning the same problem) received a reply which apparently failed to note that there was already a report of the issue and was therefore inappropriate. Public faith in the system was low a few years ago, and it would be regrettable (to say the least) if that situation were to recur.</p>
1.3	<p>8.2 NLAF should request that NCC be asked to increase the staffing responsible for work on Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMOs) in order to ensure that rights of way are not permanently lost to the county merely because of a lack of allocated resource.</p> <p>Evidence: Detailed evidence is recorded in 8.2 of the PRoW subgroup minutes. In summary, it is clear that the number of applications for DMMOs has predictably increased in recent years (as forecast and reported by NLAF on a number of previous occasions), and it is anticipated that this trend will continue. There are statutory duties here regarding timescales and actions, but even more important is the potential loss of rights of way in the county either for a lengthy period of time waiting for Orders to be made and decided, or permanently where user evidence is not available as some or all of the users have died, moved away or no longer able/willing to give that evidence.</p>

If you have any questions about this report please get in touch with:

<p>NLAF member name : Ken Hawkins</p> <p>Email address : ken-hawkins@tiscali.co.uk</p>



If you need this report in large print, audio, braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact nlaf@norfolk.gov.uk and we will do our best to help.

NORFOLK LOCAL ACCESS FORUM : Public Rights of Way Subgroup Minutes

Date: Monday 23 June 2022

Venue: MS Teams meeting

All supporting documents are on SharePoint

https://norfolkcounty.sharepoint.com/sites/Norfolk_Local_Access_Forum/SitePages/Home.aspx

Present	
Keith Bacon	Broads LAF
Neil Cliff	U3A
Birgit Griem	Norfolk Local Access Forum
Ken Hawkins (chair)	Norfolk Local Access Forum
Ian Mitchell	The Ramblers
Martin Sullivan	Norfolk Local Access Forum
In attendance	
Matt Hayward	Lead Project Officer
David Mills	Countryside Access Officer
Su Waldron	Project Officer (Environment Team)
Russell Wilson	Senior Trails Officer (Norfolk Trails)
Daniel Voisey	Geospatial Analyst (item 2 only)

	action
1 Introductions and apologies for absence Apologies had been received from Simon Fowler. Ann Melhuish had attempted to join but been unable to do so.	
2 The Ramblers' lost paths data Daniel Voisey, Geospatial Analyst with NCC, presented information about possible rights of way in Norfolk. He had obtained (with permission) The Ramblers' dataset of paths mapped by volunteers as part of its <i>Don't Lose Your Way</i> project to find routes to investigate for possible DMMO claims. He had then overlaid these with the current Definitive Map paths, and showed the comparison. He noted that while the current rights of way network amounted to 3890km, there was an additional 1973km identified by The Ramblers, though it was accepted that these had been identified from an early OS map and so were physical features, but not necessarily rights of way, and some may have been legally closed or diverted. Those present found this very interesting and thanked Daniel for his presentation, while reflecting on how the information could be best used. It was noted that Daniel was in contact with UEA, which was also researching past rights of way.	
3 Minutes of the meeting on 4 April 2022 The minutes were approved .	
4 NLAF meeting on 27 April 2022 Draft minutes had been circulated in advance; there were no additional issues referred to the subgroup.	
5 Matters arising from the minutes 5.1 4.1 <u>NCC's future plans for dealing with DMMOs</u> : It was noted that the informal meeting on this topic had yet to be arranged. See also 8 below. 5.2 4.2 <u>Traffic Asset Management Plan (TAMP)</u> : It was noted that no further action had occurred on this. Matt agreed to discuss with colleagues what steps might be taken to incorporate NLAF's comments on the TAMP.	KH MS MH

5.3	<p>6.3 National Highways: Peddars' Way crossing A47 near Swaffham</p> <p>Russell reported that there were no details as yet and he would update when there were. He added that National Highways seemed receptive to positive news stories. Others noted that there were also issues with other crossings of both the A47 and the A11.</p>	
6	<p>Partnership and Community Working</p> <p>6.1 <u>Parish volunteers and Norfolk ALC</u> It was agreed to remove this item from future PRow subgroup agendas and leave it to Pathmakers.</p> <p>6.2 <u>Issues from represented organisations:</u> Ian Witham (OSS) had raised the issue of the extent of path clearance by contractors. Russell reported that a response had been made directly to OSS, noting that rights of way were generally cut to their designated width, but limited to safeguard wildlife and habitats. This led on to a discussion about the cutting programme generally, reported at 7.1.1 below.</p>	
7	<p>Countryside Access arrangements</p> <p>7.1 <u>General update</u> The report had been circulated (and uploaded to SharePoint), but was also presented on screen at the meeting.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 The high (and increasing) number of outstanding issues was noted. Earlier discussion had mentioned the absence of any additional resource, which, combined with the rapidly rising costs of fuel and materials, was significantly hampering the ability of staff to arrange the required maintenance work. This was further compounded by the backlog of work built up during the lockdown for covid. The subgroup acknowledged that staff were doing their best to deal with this situation, but lacked the resource to do so. It was agreed to recommend to NLA that it should express concern to NCC that it seemed inevitable that statutory obligations were not being met; arguably more importantly, the state of the rights of way network was preventing people from reaching the health and well being benefits of walking in the countryside. 2 It was asked if broad timings of planned cutting could be published to assist those arranging walks or considering local work to cut vegetation, but NCC felt that the nature of the contractual arrangements effectively precluded this. <p>7.2 <u>Specific issues</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Cley boardwalk: This was now open 2 Newton by Castle Acre DMMO: Russell reported that a landowner application for an order to delete part of the restricted byway had been declined by NCC, and the landowner had appealed to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). An order had however been made for adding part of the existing but unrecognised path to the Definitive Map. It was expected that PINS would deal with these in due course (probably dealing with the appeal first) and nothing more could be done in the meantime. 3 Mattishall FP3: Neil raised concerns about how problems reported about this path were being addressed. The concern was both about the route of the path, which was disputed by the landowner), and the NCC response. Neil said that one report had not received a response after initial acknowledgement, while a second report appeared not to have been linked with the earlier report. In the absence of detailed information, Ken suggested that NCC staff investigate and respond directly to Neil in relation to the specific issues with the path. For NLA, the subgroup expressed concern that the reporting system seemed flawed in not having linked the two reports, and 	<p>KH</p> <p>KH</p>

recommended that NLAF should ask for this to be investigated.		
7.3	<u>Major Infrastructure Projects and Planning Applications</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 East Anglia GREEN: Colleagues from Suffolk Local Access Forum had drawn attention to this proposal to build a new high voltage network reinforcement between Norwich, Bramford and Tilbury. Initial consultation had closed; further consultation would open in 2023. 2 Larkshall Mill Aggregate Manufacturing and Carbon Capture Facility: Matt mentioned this development and offered to provide further information on it. 	MH
8	Definitive Map Modification Orders <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8.1 An update on the Deregulation Act, written by Kate Ashbrook for the Open Spaces Society, was noted with interest (appended). Government action was awaited. 8.2 Further to previous information provided by the Legal Orders Team, it was noted that NCC “is already experiencing a great increase in modification applications in addition to lingering issues related to the Covid-19 pandemic. ... [A] 500% increase in workload is not sustainable in the context of a team whose resource has increased by only 25%. More resource has been requested ...” The subgroup noted that <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 a backlog of some 200 applications now existed; 2 typical processing was of up to about 6 per year; 3 although the 2026 deadline for certain applications had now been removed, it was anticipated that the momentum built up by organisations like The Ramblers, Open Spaces Society and British Horse Society was likely to continue, leading to a continuing if not increasing rate of applications; 4 notwithstanding NCC’s stated aim to seek to prioritise applications supported by user evidence, the timescale were such that these applications were likely to be adversely affected by the death or unavailability of users providing the evidence; and 5 there was a stated intention of the government that landowner applications for diversions be given priority. <p>In light of these factors, the subgroup agreed that it would recommend that NLAF again urge NCC to increase the staffing responsible for this work in order to ensure that rights of way are not permanently lost to the county merely because of a lack of allocated resource.</p> 	KH
9	Public access in emerging government programmes <p>It was reported that the Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS) programme had been delayed by 2 years. Matt noted that the Wendling Beck project (a pre ELMS pilot) targeted at biodiversity, also had an access element.</p>	
10	Dates of next meetings <p>Subgroup meetings have been planned for Mondays 12 September and 12 December.</p>	

All were thanked for their attendance and contributions, and the meeting closed.

Appendix

Kate Ashbrook, member of the Stakeholder Group which drew up the proposals incorporated in the Deregulation Act, has written this update for Walkers are Welcome.

The February announcement by Defra, that it would scrap the 2026 deadline for recording historic paths in England, was a significant step forward. In May Defra told the stakeholder working group (SWG) on rights of way that it proposes to proceed with the remaining statutory instruments not related to the cut-off, so that the full package of reforms originally envisaged under the Deregulation Act 2015 can be brought into force.

This is complex work and the SWG will be involved over the next few months in looking at the detail of regulations and guidance, the aim being to speed up and simplify the process for determining applications to add paths to the definitive map and statement.

But it's not all good news. Among these measures (but not part of the original package agreed by the SWG) is the introduction of the landowner's right to apply for path changes. This provision requires the highway authority to process such applications to a tight timetable, for which it will charge the applicant. This will result in many more applications for path changes on grounds of alleged 'privacy and security no doubt to the detriment of the public. While the law is unchanged, and the tests in the Highways Act 1980 must still be met, we know that the provisions in section 119 (for diversions) are already weighted against the public interest.

Moreover, this will skew highway authorities' work, requiring them to prioritise landowner-interest diversions when they should be focusing their ever-diminishing resources on removing obstructions, maintaining the network, and processing definitive map applications—all of which are in the public interest.

The user groups will endeavour to minimise the damaging effects of these proposed changes.

Local Access Forum

Report title:	Countryside Access Arrangements Update
Date of meeting:	6th July 2022
Responsible Officer:	Steve Miller, Director of Culture & Heritage
Strategic impact To address the concerns raised by the Local Access Forum with regards to Public Rights of Way Management and delivering the service in an economic and cost-effective way.	

Executive summary

At the July 2017 Local Access Forum (NLAF), it was agreed that at each future meeting, a summary of the work the Countryside Access Officers and Environment teams would be provided. At the October 2017 NLAF it was agreed that this report should be presented to the PROW sub-group prior to being brought to NLAF.

This paper highlights this work in terms of the volumes of customer queries received and responded to. The paper also highlights other key areas of work.

Recommendations:

- 1. That the Local Access Forum note the progress made to date since the Countryside Access Officer posts were introduced.**

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Since 1 April 2017, there is a single point of contact within each Highways Area office being responsible for their local rights of way issues. By having the officer within the Area office, they are more “on the ground” and better placed to deal with the operational reactive issues that occur when managing rights of way. They are supported by the wider Highways Area team staff. In addition, the Norfolk Trails team sits within the Environment Service at County Hall and carries out strategic and developmental aspects of developing the countryside access network.

2. Performance

- 2.1. The information in **Appendix 1** summarises the performance information available for the complete months since the last report.
- 2.2. The CRM defect reporting system went live in March 2018. Defect notes are being made visible to the public in the automatic update emails sent when third party defects have been inspected & more status options available on tablets under the ‘No Defect’ category, as previously reported.
Minor updates continue to be made to CRM to enhance operation and feedback elements.
The provision of additional information appears to have led to a decrease in follow up requests.
- 2.3. A new report has been prepared to display the relevant PROW/Trails information via PowerBI – **Appendix 1 (a) and (b) (Stats for the last 3 months and 2 years)**.
- 2.4. In summary, the Mayrise system of logged requests for service had at 16th June 2022, 1,473 open issues for Public Rights of Way (continues to increase). This reflects that PROW issues are often complicated matters to resolve. Most enquiries received continue to be regarding damaged or missing signs, non-reinstatement, obstructions, overgrown surface, overgrown hedges/ trees and surface condition.

- 2.5. The rise in cases is primarily attributed to the impact of Covid 19. While the country went into lockdown Central Government advice was that local outdoor exercise was promoted for wellbeing and there was evidence of significant increases in walking, running and cycling on village/local path networks across the Country. There were also isolated cases of landowners using Covid as an excuse to close some paths. Naturally, additional use has led to an increase in complaints about the condition of the local path network. There remain considerable backlogs to work through. This has been recognised within the ROW profession nationally and some LA's are now re-evaluating the importance of adequately maintaining local path networks and several Eastern Region Councils have recently reported increases in staff numbers and maintenance budgets. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the increased use of local networks continues with people having formed new habits of getting outdoor exercise.
- 2.6. At the current time there are no additional financial resources earmarked for PROW maintenance. 3 x PROW Technicians commenced their roles in September 2021, one each in support of Countryside Access Officer for the three highway areas. One staff member has subsequently transferred to a Trails role leaving a vacancy in North Area. This was filled again and commenced April 2022.
- 2.7. As of the 16th June 2022, the Norfolk Trails Team had 177 open CRM issues. Highways had 207 open CRM issues (both showing a slight increase)
- 2.8. These figures do not reflect the substantial volume of reports and correspondence still received through direct email and telephone communication from members of the public, but which remain unrecorded. Neither does it reflect the complexity often found in resolving PROW issues.
- 2.9. In addition to the numbers above, there have been a number of enforcement notices sent out to landowners since April 2022. The figures include more informal email conversations where the landowner is politely reminded that enforcement may follow if action is not forthcoming. The following have been issued:
- 42 Section 131A, 134-137 Non-reinstatement Notices/emails issued since 1 April 2022. The majority are resolved without recourse to further enforcement. It should be noted that there are significant resource pressures associated with serving and following up on Notices.
 - To date in 2022 since April 1st, 0x Section 130's (obstructions) and 3x s56 (out of repair) notices have been received by NCC
- 2.10. It should be noted that processing any legal notices is time consuming for NCC staff. Similarly, when NCC receives FOI requests, these are a drain on limited resources.
- 2.11. In terms of other progress, key highlights include:
- Higher incidences of people using local paths during Covid and continuing through 2021 and into 2022. Also the wet winter 20/21 saw an increase in flooding reports and associated bridge damage. These issues are still being worked through, Bridges Team have a substantial backlog of missing structures, with most of the structures being timber there is a constant requirement to replace on a cyclic basis. Approximately 20 larger scale structures were replaced on the network in 2021/2.
 - 2022 cutting: Additional funding has been allocated to complete 2 cuts on the selected PROW routes again for 2022. Trails routes receive 3 cuts. The first cut is well underway. A new contractor is to be trialled in West Norfolk following issues with successive contractors in this area. He is facing some difficulties mainly in relation to the knock on effects of paths that missed out on cutting in previous years leading to heavier growth. Fuel price increases is making contracts less viable and we are anticipating increased costs in this

area going forward. Some Parishes have expressed an interest in carrying out their own cutting with financial support from NCC (equivalent to the amount spent under the main contracts) but this only currently applies to a handful of parishes.

- Enforcement procedures were carried out on a path at Upwell in 2021 removing gates but the landowner replaced them immediately. Further enforcement took place in March 2022. Police presence was required to allow enforcement to take place and obstructions were removed. These have been replaced once again. The matter is now with NPLaw
- The £15k “Urban paths” allocation was made for 2021/2 on a resurfacing project in North area at Brundall. The project was completed promptly and was well received. Projects for this year are now being considered.
- County Councillors have “Member Fund” to allocate to local projects each year, increased to £10k each for 2021/2 and this can be spent on small scale PROW projects of maintenance. To date, uptake on tackling PROW issues has been limited.
- Ramblers Association volunteers have organised and carried out some small scale works at Sustead using RA membership funds with overview from the North CAO. We would like to explore similar initiatives but more regular volunteer work may require support from NCC such as the purchase of material.
- Some large-scale landowner “rewilding” schemes are coming on stream and while these are good for the environment, are having potentially negative effects on the PROW network.

2.12. **Norfolk Trails update**

This overall update shows progress towards delivering a number of major projects and improvements to the network in Norfolk over the last 3 months

2.13. **Cawston access improvements**



Surface flooded and puddled through the winter period. Access is tight in this section due to the width of route and vegetation growth



Steps repaired.

New handrail installed



Before and after images

New drainage

New handrails and new surface throughout the area to improve year round access

Stonebridge Wretham surface and drainage works on the peddars way

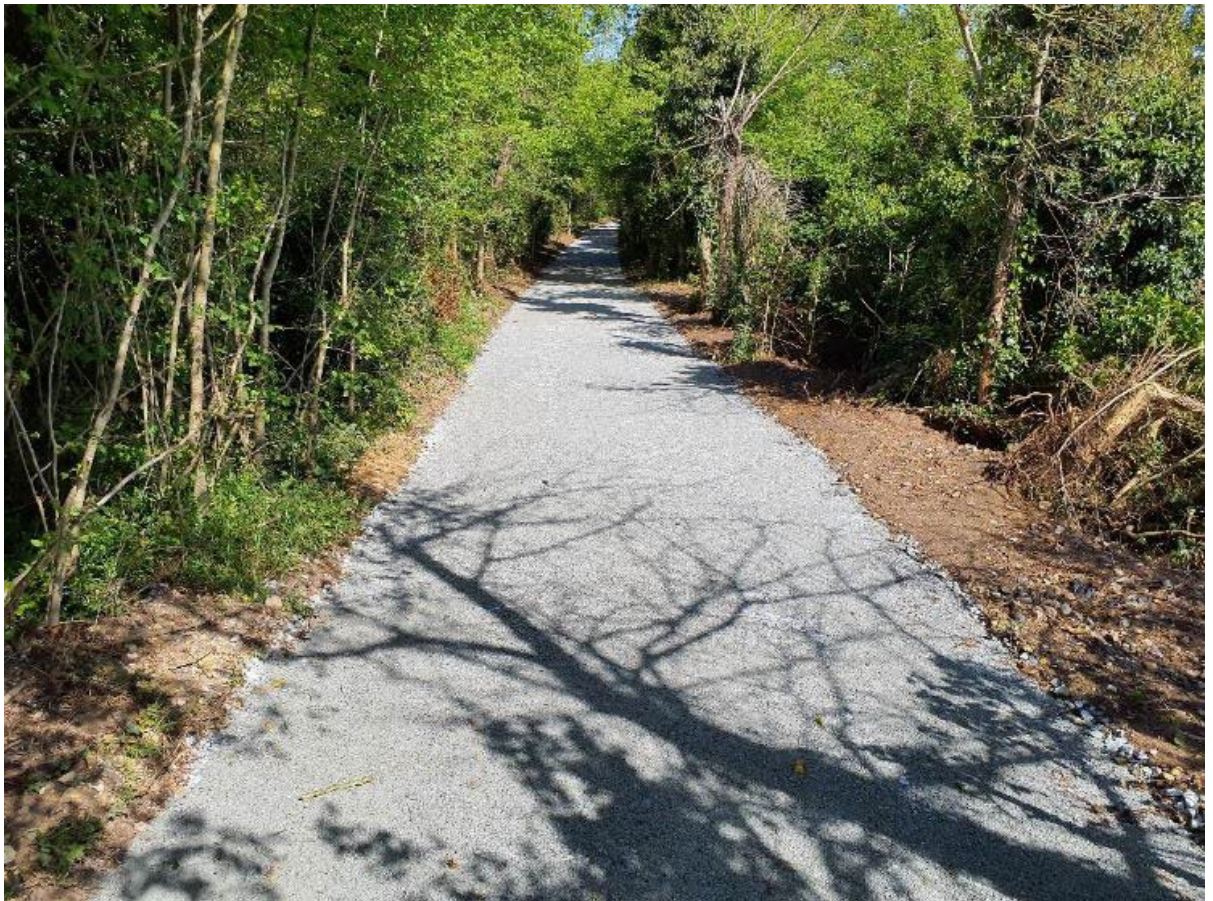


Surface at start of the project – 2 foot under water due to localised flooding in the area – route was un passable for 6 months and then subsequently a huge amount of damage had been done to the surface making it very difficult for users to access other than in a 4X4 vehicle.



Trails officer standing in the wheel ruts on the route. Damage up to my knees making it difficult for all users

Aqua cell installed on site to mitigate future flooding in the area



New surface plus drainage installed and delivered

Cutting contract in full swing and officers are managing this in challenging circumstances.

Cley Boardwalk completion



Boardwalk opened in time for jubilee weekend

More than the boardwalk a programme of surface repair and steps have been installed.



This builds onto the works already undertaken in the area over the past 5 years.

Work on obtaining consents for a series of projects is underway and once these have been obtained officers will update the LAF on proposed works etc

3. Walking and cycling team work

3.1. Wherryman's way works

The walking and cycling team have been successful in applying for funding from the GNGB for phase 1 of wherryman's way works.

Please see **Appendix 2** for slides covering wherryman's way works for 2022 – 2024

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1. Officers and contractors are aware of escalating fuel and raw materials price and availability which may impact on project delivery. This ongoing issue will be monitored and fed back to the LAF once the new financial year starts

5. Issues, risks and innovation

4.1

4.2 Highways England Meeting update

4.3 Verbal update to be given

4.4

4.5

6. Background

6.1. Please see introduction

Officer Contact

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper or want to see copies of any assessments, eg equality impact assessment, please get in touch with:

Officer name : Jason Moorse
Russell Wilson

Tel No: 01553 778002

Tel No. 01603 223383

Email address : jason.moorse@norfolk.gov.uk
Russell.wilson@norfolk.gov.uk



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PROW and Trail Defect Report

The information presented on this page looks at PROW and Trail defects reports. PROW & Trail defect reports are sent to Mayrise mobile tablets for investigation by the relevant team.

Alter the Report Date Range in the top right hand corner to see FAQs received over a

Volume of PROW/Trail defects by type

DescriptionOfFault	C	N	S	W	Total
PROW - Overgrown surface -e.g. grass/weeds		58	34	12	104
PROW - Damaged or missing sign		34	58	10	102
PROW - Overgrown hedge/tree	2	38	28	13	81
PROW - Crops/ploughing affecting footpath		33	35	10	78
PROW - Obstruction -e.g. building works, fences, ditches, locked gate		21	29	12	62
PROW - Tree dangerous/fallen		13	16	6	35
PROW - Surface condition		17	6	7	30
Trail - Overgrown surface -e.g. grass/weeds		15	11	3	29
Trail - Damaged or missing sign		15	7	2	24
Trail - Overgrown hedge/tree	2	12	5	2	21
Trail - Surface condition		8	8	5	21
PROW - Gate/Barrier		5	7	8	20
PROW - Bridge		4	11	3	18
PROW - Misleading sign		6	7	1	14
Trail - Tree dangerous/fallen	2	6	4	2	14
Trail - Crops/ploughing affecting footpath		5	5		10
PROW - Stile damaged/too/high/other		4	5		9
Trail - Gate/Barrier		4	3	2	9
Trail- Obstruction -e.g. building works, fences, ditches, locked gate		4	4	1	9
PROW - Animal(s)		2	3	1	6
Trail - Bridge		2	2	2	6
Trail - Illegal / Vehicle Use		2	2	1	5
Trail - Misleading sign		3	1	1	5
PROW - Flooded Path			3	1	4
PROW - Steps damaged/other			3	1	4
PROW - Illegal / Vehicle Use		3			3
Trail - Steps damaged/other		1		1	2
Trail - Animal(s)		1			1
Trail- Stile damaged/too/high/other			1		1
Total	6	316	298	107	727

Report Date Range

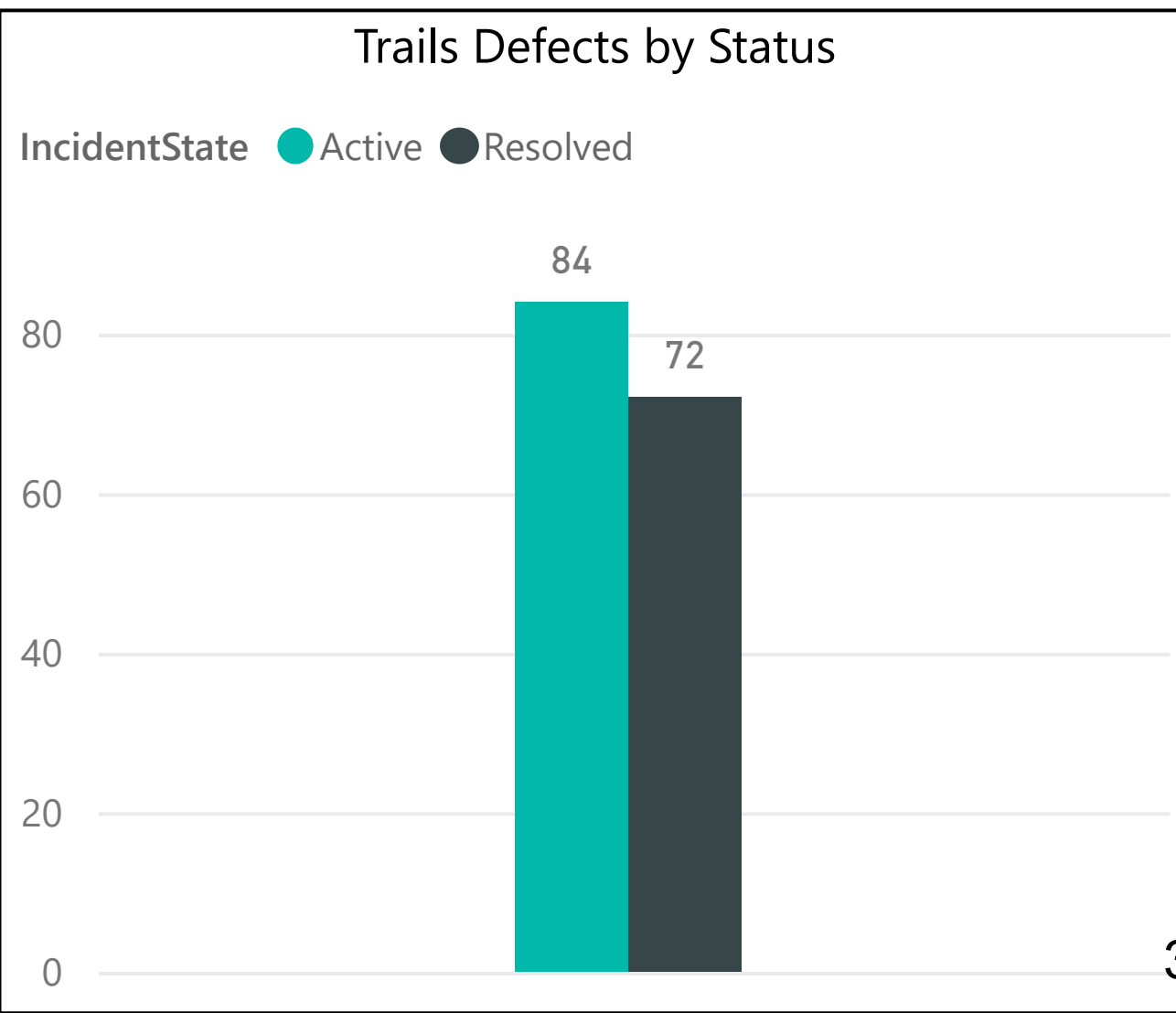
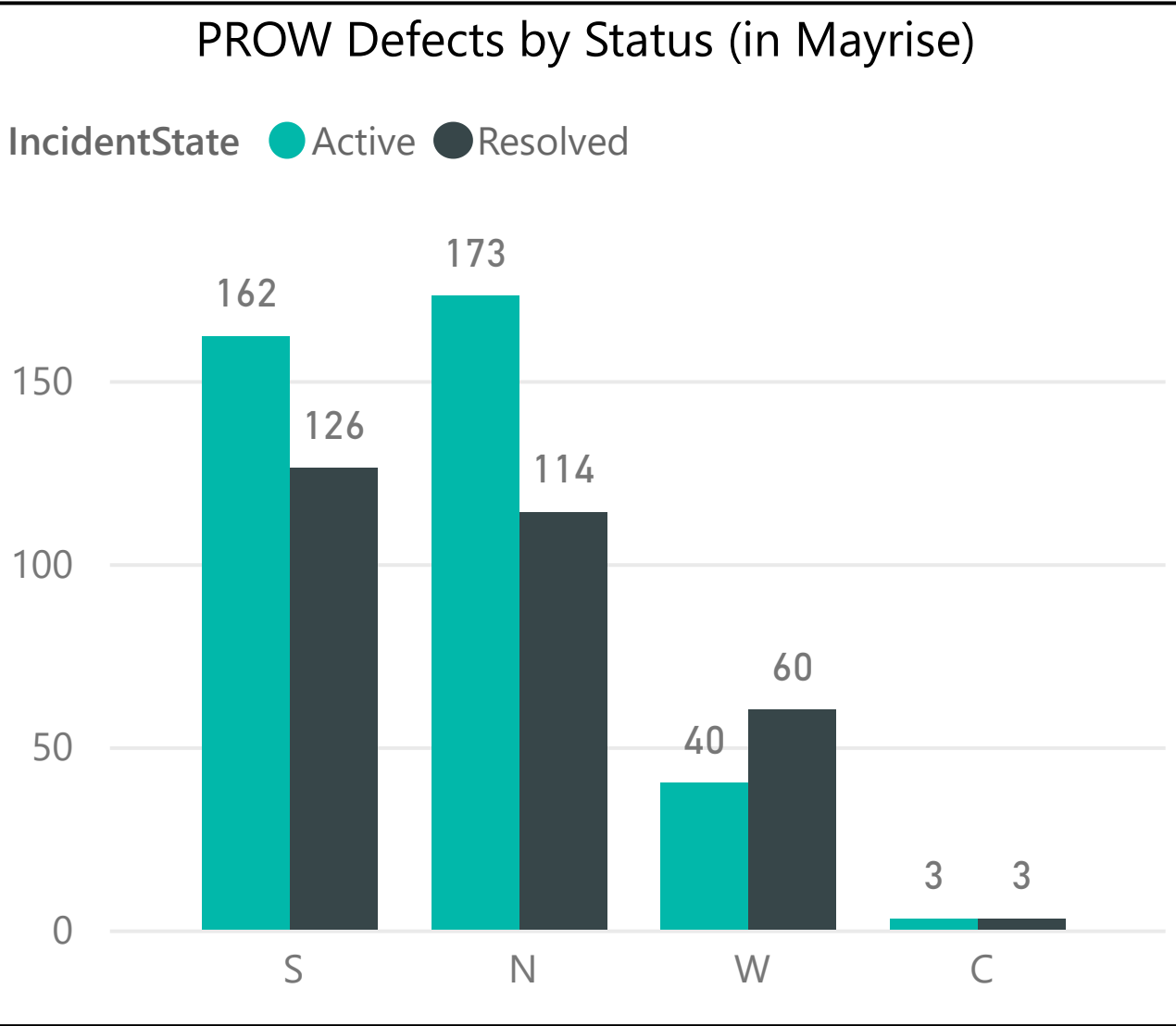
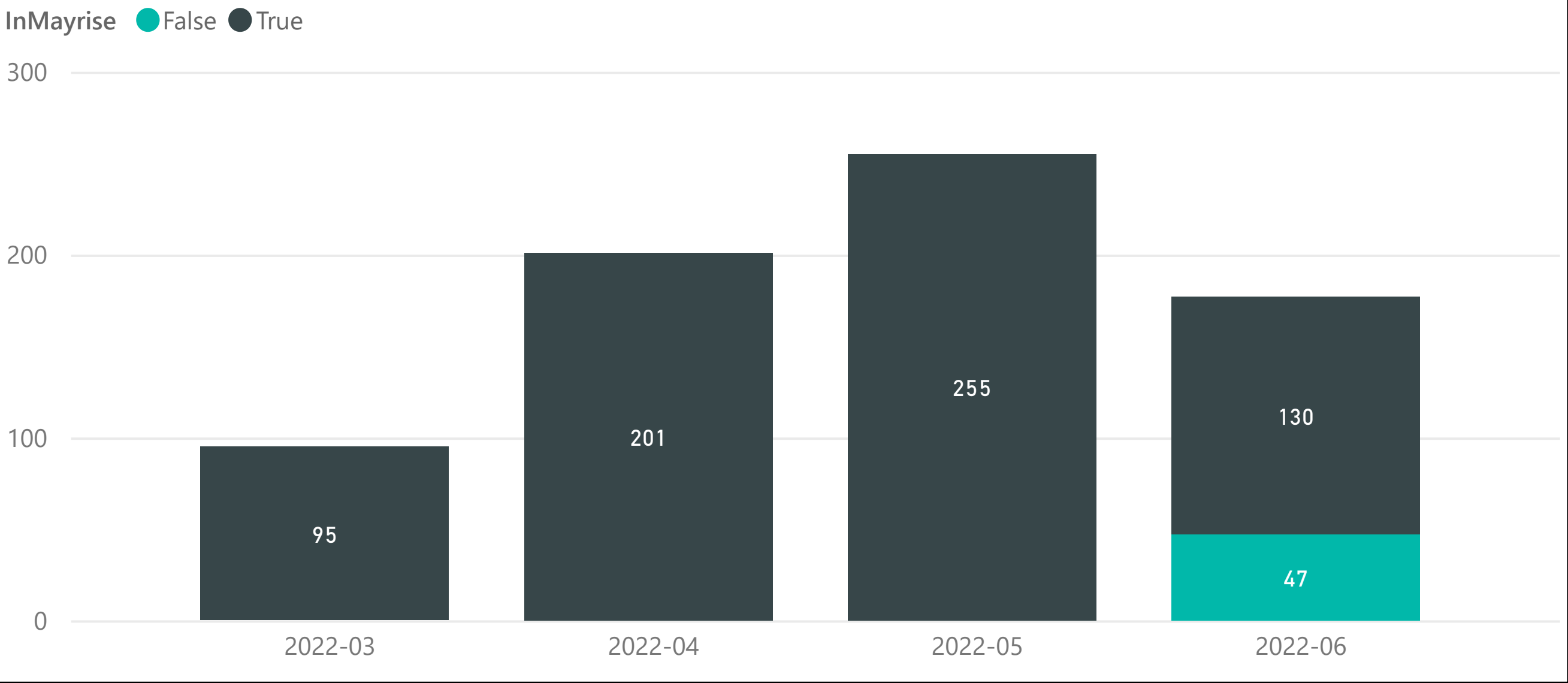
Last

3

Months

📅 17/03/2022 - 16/06/2022

PROW and Trail defects received by month



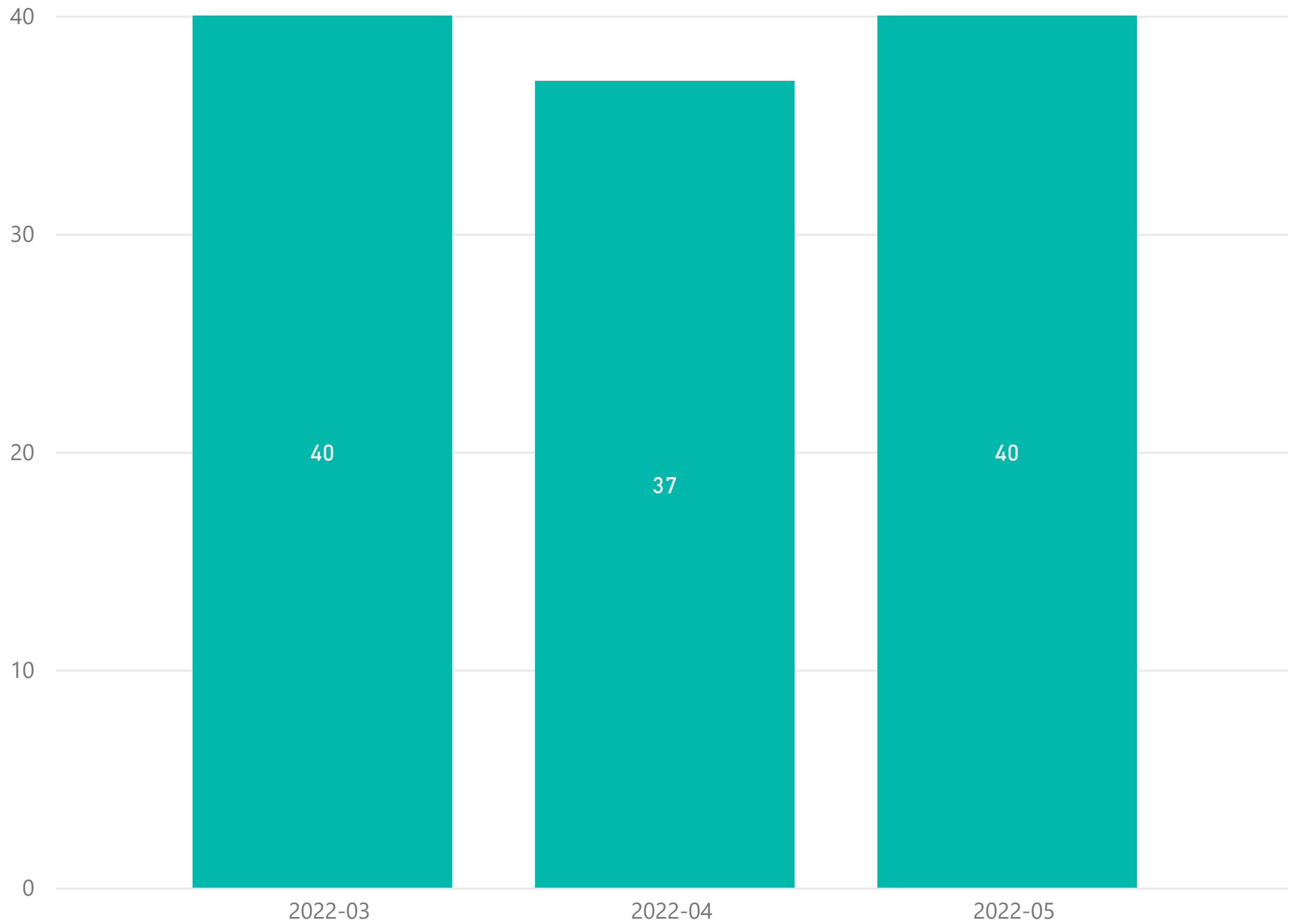
Public Right of Way and Trail FAQ Report

FAQs relate to all enquiries made by customers that include queries on policy, information requests, formal notices and chasing requests. These are logged by the Customer Service Centre and managed within the Customer Relationship Management System (CRM).

These present to either the PROW 'queue' (managed by Countryside Access Officers) or the Trails queue (managed by the Environment team).

Alter the Report Date Range in the top right hand corner to see FAQs received over a different time period.

Volume of PROW/Trail FAQs received by month



Report Date Range

Last

3

Months (Calendar)

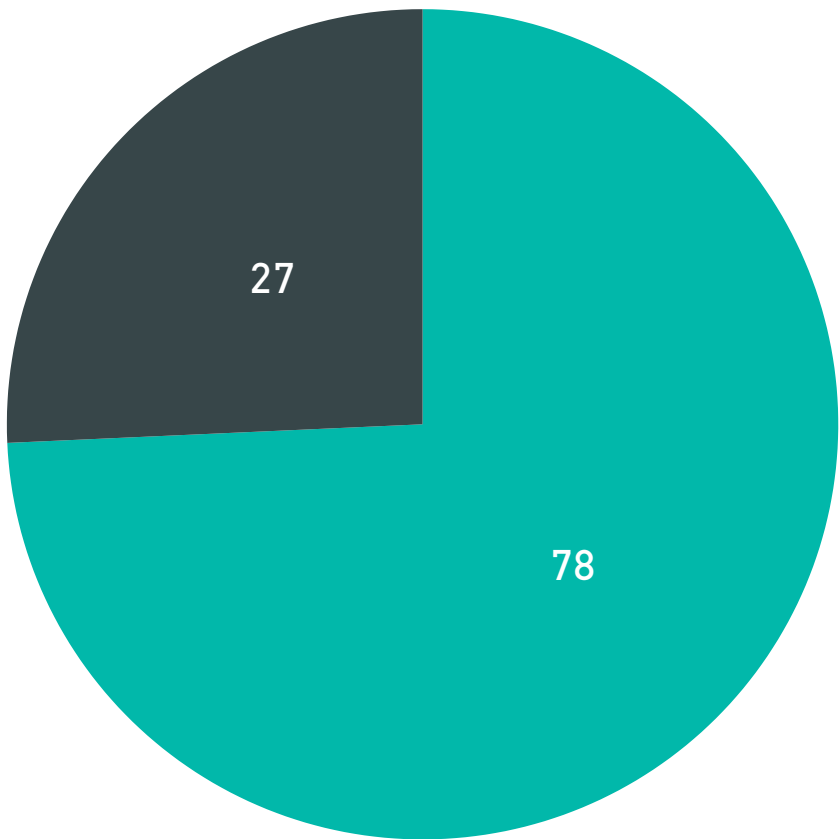
01/03/2022 - 31/05/2022

Volume of PROW/Trail FAQs by question

Question	Count of CaseNumber
I have an enquiry about PROW ot Trail grass cutting	1
I would like to make a town and village green application	1
	2
I've seen unauthorised cycling, driving or riding on a Public Right of Way or Trail. What can be done?	2
Section 130 notice received	2
I have an enquiry about the definitive map	4
I have an enquiry concerning common land	4
I would like information about a Norfolk Trail	8
Total	117

PROW/Trail FAQs received by Status

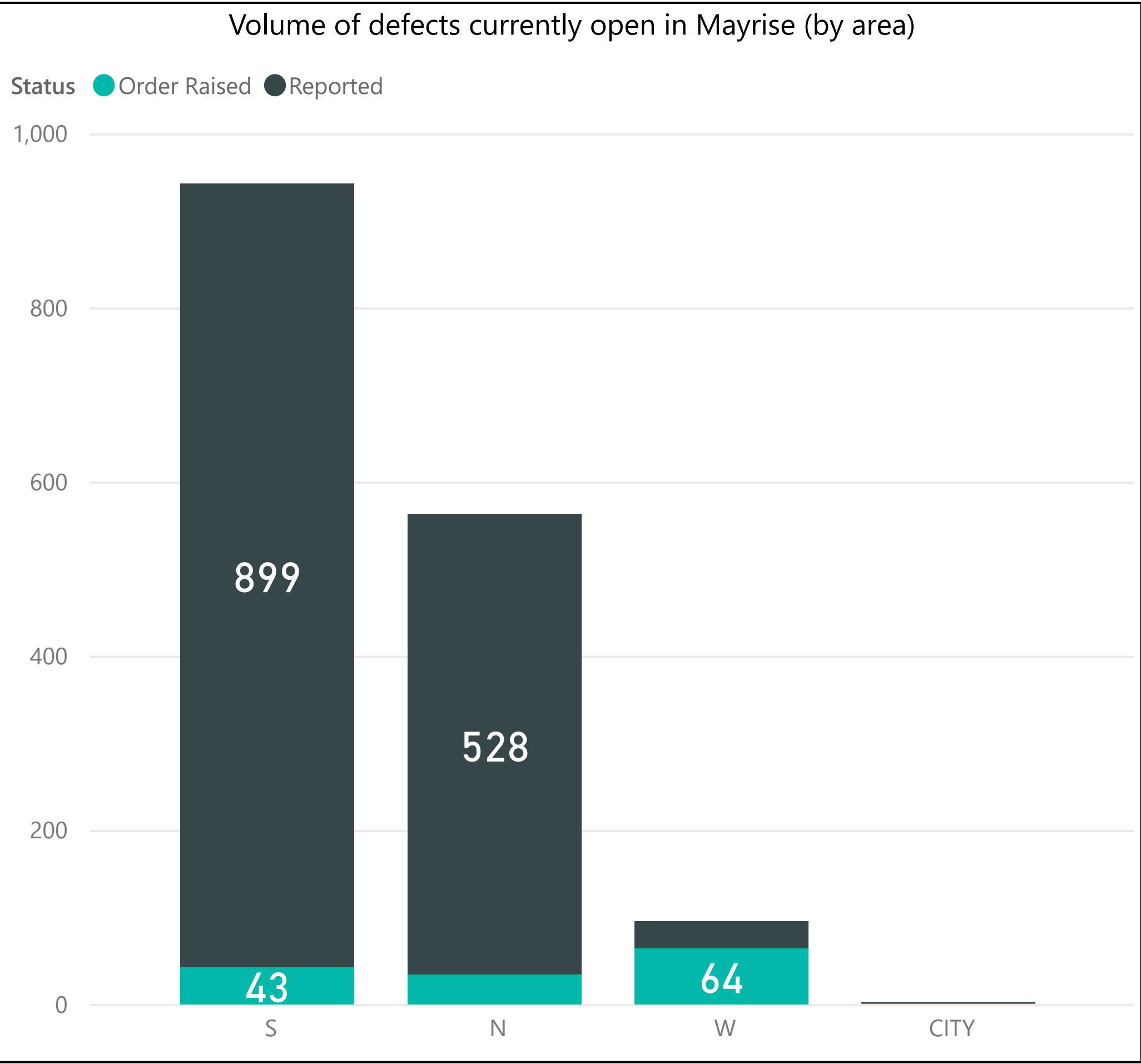
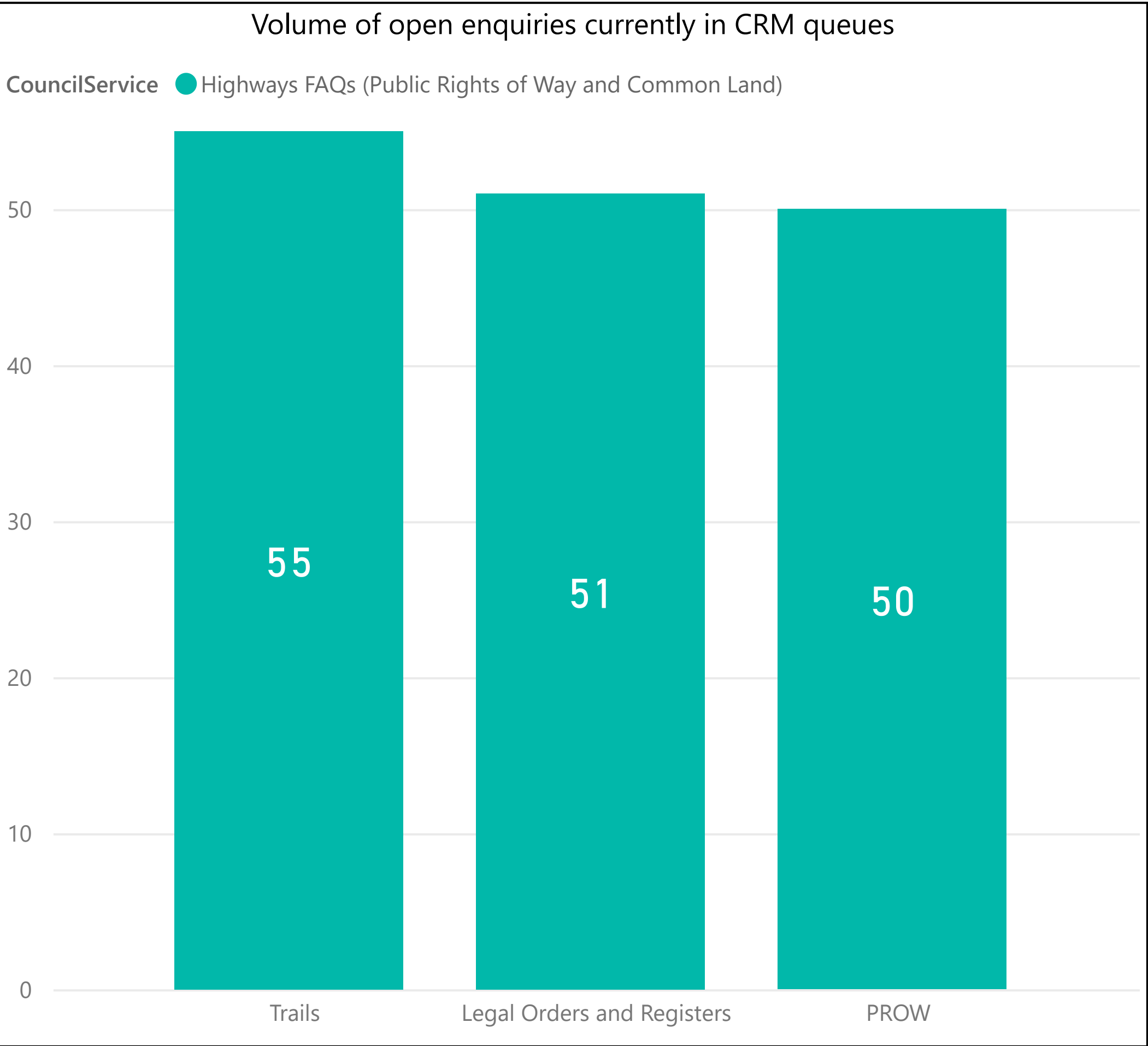
IncidentState Resolved Active



Active Enquiries

This page provides a snapshot of the customer reported defects and FAQs that are currently open in Mayrise and CRM.

The graph below reflects what is currently open in the team Queues in CRM. You will notice that some queues have both FAQs and defects. This is because before April 2019 Trails defects were managed within CRM. Defects registered on PROWs (and Trails from April 2019 onward) all automatically 'leave' CRM and are sent through to Mayrise. You can see the open PROW & Trail customer reported defects that are in Mayrise in the graph to the right. Anything with the status 'reported' indicates the defect is awaiting investigation.



PROW and Trail Defect Report

The information presented on this page looks at PROW and Trail defects reports. PROW & Trail defect reports are sent to Mayrise mobile tablets for investigation by the relevant team.

Alter the Report Date Range in the top right hand corner to see FAQs received over a

Volume of PROW/Trail defects by type

DescriptionOfFault	C	N	S	W	Total	
PROW - Damaged or missing sign		338	499	109	946	
PROW - Overgrown surface -e.g. grass/weeds	5	438	334	105	882	
PROW - Crops/ploughing affecting footpath		275	245	62	582	
PROW - Overgrown hedge/tree	11	250	224	91	576	
PROW - Obstruction -e.g. building works, fences, ditches, locked gate		182	258	89	529	
PROW - Surface condition		184	115	73	372	
PROW - Tree dangerous/fallen	3	172	117	45	337	
Trail - Overgrown surface -e.g. grass/weeds	11	142	82	32	267	
PROW - Bridge		42	182	32	256	
PROW - Gate/Barrier		79	109	61	249	
Trail - Surface condition	3	6	111	69	219	
Trail - Overgrown hedge/tree	19	101	65	23	208	
Trail - Damaged or missing sign		86	86	16	188	
Trail - Tree dangerous/fallen	14	90	39	6	149	
PROW - Stile damaged/too/high/other		58	66	6	130	
PROW - Misleading sign		61	43	20	124	
Trail- Obstruction -e.g. building works, fences, ditches, locked gate	2	43	41	9	95	
PROW - Illegal / Vehicle Use	1	44	25	22	92	
PROW - Flooded Path		30	29	21	80	
Trail - Gate/Barrier	3	21	29	8	61	
PROW - Animal(s)	2	24	25	8	59	
Trail - Bridge	7	14	25	8	54	
Trail - Illegal / Vehicle Use	2	23	14	9	48	
Trail - Flooded Path	1	18	24	4	47	
PROW - Steps damaged/other		22	19	5	46	
Trail - Crops/ploughing affecting footpath	1	10	30		41	
Trail - Misleading sign		12	13	7	32	
Trail - Steps damaged/other	1	2	18	5	30	
Trail - Animal(s)	1	9	7	4	21	
Trail- Stile damaaed/too/high/other		7	5		12	
Total	4	91	2904	2824	909	6732

Report Date Range

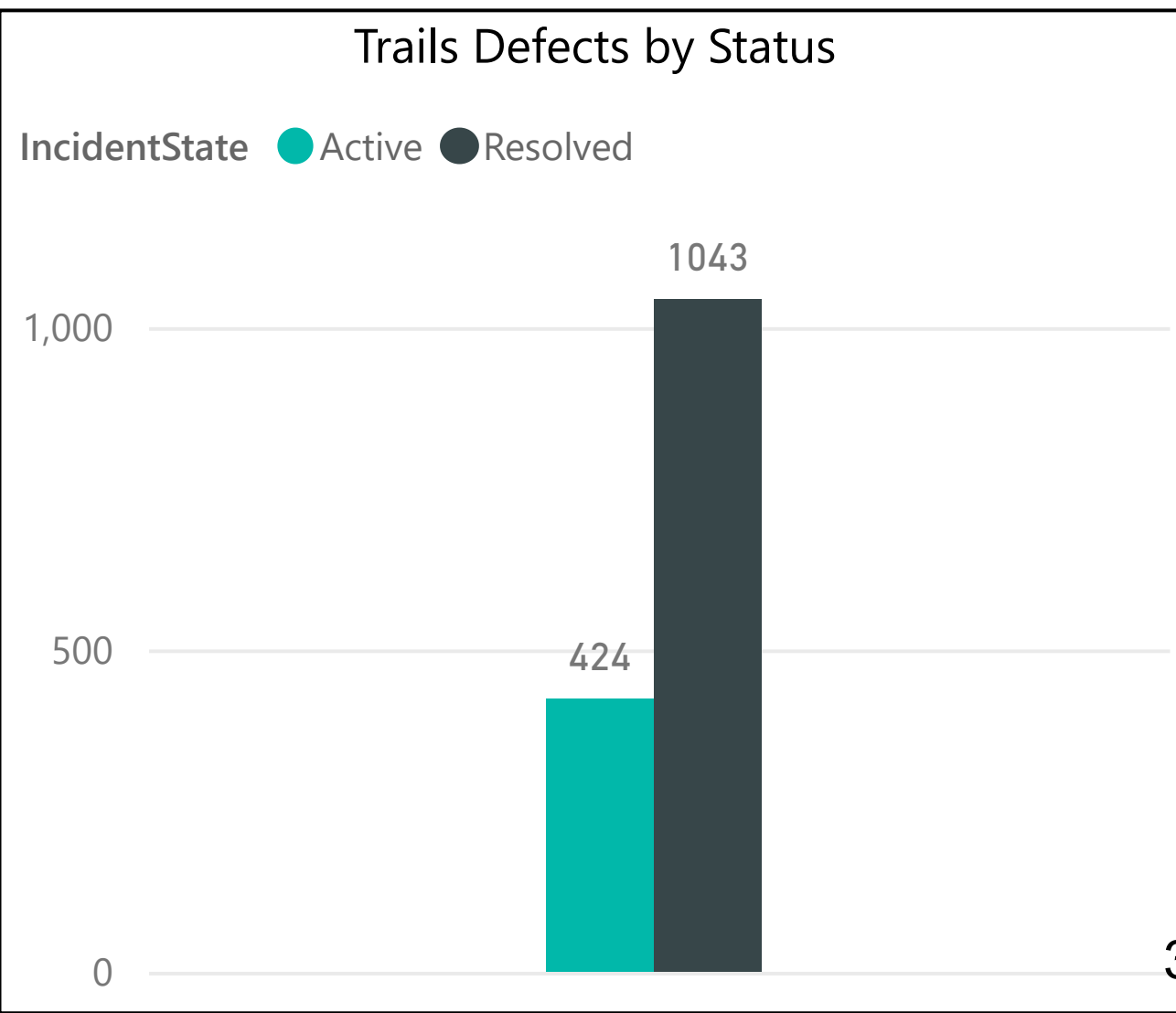
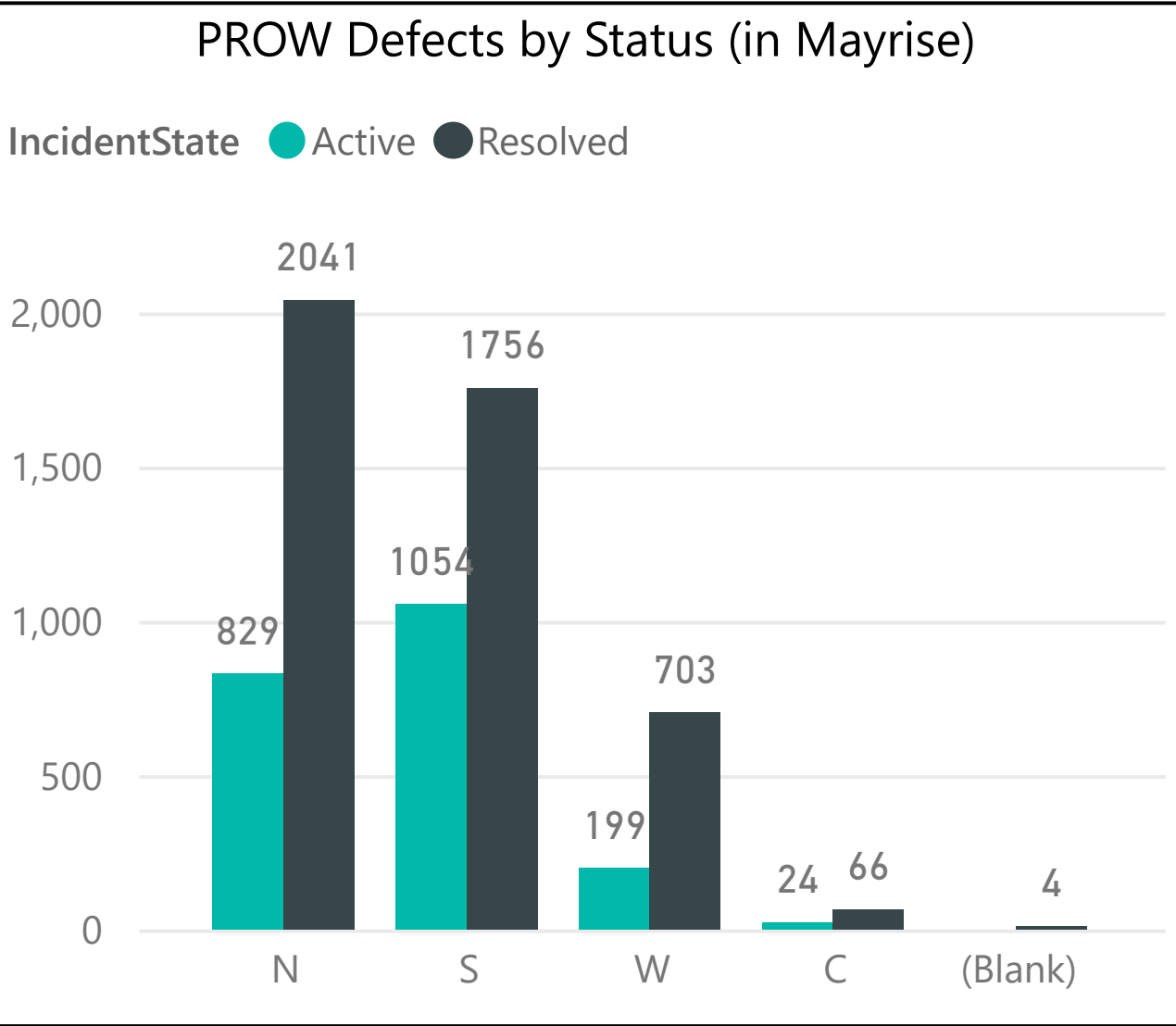
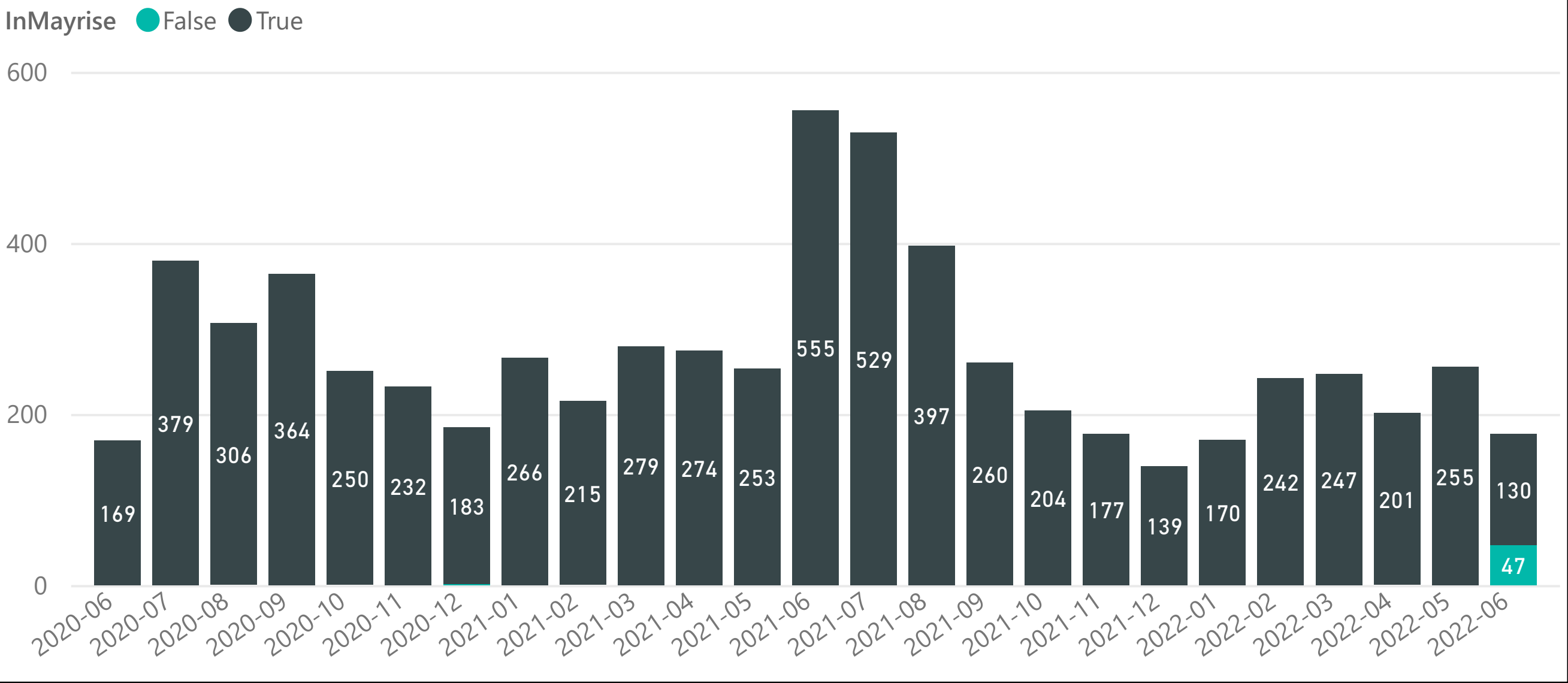
Last

2

Years

📅 17/06/2020 - 16/06/2022

PROW and Trail defects received by month



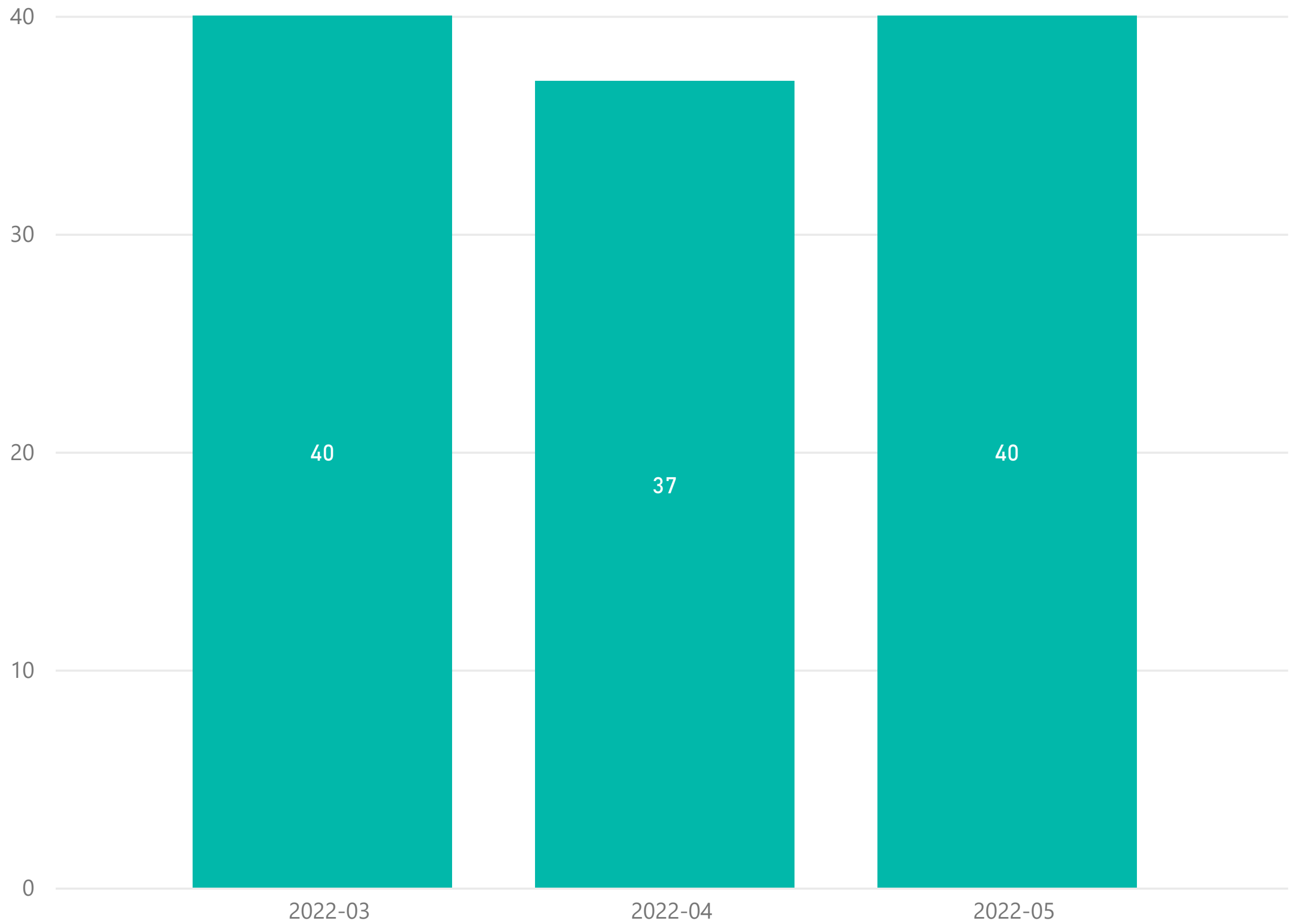
Public Right of Way and Trail FAQ Report

FAQs relate to all enquiries made by customers that include queries on policy, information requests, formal notices and chasing requests. These are logged by the Customer Service Centre and managed within the Customer Relationship Management System (CRM).

These present to either the PROW 'queue' (managed by Countryside Access Officers) or the Trails queue (managed by the Environment team).

Alter the Report Date Range in the top right hand corner to see FAQs received over a different time period.

Volume of PROW/Trail FAQs received by month



Report Date Range

Last

3

Months (Calendar)

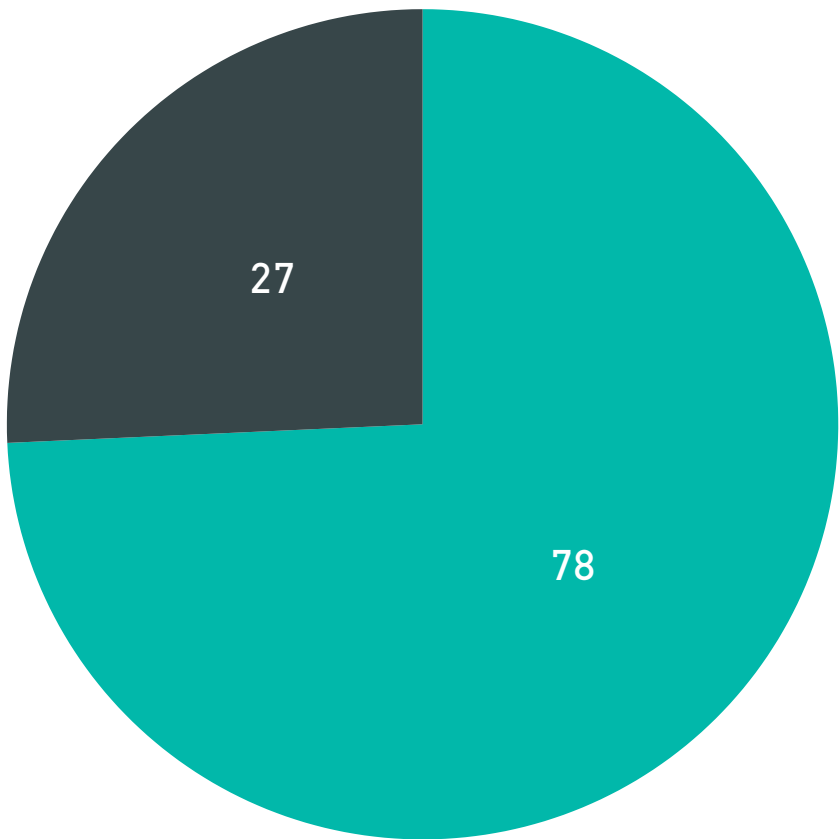
01/03/2022 - 31/05/2022

Volume of PROW/Trail FAQs by question

Question	Count of CaseNumber
I have an enquiry about PROW ot Trail grass cutting	1
I would like to make a town and village green application	1
	2
I've seen unauthorised cycling, driving or riding on a Public Right of Way or Trail. What can be done?	2
Section 130 notice received	2
I have an enquiry about the definitive map	4
I have an enquiry concerning common land	4
I would like information about a Norfolk Trail	8
Total	117

PROW/Trail FAQs received by Status

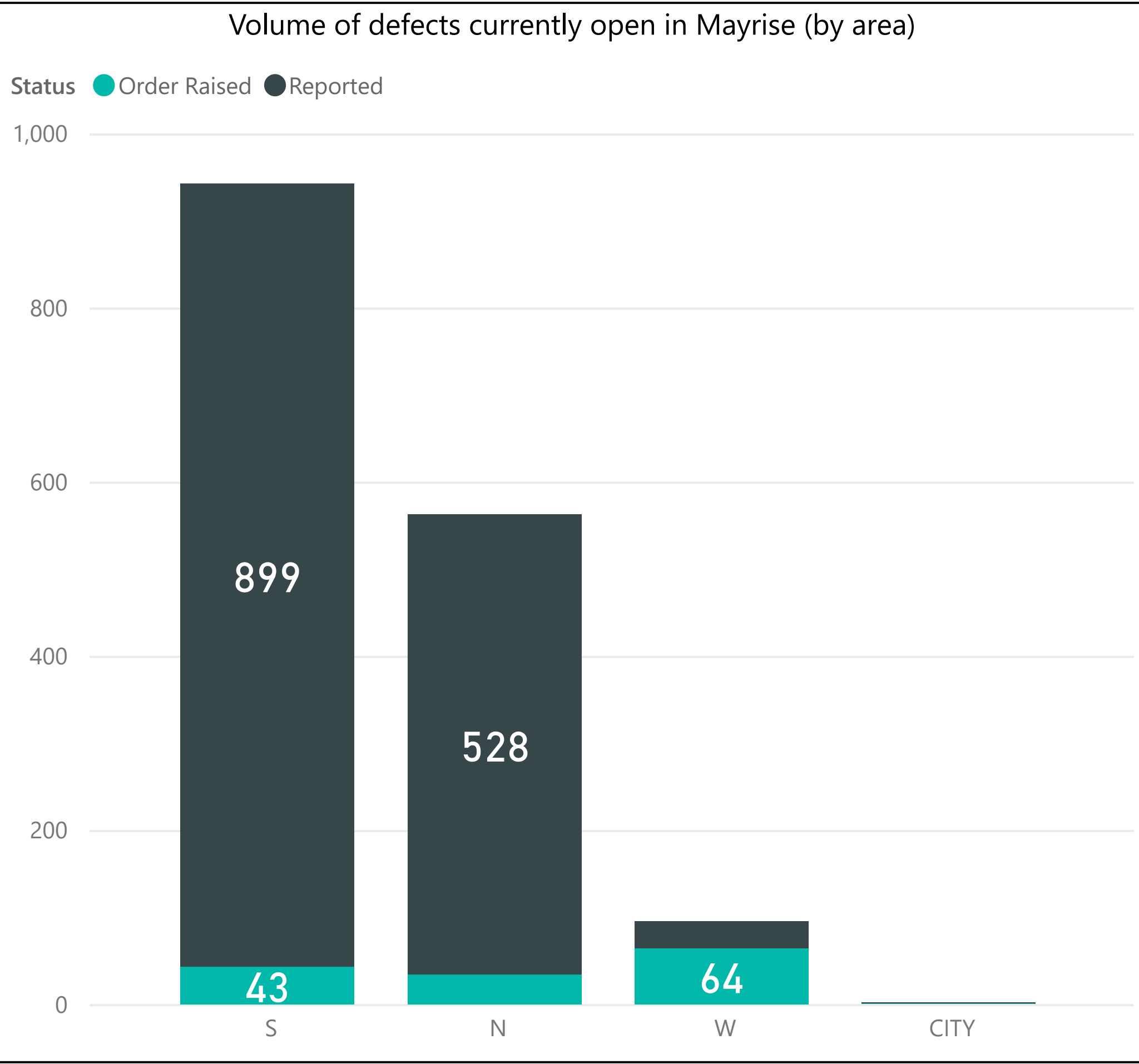
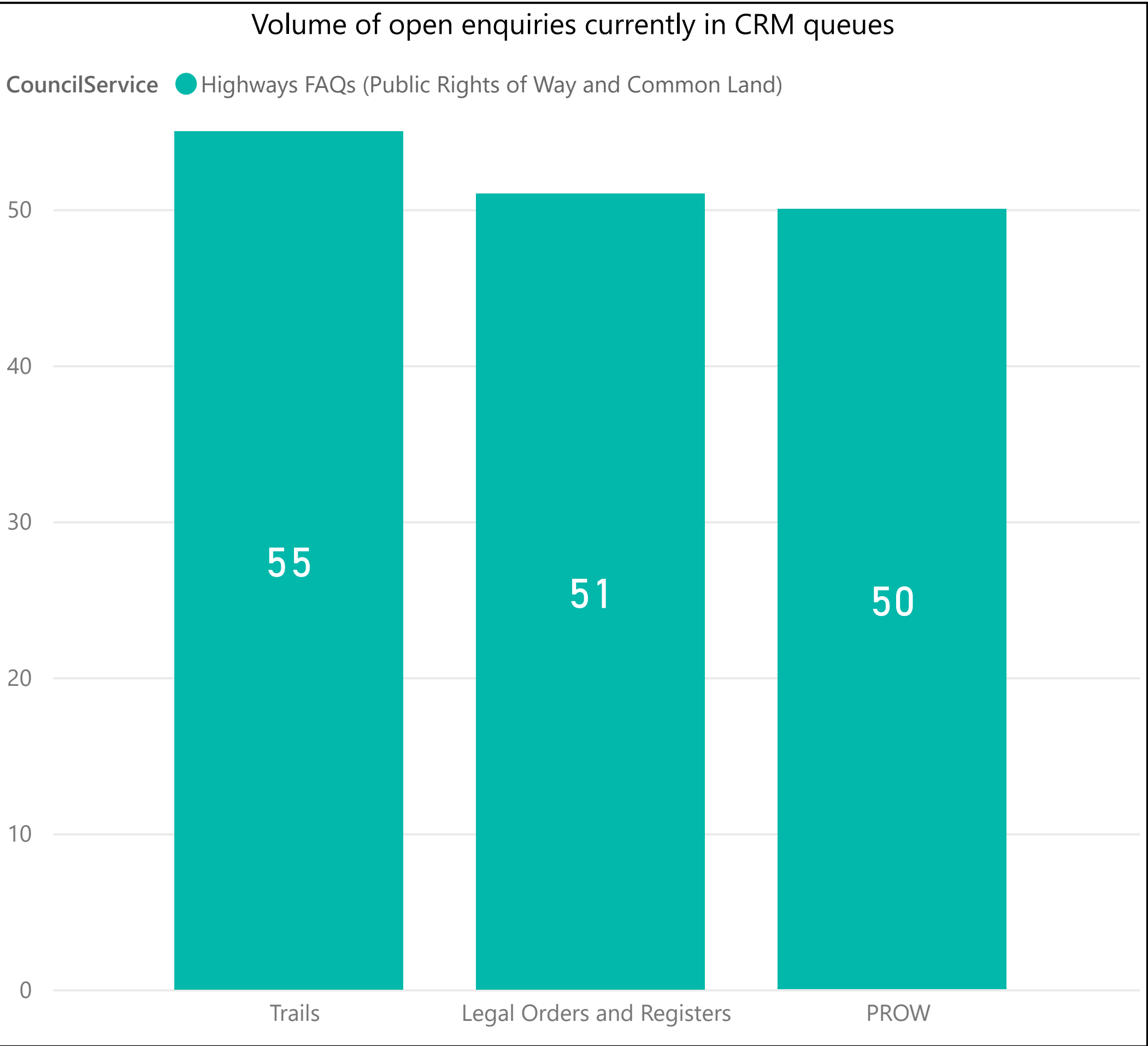
IncidentState Resolved Active



Active Enquiries

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Appendix 2 – Wherryman's way

Successful funding application submitted to the GNGB for Wherryman's Way improvements

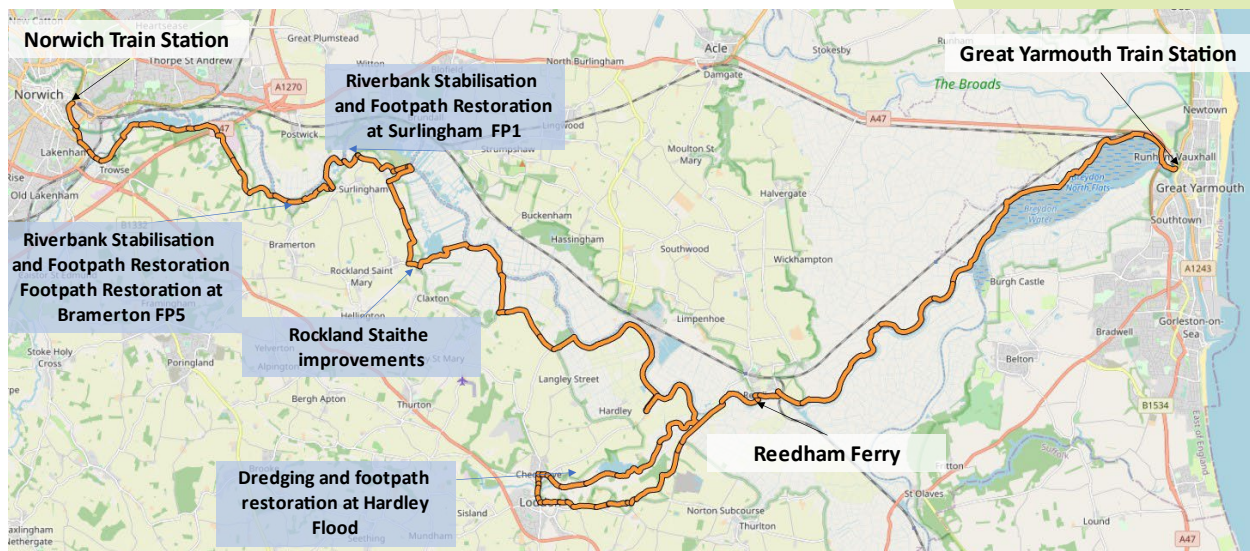
Total project value £445,148 will CIL allocation of £216,500

Item	Timescale for delivery
Dredging of the River Chet	Winter 21- Spring 22
Rebuilding of bridges and Hardley Flood	Contractor appointed by September 22 Bridge replacement Summer 23
Restoration of bird hide at Hardley Flood	Summer 23
Improvements at Rockland Staithe	Footpath improvements Autumn 21 Wider improvements by March 23
Riverbank Stabilisation	Contractor appointed by September 22 Riverbank Stabilisation Spring/ Summer 23
Restoration of Footpaths,	Works planned Spring/ Summer 23 following riverbank stabilisation



Map of the Wherryman's way – phase 1 focusses on the section between Bramerton and Loddon

The Wherryman's Way



Works completed to date

Initial dredging of the River Chet



Initial stages of sediment drying out



Dredging drying out on riverbank

- Not dry yet
- Not suitable for walking on
- Survey needed to confirm the suitability of the dredging for supporting bridges and structures
- Once completed this will inform construction design and processes



Works already completed at Rockland and site visit following the Local Access Forum to show this work

Norfolk Local Access Forum

Item No: 13

Report Title: NCC Member for Sustainable Travel update

Date of Meeting: 6th July 2022

Responsible Cabinet Member: Cllr Eric Vardy (Cabinet Member for Environment & Waste)

Responsible Director: Steve Miller, Director of Culture & Heritage

Is this a Key Decision? No

If this is a Key Decision, date added to the Forward Plan of Key Decisions: NA

Executive Summary / Introduction from Cabinet Member

At the July 2019 LAF meeting it was agreed that the Walking and Cycling Champion provide a summary of the key walking and cycling projects relevant to the Local Access Forum. The Walking and Cycling Champion role has subsequently changed to Sustainable Travel Champion.

Recommendations:

1. To note the progress of the below walking and cycling projects by the Local Access Forum committee.

1. Background and Purpose

- 1.1 To provide an update to the Local Access Forum on progress on key projects from the Walking and Cycling Team.

2. Proposal

- 2.1 Below is an update on key walking and cycling projects to be delivered in 2022

2.2 Norfolk Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)

Following a successful bid to the Department for Transport's (DfT) Capability Fund the Cycling and Walking Team and currently completing a LCWIP across all of Norfolk. The outcomes of the plan will be:

- Mapping of priority Active Travel routes
- A prioritised list of infrastructure improvements in Short (1-2yr), Medium (3-5 yrs) and Long Term (5+ yrs)
- A report covering the details of the stages covered to develop the map and prioritised list

LCWIP's have been completed for Norwich, King's Lynn and Great Yarmouth and will the Norfolk LCWIP covering a lot of rural communities a specific focus will be on improved rural connectivity which includes our current PROW network.

We will be working with the Countryside Access Offers to gather feedback on priority community routes as well as reviewing Neighbourhood Plan.

Community engagement was undertaken between April and May 2022 and has gathered over 1,500 responses which has supported the network design process and an further network consultation on the proposed routes will be undertaken later this year.

Schemes that have been identified through the LCWIP process are more likely to get external funding so created a LCWIP covering all of Norfolk will put Norfolk County Council in a positive position for future Active Travel funding.

2.3 Active Travel Fund- Revenue Funding

Following the successful bid to the DfT we are continuing our revenue funding active travel promotion with the most significant development the piloting of school streets.

School streets is being piloted at 5 schools and managed by Sustrans

- Robert Kett Primary School
- Dussindale Primary School
- Browick Road Primary School
- Wensum Junior School
- Nelson Infant School

We are using volunteers to support staff the barriers and we will monitor the results of the pilots over the 18 month trial period.

2.4 E Cycle Extension Fund

The E Cycle Extension Fund looks to promote the use of e bikes as a sustainable form of transport. Through this fund we are working with Torque e bikes in North

Norfolk to provide discounted e bike hire.

We have also worked with Bike Register to provide discounted locks and bike marking kits to e bike retailers across Norfolk.

The E cycle Extension Fund will also fund the extension to the Beryl E Bike Network to Drayton and Wymondham, this is due to launch to early summer 2022.

2.5 Ketts Country Long Distance Trail Launch

Ketts County Long Distance Trail, the newest addition to the Norfolk Trails Network, launched in March 2022. The 18-mile route runs from Wymondham to Norwich and also includes 5 circular walks which were selected through community engagement to the project.

The route has new signage throughout and significant infrastructure improvements to improve accessibility across the route.

2.6 Wherryman's Way Access Improvements

Following a successful application to the Greater Norwich Growth Board Norfolk County Council has been awarded £216,500 from the Infrastructure Investment Fund for access improvements on the Wherryman's Way, working alongside the Broads Authority.

The project will create access improvements on the route through sections at Surlingham, Bramerton and Hardley Flood allowing improved all ability access. Improvements will include Bank Stabilisation at Surlingham, Bramerton and Hardley Flood, the installation of Bridges at Hardley Flood, the upgrading of footpaths, the restoration of the Bird Hide on Hardley Flood and improvements to the moorings at Rockland Staithe.

The project has started with initial project meetings underway, the dredging of the river Chet has been completed by the Broads Authority and the dredged material is being monitored prior to footpath restoration. The Project will run until the end of 2023.

3. Impact of the Proposal

3.1 n/a

4. Evidence and Reasons for Decision

4.1 n/a

5. Alternative Options

5.1 n/a

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 The following funding has been secured to ensure delivery of these projects
- The Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure planning for King's Lynn is funded by the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk.
 - The Active Travel Fund project is funded by the Department for Transport,
 - The E Cycle Extension project is funded by the Department for Transport after a successful bid to the Department for Transport.
 - The Norfolk Wide LCWIP is funded by the Department for Transport after a successful bid to the Capability Fund
 - The Wherryman's Way project is funded by the Infrastructure Investment Fund following a successful application to the Greater Norwich Growth Board (GNGB).

7. Resource Implications

7.1 **Staff:**
n/a

7.2 **Property:**
n/a

7.3 **IT:**
n/a

8. Other Implications

8.1 **Legal Implications:**
n/a

8.2 **Human Rights Implications:**
n/a

8.3 **Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) (this must be included):**
n/a

8.4 **Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA):**
n/a

8.5 **Health and Safety implications (where appropriate):**
n/a

8.6 Sustainability implications (where appropriate):

n/a

8.7 Any Other Implications:

n/a

9. Risk Implications / Assessment

n/a

10. Select Committee Comments

n/a

11. Recommendations

1. To note the progress of the below walking and cycling projects by the Local Access Forum committee.

12. Background Papers

n/a

Officer Contact

If you have any questions about matters contained within this paper, please get in touch with:

Officer name: Matt Hayward

Telephone no.: 01603 223315

Email: matthew.hayward2@norfolk.gov.uk



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Norfolk Local Access Forum

Item No: 14

Report Title: Major Infrastructure Projects and Planning

Date of Meeting: 6th July 2022

Responsible Cabinet Member: Cllr Eric Vardy (Cabinet Member for Environment & Waste)

Responsible Director: Steve Miller, Director of Culture & Heritage

Is this a Key Decision? No

If this is a Key Decision, date added to the Forward Plan of Key Decisions: NA

Executive Summary / Introduction from Cabinet Member

A table of major infrastructure projects in Norfolk (including Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP)), which impact on public rights of way has been made available to the NLA Forum by NCC Environment Team (Appendix 1).

Recommendations:

1. To note the table of major infrastructure projects in Norfolk.

1. Background and Purpose

- 1.1 Major infrastructure projects (including Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP)) in Norfolk carry implications for the public rights of way (PRoW) network.
- 1.2 A table of major infrastructure projects which impact of PRoW has been listed by NCC Environment team and made available to the NLA Forum (Appendix 1)

2. Proposal

- 2.1 That the NLA Forum notes the table of major infrastructure projects in Norfolk.

3. Impact of the Proposal

- 3.1 See background and proposals

4. Evidence and Reasons for Decision

4.1 See background and proposals

5. Alternative Options

5.1 See background and proposals

6. Financial Implications

6.1 None as a result of this report

7. Resource Implications

7.1 Staff:

N/A

7.2 Property:

N/A

7.3 IT:

N/A

8. Other Implications

8.1 Legal Implications:

N/A

8.2 Human Rights Implications:

N/A

8.3 Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) (this must be included):

N/A

8.4 Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA):

N/A

8.5 Health and Safety implications (where appropriate):

N/A

8.6 Sustainability implications (where appropriate):

N/A

8.7 Any Other Implications:

N/A

9. Risk Implications / Assessment

9.1 N/A

10. Select Committee Comments

10.1 N/A

11. Recommendations

1. To note the table of major infrastructure projects in Norfolk.

12. Background Papers

12.1 N/A

Officer Contact

If you have any questions about matters contained within this paper, please get in touch with:

Officer name: Matt Hayward

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Appendix 1

Summary of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) and other Major Strategic Projects- June 2022

Summary of NSIP Proposals and other Major Projects		
	Proposal (Applicant)	Status / Note
	(A) Offshore Projects	
1.1	<p>Hornsea Project Three – Offshore (2.4 GW) (supplying up to 2 million household with electricity) Wind farm and ancillary onshore grid connection (Orsted);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landfall Weybourne; • Booster Station at Little Barningham (see update below as may no longer be needed); • Grid connection at Norwich Main <p>Applicant: Orsted (Danish) For further information: https://orsted.co.uk/media/newsroom/news/2018/02/hornsea-project-three-offshore-wind-farm-publishes-updated-plans;</p> <p>Hornsea Project Three Offshore Wind Farm National Infrastructure Planning (planninginspectorate.gov.uk)</p>	<p>The Secretary of State granted consent for this project on 31/12/20.</p> <p>The decision takes on board the County Council's comments made in respect of the need for a Highway Intervention Scheme (at Cawston) to be agreed between the undertaker and the Highway Authority (NCC). A new Planning Requirement / Condition inserted into the DCO (Requirement 18).</p> <p>Applicant expressed preference to use HVDC technology – which means they do not require a booster station onshore or offshore; and requires fewer cables to transfer the same amount of electricity.</p> <p>onshore construction works expected early 2023</p>
1.2	<p>Norfolk Vanguard - Offshore Wind Farm and ancillary onshore grid connection (Vattenfall) (1.8 GW) (supplying up to 1.3 million household with electricity)</p>	<p>The Secretary of State (BEIS) has re-determined the Norfolk Vanguard proposal and awarded a Development Consent Order (DCO) on 11 February 2022.</p> <p>The Previous decision by the Secretary of State to grant the above DCO was quashed by the High Court on 18 February 2021.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landfall at Happisburgh; • Grid Connection at Necton <p>Applicant: Vattenfall (Swedish)</p> <p>For further information:</p> <p>https://group.vattenfall.com/uk/what-we-do/our-projects/vattenfallinnorfolk/norfolk-vanguard</p> <p>Norfolk Vanguard National Infrastructure Planning (planninginspectorate.gov.uk)</p>	<p>“With consent now granted work will begin to engage with the supply chain to prepare for construction, which is expected to begin in 2023.</p>
1.3	<p>Boreas (1.8 GW) Offshore Wind Farm and ancillary onshore grid connection (Vattenfall)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landfall at Happisburgh; • Grid Connection at Necton <p>Applicant: Vattenfall (Swedish)</p> <p>For further information:</p> <p>https://group.vattenfall.com/uk/what-we-do/our-projects/vattenfallinnorfolk/norfolk-boreas</p> <p>Norfolk Boreas National Infrastructure Planning (planninginspectorate.gov.uk)</p>	<p>A decision on the application for a Development Consent Order for Norfolk Boreas was taken on 10 December 2021 and has now been issued.</p> <p>.</p> <p>With consent now granted work will begin to engage with the supply chain to prepare for construction, which is expected to begin in 2023</p>
1.4	<p>Extension to Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon Wind Farms (Single NSIP)</p>	<p>Timetable:</p> <p>Preliminary Environmental Information Report Consultation (Section 42) –ran between 29 April 2021 – 10 June 2021; and was reported to Planning and Highways on 3 June 2021</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension to existing windfarms owned by Norwegian company Equinor. Total capacity (new) 720 MW (0.72 GW); • Landfall tbc (Weybourne or Bacton); • Grid Connection – Norwich Main; • HVAC technology – no need for Booster station (too small output) <p>Applicant : Equinor (Norwegian)</p> <p>For further information:</p> <p>https://www.equinor.com/en/how-and-why/impact-assessments/dudgeon-and-sheringham-extension-projects.html Sheringham and Dudgeon Extension Projects National Infrastructure Planning (planninginspectorate.gov.uk)</p>	<p>Targeted Statutory Consultation (Section 42) - main construction compound site selection at Attlebridge (6/1/22 – 16/2/22)</p> <p>Public Exhibitions in early March at Aylsham; Weston Longville; Swardeston; and Sheringham;</p> <p>DCO Submission (Section 56) – expected submission Q2 2022</p> <p>Examination – late 2021 early 2022</p> <p>Decision by SoS – Q1 2023</p>
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	(B) Onshore Projects	
	(a) Highway Projects Trunk Roads (National Highways)	
2.1.1	<p>(a) Blofield to North Burlingham Dualling Scheme</p> <p>For further information:</p> <p>https://highwaysengland.co.uk/our-work/east/a47-blofield-to-north-burlingham/</p> <p>2.6 KM of dual carriageway</p>	<p>Reported to Planning and Highways Delegation Committee on 23 February 2021 and which supported the principle of dualling the A47 between Blofield and Burlingham. A number of detailed issues raised in respect of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Local highway and access matters, flood risk and environmental management, and potential impact on delivery of council services that will need to be resolved ahead of any final decision on the DCO; (b) The most significant item of concern continues to be the adequacy of the proposal in dealing with the A47 being a substantial

		<p>barrier to walkers or other non-motorised users. Although Highways England has amended the application since the previous proposal, adding further provision at grade-separated junctions either end of the scheme, they have not addressed the issue on the main desire line at the central point. In addition, there are concerns about the arrangements relating to transfer of the current trunk road assets to the County Council following the scheme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start date January – March 2022-23; • End date 2024-25; • Cost £50-£100 Million
2.1.2	Examination Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examination closed on 22/12/21. • There will now be a period of three months for the Examining Authority to write its report and make a recommendation to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State will then have three months in which to make a decision (June 2022).
2.2.1	<p>(b) A47 / A11 Thickthorn Junction Improvement</p> <p>For further information: https://highwaysengland.co.uk/our-work/east/a47-thickthorn-junction/#:~:text=The%20A47%20FA11%20Thickthorn%20junction%20is%20important%20for%20commuter%2C%20business,along%20with%20commercial%20business%20units.</p>	<p>DCO reported to Planning and Highways Delegations Committee on 3 June 2021.</p> <p>Proposals supported subject to detailed comments on highway ; LLFA matter being resolved through DCO process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start of works Jan - March 2023; • Open to Traffic 2024/2025.
2.2.2	Examination Update	<p>Examination closes on 23 March 2022. The ExA has 3 months to make a recommendation to the SoS and the SoS has then 3 months to make a decision (September 2022).</p>
2.3.1	(c) A47 North Tuddenham to	<p>DCO reported to Planning and Highways Delegations Committee on 3 June 2021.</p>

	<p>Easton Dualling Scheme</p> <p>For further information:</p> <p>https://highwaysengland.co.uk/our-work/east/a47-north-tuddenham-to-easton-improvement/#:~:text=The%20North%20Tuddenham%20to%20Easton,vehicles%20on%20this%20single%20carriageway.</p> <p>9km New dual carriageway</p>	<p>Proposals supported subject to detailed comments on highway ; LLFA matter being resolved through DCO process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start of works early 2022 / 2023; • End Date 2024 / 2025 • Cost £100 - £250 million
2.3.2	Examination Update	Examination in progress and ends on 12 February 2022. The Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 3 (CAH) and Issue Specific Hearing 3 (ISH) are taking place 5 and 6 January 2022. SoS decision expected August 2022.
2.4	<p>(d) Vauxhall Junction (NSIP Uncertain)</p> <p>For further information:</p> <p>https://highwaysengland.co.uk/our-work/east/a47-great-yarmouth-junctions-improvements/</p>	<p>We are continuing with important surveys in the areas around the Vauxhall and Harfrey's Roundabouts. These include ecology, noise and landscape surveys that will help us to make refinements to our design to make sure we don't have a significant impact on the surrounding environment.</p> <p>In Spring, we'll be carrying out ground investigations at the Vauxhall Roundabout. The investigations will give engineers a clearer picture of the type of soils, rock and groundwater beneath the area of the roundabout. You can expect to see survey vehicles and equipment in operation close to the Vauxhall Roundabout, but this is not the start of any construction work to improve the A47 Great Yarmouth Junctions.</p>
2.5	<p>The Medworth Project – Waste to Energy Wisbech (Over 50 MW)</p> <p>Grid connection will be in Norfolk to Walpole sub-station via an over-head power line 132 kv.</p> <p>Key issues:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main site is located wholly within the Cambridgeshire district of Fenland. NCC is considered a host authority as the proposed grid connections will be in Norfolk. • Statutory Consultation on PEIR (S42) – 28 June – 13 August 2021; • Submission DCO (S56) consultation – Q2 2022;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Health; • Highways • Drainage • Landscape • Ecology <p>For further information:</p> <p>https://www.mvv-medworthchp.co.uk/about-the-project</p> <p>AND</p> <p>https://www.mvv-medworthchp.co.uk/news/Medworth_Energy_from_Waste_Combined_Heat_and_Power_Facility National Infrastructure Planning (planninginspectorate.gov.uk)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted start construction 2024; and complete by 2026.
2.6	<p>Norwich to Bramford (East Anglia Green)</p> <p>www.nationalgrid.com/uk/electricity-transmission/eastangliagreen</p>	<p>The East Anglia Green Energy Enablement (GREEN) project is a proposal to build a new high voltage network reinforcement between Norwich, Bramford and Tilbury.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soft launch” of the project on 26 January 2022; • Non Statutory Consultation on the Preferred Route Corridor starts on 21/4/22 and runs to 16 June 2022 (8 weeks) – Non-technical. • Statutory Consultation (S42) – Q2 2023; • Statutory Consultation Submission DCO – Q4 -2024; • Decision Q 2 2026 • Construction Q2 2027 – Q4 2030 • Fully Operational from 2031
2.7	<p>Larkshall Mill Aggregate Manufacturing and Carbon Capture Facility</p> <p>Larkshall Mill Aggregate Manufacturing and Carbon Capture Facility National Infrastructure Planning (planninginspectorate.gov.uk)</p>	<p>Facility for the recovery of hazardous wastes in the manufacture of limestone aggregate for the use in the construction industry, which utilises and permanently captures carbon dioxide. Including the erection of silos, CO2 tanks, screening plant building and sand store with associated works. This DCO application is sperate to the application being considered by Norfolk County Council at the same site for an aggregate manufacturing and carbon</p>

	O.C.O Technology Leaders in carbon capture (oco.co.uk)	<p>capture facility that can process up to 30,000 tonnes per year</p> <p>The application is expected to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate Q3 2022</p>
2.8	<p>Third River Crossing – Great Yarmouth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DCO granted on 24 September 2020 by the Secretary of State; • Start of works on site January 2021; • NCC submitted the Full Business Case to DfT received approval in December 2020, enabling the planned start of works early in January 2021. All pre-commencement Requirements within the DCO were completed. • Construction completion is expected by early 2023, subject to any delays as result of Covid 19.
2.9	<p>Norwich Western Link (NWL)</p> <p>Project to create a new 3.8 mile dual carriageway road connecting the western end of Broadland Northway to the A47 trunk road.</p> <p>Not an NSIP</p> <p>About the Norwich Western Link - Norfolk County Council</p>	<p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design for statutory consultation and planning application will be based on contractor developed details following conclusion of procurement process. Cabinet agreed the appointment of the contractor in June 2021; <p>“Throughout this year we are working to complete a consultation on the details of the project and submit the planning application. More information on the project’s progress will be provided through future Norfolk County Council Cabinet reports”.</p>