

Norfolk Local Access Forum

Date: **Wednesday 4 August 2021**

Time: **10.30am**

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 Andrew Jamieson (Cycling and Walking Champion)

Mr Chris Allhusen
Mr Andy Brazil
Mr Vic Cocker
Miss Bethan Edmunds
Mr Mike Edwards

Mr Simon Fowler
Mr David Hissey
Mrs Suzanne Longe
Mrs Elizabeth Meath Baker
Miss Louise Rout
Mr Paul Rudkin

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

Under the Council's protocol on the use of media equipment at meetings held in public, this meeting may be filmed, recorded or photographed. Anyone who wishes to do so must inform the Chairman and ensure that it is done in a manner clearly visible to anyone present. The wishes of any individual not to be recorded or filmed must be appropriately respected.

Advice for members of the public:

This meeting will be held in public and in person.

It will be live streamed on YouTube and, in view of Covid-19 guidelines, we would encourage members of the public to watch remotely by clicking on the following link:

<https://youtu.be/6Z2aahFq0N4>

However, if you wish to attend in person it would be most helpful if, on this occasion, you could indicate in advance that it is your intention to do so. This can be done by emailing committees@norfolk.gov.uk where we will ask you to provide your name, address and details

of how we can contact you (in the event of a Covid-19 outbreak). Please note that public seating will be limited.

Councillors and Officers attending the meeting will be taking a lateral flow test in advance. They will also be required to wear face masks when they are moving around the room but may remove them once seated. We would like to request that anyone attending the meeting does the same to help make the event safe for all those attending. Information about symptom-free testing is available [here](#).

A g e n d a

1 To receive apologies and details of any substitute members attending

2 Chairman's Announcements

3 Minutes

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 14 April 2021

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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 30 July 2021**. 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 30 July 2021**.

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)

Report by Member of the NLAf

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11 Pathmakers Projects

Verbal update by Member of the NLAf

12 Countryside Access Arrangements update

Report by the Director of Culture and Heritage

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13 NCC Member Walking and Cycling Champion update

Report by the Director of Culture and Heritage

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14 Major Infrastructure Projects and Planning

Report by the Director of Culture and Heritage

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Tom McCabe
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Date Agenda Published: 27 July 2021



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Norfolk Local Access Forum
Minutes of the Meeting Held on 14 April 2021
at 10.30am via Microsoft Teams

Member:

Martin Sullivan - Chair
Chris Allhusen
Elizabeth Meath Baker
Vic Cocker
Bethan Edmunds
Brigid Fairman
Simon Fowler
Ken Hawkins – Vice-Chair
Cllr Andrew Jamieson
Suzanne Longe
Mike Edwards

Representing:

Motorised Vehicles / Pathmakers
Land Ownership
Rural / local business / economy
Walking
Nature Conservation
Equestrian
Walking / Pathmakers
Walking
Norfolk County Council
Equestrian
Land Ownership

Officers Present:

Su Waldron	Project Officer (Environment Team)
Jason Moore	Area Manager (West)
John Jones	Head of Environment
Nicola Ledain	Committee Services Officer, Governance Department, NCC
Matt Hayward	Lead Project Officer Walking and Cycling
Michelle Sergeant	Green Infrastructure Officer (Access)
Russell Wilson	Senior Trails Officer
Lee Cozens	Community Outreach Officer, Environment Team

1. Apologies for Absence

- 1.1 Apologies had been received from Cllr Beverley Spratt, Cllr Andrew Jamieson, Cllr Danny Douglas and David Hissey.

2. Chair's Announcements

- 2.1 The Chair reported that;
- A record of consultations circulated and dealt with by the NLAF between meetings is available on the NLAF SharePoint site;
 - Notification from Natural England that Huddle would move to a SharePoint (information would be reviewed before being transferred to the new platform);
 - Charlotte Watts from the Experience team invited the NLAF to participate in a survey to find out what local people feel about tourism (link on the NLAF SharePoint)
 - Time recording – Members were encouraged to record their time on SharePoint;
 - Vacancies on the Forum – currently 5, recruitment is underway.

3. Minutes

- 3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2021 were confirmed as a true record.

- 3.2 The vice-Chair updated that recommendations and proposals from the previous report 'Widening the Reach' had been considered and some had been actioned, some were in progress. An update will be provided to a future meeting.

4. Declarations of Interest

- 4.1 There were no interests declared.

5. Urgent Business

- 5.1 The Vice-Chair reported that the Ramblers wanted support from Government for extra funding for maintaining and promoting the rights of way network. The NLAF **AGREED** to support the Ramblers' call for funding for PROW maintenance.

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 the reports from the three regional LAF meetings that had been held since the last NLAF meeting were in SharePoint.

9. Meetings Forward Plan

- 9.1 The NLAF received the annexed report (9) which outlined agenda items for the forthcoming meetings. The Chair reminded NLAF members to put forward further agenda items for consideration at any point (by contacting him).
- 9.2 The NLAF **NOTED** the Forward plan.

10. Economic and Health Value of Public Rights of Way in Norfolk

- 10.1 The Forum received the annexed (10) report which was brought to the meeting by the Vision and Ideas subgroup (Vic Cocker)
- 10.2 The meeting discussed the benefits derived from the PROW network and resourcing required for maintenance and sustainability.
- 10.3 The Head of Environment highlighted step change at NCC for:
- capital programme investments (£400,000 per year for 3 years) to repair and improve PROW infrastructure;

- £495,000 for 3 years to develop the Greenways initiative to stimulate active transport;
 - funding through the Experience project for sustainable tourism (including £1million for physical infrastructure improvements);
 - NCC member budgets (each of the 84 NCC members has £10,000 to invest in their local area on walking and cycling initiatives and to encourage green projects in line with the Council's Environmental Policy: www.norfolk.gov.uk/environmentpolicy). The Head of Environment **AGREED** to circulate a copy of the guidance note for NCC members on how to spend their £10,000 member budget. He confirmed he was very happy to work with the NLAf to support the paper presented.
- 10.4 The vice Chair reported that the requirement for adequate revenue funding for PROW maintenance (a statutory duty required of NCC) cannot be replaced by external funding.
- 10.5 Members highlighted the need for good signage for PROW and the need for new circular routes.
- 10.6 The Chairman recommended further discussion with the Norfolk Association of Local Councils over the establishment of a footpath wardens' network.
- 10.7 The meeting congratulated Vic Cocker on an excellent discussion paper.
- 10.8 The NLAf **AGREED** to engage in further discussions with John Jones and colleagues to see where there were opportunities to take ideas presented forward
- 11. NLAf Subgroups' report (Permissive Access; PROW; NAIP; Vision and Ideas; Joint Communications)**
- 11.1 The NLAf received the annexed reports (11) (PROW subgroup and NAIP subgroup) which set out the latest discussions and recommendations of the sub-groups of the NLAf.
- 11.2 The Norfolk Association of Local Councils had set up and promoted an online event under its Wellbeing initiative (Greenways to Greenspaces webinar) for the NLAf and NCC Walking and Cycling Team to highlight the many benefits of the PROW and Trails networks in the county. The event was attended by over 100 representatives from parish councils across Norfolk. Many questions were asked at the seminar, and answers will be circulated to the entire Norfolk ALC membership.
- 11.3 The PROW subgroup put forward a recommendation to amend Section 22.7.2.1 of the NCC Transport Asset Management Plan (TAMP) 2019/20 – 2023/24 (page 305) which relates to priorities given to addressing faults with PROW. The recommendations was to amend the TAMP (when it comes up for review) as follows:
Surfaces and structures are renewed or replaced based on continual monitoring or reports from the public. These are logged for attention as follows
- Immediate - if it has health and safety implications.
 - High - if it affects a Norfolk Trail spinal route, **if it is a well used local route, if it is a route which constitutes a key link in the wider network or is the main or only access to a well used location.**
 - Medium - if it affects a Norfolk Trail associated route **or if it is one of very few routes in its locality.**

- Low - if it affects only an isolated generally unused path or one that runs alongside another path.

Path closures should be applied only as a last resort, and work to resolve the problem causing the closure should be given priority.

(Proposed changes are shown in **bold**.)

- 11.4 The NLAF **AGREED** to support the recommendation when the TAMP comes up for review.
- 11.5 The NAIP subgroup were delighted to note that NCC had provided further resources to Legal Orders and Registers team
- 11.6 The Permissive Access subgroup were frustrated with the lack of clarity on whether permissive access would be included within the ELMs scheme. Chris Allhusen recommended asking Natural England to attend a future meeting to explain more.

12. Pathmakers Projects

- 12.1 The NLAF received the annexed report (12) which updated the Forum on the activities of Pathmakers.
- 12.2 The NLAF **NOTED** the report.

13. Countryside Access Arrangements update

- 13.1 The Forum received the annexed report (13) which highlighted this work in terms of the volumes of customer queries received and responded to. The paper highlighted higher incidences of people using local paths during COVID with wet winter creating an increase in flooding report and bridge damage. Meetings with Highways England continue to seek resolution to issues of PROW severance by main trunk roads. Norfolk Trails had completed many repairs to steps, bridges, board walks
- 13.2 The NLAF **NOTED** the progress made to date since the Countryside Access Officer posts were introduced.

14. Greenways to Greenspaces

- 14.1 The Forum received a presentation which outlined the greenways approach to encourage a more active lifestyle, deliver the Council's Environmental Plan www.norfolk.gov.uk/environmentpolicy and support sustainable tourism. The project would deliver improvements and extensions to the Trails network, develop smart data and work with communities to create and maintain greenspaces.
- 14.2 The Forum asked if landowners had been approached over permissive access (and ELMs). The Head of Environment confirmed that he had been approached by Norfolk MPs keen to support this approach and he hoped there could be opportunities for piloting permissive schemes through ELMs in Norfolk.

- 14.3 Bethan Edmunds asked about roadside verge habitat monitoring as part of the project. Matt Hayward confirmed that a monitoring programme was being developed with Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service and UEA. The scheme would involve volunteers and tree surveys alongside highway corridors

15. NCC Member Walking and Cycling Champion update

- 15.1 The Forum received the annexed report (15) which provided a summary of the key walking and cycling projects relevant to the Local Access Forum.
- 15.2 The NLAF **NOTED** the progress of the walking and cycling projects as outlined in the report.

16. Major Infrastructure Projects and Planning

- 16.1 The Forum received the annexed report (16) which updated them on the major infrastructure projects that were currently underway in the County which impacted on Public Rights of Way.
- 16.2 The NLAF **NOTED** the table of major infrastructure projects in Norfolk.

The meeting closed at 12.07 pm

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



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Norfolk Local Access Forum

(Forum member report)

Report title:	Meetings Forward Plan
Date of meeting:	4 th August

Summary

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

Recommendation

To agree and add to the agenda plan for future meetings of the NLAFF 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 NLAFF members (not a report) • Meetings forward plan (NLAFF member report) • Sub groups' meetings (NLAFF member report) • Pathmakers update (NLAFF member report) • Countryside Access arrangements (NCC report) • NCC Walking and Cycling Champion update (NCC report) • Major infrastructure projects update (NCC report)
1.2.	<p><u>October 2021 meeting will include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Election of Chair/Vicechair (not a report) • Welcome to new NLAFF members
1.3.	<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 • SAIL project • Felmingham site visit (Weavers' Way, RDPE surface improvements) • Agriculture and Environment Bills • ELMS presentation (Natural England) – access elements
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 Ken Hawkins
Email addresses :	martinsullivan4x4@yahoo.co.uk ken-hawkins@tiscali.co.uk
Phone number	Via 01603 222810



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Norfolk Local Access Forum (red are standing agenda items)
7th July 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 Walking and Cycling Champion update NCC REPORT
Major infrastructure projects NCC REPORT
Monument
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 Walking and Cycling Champion update NCC REPORT
Major infrastructure projects NCC REPORT
Election of Chair/Vice Chair
Welcome to new NLAF members
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)
SAIL (TBC)
Felmingham location site visit (Weavers' Way - RDPE surface improvements (TBC)
Agriculture and Environment Bills
ELMs presentation (Natural England) - access elements, timescale

Norfolk Local Access Forum

(Forum member report)

Report title:	NLAF PRow subgroup report
Date of meeting:	4 August 2021

Summary

Recommendations for the NLAF:

To consider the recommendations made in the Minutes of the PRow subgroup meeting of 14 June 2021 (Appendix 1).

	<u>Recommendations</u>
1.1	<p>5.1.4 That in supporting voluntary work in parishes and towns, NLAF encourages adoption of an alternative name to Footpath Warden, in order to reflect the full range of work included in the role. Suggestions include Rights of Way Warden, Path Warden, Community Access Warden, Countryside Access Warden, Local Access Warden, Parish Access Warden or Community Local Access Warden - or 'Champion' in place of 'Warden'.</p> <p>Evidence: Although widely used to represent all types of rights of way, the term 'footpath' can be seen to fail to recognise the existence of bridleways and byways; in addition, as developed in the N AIP, access is supported to open spaces and areas which are publically accessible, not only to public rights of way.</p>
1.2	<p>6.1, 6.2.3, 6.2.6, 7.2 That Ken Hawkins (as PRow subgroup Chair) and Martin Sullivan (as NLAF Chair) should meet with appropriate NCC staff to explore approaches to dealing with reports of issues on the rights of way network, and to the processing of applications for Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMOs).</p> <p>Evidence: There continues to be a divergence between the description of staff response to reports of issues affecting rights of way (especially regarding enforcement when paths were not re-established following crop planting), and the public perception of those responses. It was felt that informal discussion of these issues might be productive. There were also issues regarding the recording and processing of DMMOs which could benefit from a similar discussion.</p>
1.3	<p>6.4.4 That NLAF responds to proposals at Thickthorn junction to suggest that the bridge joining the two parts of Cantley Lane should accommodate use by cyclists and horse riders as well as pedestrians.</p> <p>Evidence: Comments have been submitted regarding this work previously; this proposal is to ensure that the new bridge has the widest possible availability. Note - because of the timescale for responses, this proposal was dealt with in accordance with NLAF's policy and the response duly submitted.</p>

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

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NORFOLK LOCAL ACCESS FORUM : Public Rights of Way Subgroup Minutes

Date: Monday 14 June 2021

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	CPRE Norfolk, Broads LAF
Neil Cliff	U3A
Brigid Fairman	Norfolk Local Access Forum
Simon Fowler	Norfolk Local Access Forum
Ken Hawkins (chair)	Norfolk Local Access Forum
Ann Melhuish	Norfolk Horse Driving Club
Ian Mitchell	The Ramblers
In attendance	
Lee Cozens	Outreach Officer - Greenways to Greenspaces (Environment Team)
Matt Hayward	Lead Project Officer, Walking and Cycling (Environment Team)
Jason Moore	Area Manager West (Highways Team)
Michelle Sergeant	Green Infrastructure Officer - Access (Environment Team)
Su Waldron	Project Officer (Environment Team)
Russell Wilson	Senior Trails Officer (Norfolk Trails)

1	Introductions and apologies for absence Apologies had been received from Vic Cocker and Helen Timson.
2	Minutes of the meeting on 15 March 2021 The minutes were approved .
3	NLAF meeting on 14 April 2021 Draft minutes were not yet available, but Ken reported that NLAF had <ul style="list-style-type: none">supported The Ramblers' call to government ministers for urgent funding for emergency repairs on the path network;received the report Economic and Health Value of Public Rights of Way in Norfolk prepared by the Vision and Ideas Group, and agreed to follow it up with the Walking and Cycling Champion and staff; andrecommended the change to the Transport Asset Management Plan proposed by this subgroup.
4	Matters arising from the minutes, not otherwise on the agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none">4.1 3.2 <u>Nar Valley Way at Newton by Castle Acre</u>: Ken had emailed concerns to the Legal Team, but no reply had been received.4.2 3.3 <u>Footpath maintenance</u>: It was reported that PROW Maintenance funding remains the same as the previous financial year at £23,400 per CAO area (so £70,200 in all) with an additional capital maintenance fund for the existing National and Norfolk Trails network of £400,000 to address significant wear, tear and damage to the Network.4.3 5.2.5 <u>Inspection reports</u>: Russell agreed to prepare reports for the future to show how the Council collates and stores the data that is generated from the 5 yearly inspections of PROW (this would take the format of progress reports on work on sections/circulars on Norfolk Trails).4.4 5.2.7 <u>Public path orders</u>: Michelle had prepared a report in which it was noted that paths could be created by negotiated agreement (a private arrangement with a landowner) or by an order, which could be imposed, but would probably require

compensation, and NCC believed that promoting this mechanism would be likely to create discord.

5 Partnership and Community Working

5.1 Norfolk ALC seminar

- 1 The outcome of the Norfolk ALC webinar on 25 March was noted. John Pennell had sent out the questions and answers from the webinar, and stated his intention to develop a Footpath Wardens' network. Lee was planning to work with John to take this further, promoting the relevant elements of the NAIP.
- 2 It was noted that the webinar was a contribution towards the NLAF's priorities:
 - 1 Join forces with a neighbouring parish to tackle PROW issues
 - 2 Incentivising use of local paths by the younger generation
 - 3 Information about Public Rights of Way and suitability for different users
 - 4 Appoint a Footpath Warden
- 3 Two of the questions (32 and 44) related to younger members. It was **agreed** that these would be held for the time being, to allow time for the process to develop.
- 4 Ken noted that 'Footpath Warden' might seem to exclude consideration of other PROW types, and 'Community Path Warden' had been suggested. A number of other suggestions were made (Rights of Way Warden, Path Warden, Community Access Warden, Countryside Access Warden - or 'Champion' in place of 'Warden'). It was **agreed** to invite further suggestions and comment on this.
- 5 Neil noted the offer of waymark disks when Parishes requested them. Russell confirmed that these could be supplied to fit to existing posts, but digging (to put in new posts) in the highway was possible only for those trained and qualified.

5.2 Parish Boards: Simon reported that Martin Sullivan was leading (for Pathmakers) an initiative to produce new Parish Boards. Brigid said that she had been quoted towards £2000 for a Board, and given people's use of smartphones, thought this was not justifiable. Simon agreed that apps were widely used, but a board encouraged use by passers-by. A previous bulk supplier was being approached to keep costs down and it might be possible to access Covid regeneration funds.

5.3 Issues from represented organisations: Ian (The Ramblers) noted that a number of diversion orders were now coming through, many relating to paths running through gardens. Neil (U3A) noted his disappointment that the enquiry about Pockthorpe Lane at Thompson had been delayed again until February 2022.

6 Countryside Access arrangements

6.1 General update A report had been placed on SharePoint. Neil referred to the highlights mentioned in 2.11 and thanked the staff for their work. Ken was pleased to see the proposal to employ additional staff, one for each of the 3 Highway areas, on an 18 month temporary basis, to try and tackle some of the backlog. Ken noted the comment that significant resource pressures were associated with serving and following up on legal notices, and suggested that if in the short term, strong and well publicised enforcement action was taken, there would be fewer actions requiring enforcement in the first place. There was general support for this proposal, though Russell, Jason and Michelle all emphasised that staff did act on infringements, Jason noting a recent case where unlawful gates had been removed, with the landholder replacing them immediately, and Michelle noting that significant time was spent in dealing with repeat reporting of the same problem, and Fol requests. It was **agreed** that Ken and Martin Sullivan (as NLAF Chair) should meet with appropriate NCC staff to explore approaches to this.

6.2 Specific issues

- 1 Bramerton FP1 (dispute over the path's line) - Russell reported that discussions with the landowner were still taking place.
- 2 Fakenham river side paths - Russell reported that he had spoken to the drainage team, and was considering raising the situation with the Environment Agency as a flooding problem: NCC was requesting a review of the figures used to support the

	<p>measures which slowed the flow of the river and arguably caused the flooding.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Crops on crossfield paths - Brigid considered that NCC's leaflet to landowners did not seem to have engendered much compliance and proposed that NLAf should push for action to be taken against repeat offenders. Noting the discussion at 6.1 above, Russell suggested that addressing issues in the parish can sometimes help: Brigid said she had tried this but got no further, while Keith noted an outside involvement can sometimes be needed, though Simon reported that this had worked well in his parish. 4 Consolidation map - Matt reported that he was seeking to use Experience funding to promote this and would update the PROw subgroup. 5 Urgent work and intervention guidelines - Jason had confirmed that the NCC response was changed on 18 March to reflect the organisation slowly returning to a business as usual model, so the response no longer stated that NCC was dealing with emergency issues only. He had also confirmed that the TAMP indicated intervention criteria for both the PROw team and Highways teams. 6 Other problems - Reports had been circulated from Martin Sullivan on an obstruction at Reephams and from Ian Witham on a furrowed path at Paston; these were referred as examples to be discussed in the meeting proposed in 6.1 above. 7 Lost paths in The Broads - Keith noted that the Broads LAF was asking Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils to identify all paths shown on the Definitive Map that they assert have been "Lost to the River" and their reasoning against each, so that a plan for their protection can be agreed. Russell noted that any section of path between two parts which had eroded away was also lost, as there was no legal means of access to it. Neil wondered if a lost section could be treated in the same way as an obstruction, allowing a walker to divert around it; Michelle thought this may not apply in the case of a river.
6.3	<p><u>Highways England</u> - Russell noted that a report was being prepared relating to paths to be severed by the A47 - see https://highwaysengland.co.uk/our-work/east/a47-corridor-improvement-programme/.</p>
6.4	<p><u>Major Infrastructure Projects and Planning Applications</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Norwich Western Link - It was noted that NCC had agreed to appoint a contractor and submit the outline business case to the Department for Transport. The target was for the new road being open for use in 2025. 2 Minerals and Waste Local Plan Review, Shouldham Warren - Nick Johnson had reported that NCC was continuing the analysis of the responses made to the Preferred Options stage of the Minerals and Waste Plan Review. When this had been completed for all sites and policies, and any amendments to the Plan had been made, the proposed pre-submission Plan would go before members of the County Council for agreement to start a representations period before the Plan is submitted to the Secretary of State for Examination in Public. 3 Equinor New Energy Limited - The NLAf response was noted: "The Norfolk Local Access Forum would strongly prefer that the applications be postponed until such time as a decision has been made by the Government on the proposed coastal ring main and that all applications relating to the site should be considered at the same time rather than on a piecemeal basis." 4 Thickthorn junction - it was agreed to propose that NLAf should suggest that the bridge joining the two parts of Cantley Lane (Work 35) should be quite wide, have high meshed sides and a roof, as it is bound to be used by cyclists as well as pedestrians and it may as well cater for horse riders as well.
7	<p>Definitive Map Modification Orders</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7.1 It was noted that on 12 June 2021, 131 applications were shown on the NCC website. 7.2 Members considered comments made by David Ormerod, in which he stated that nearly 60% of his applications had (at the time of his writing) no legal recognition.

Comment had been sought from the three other individuals who were making significant numbers of applications. Helen Chester reported that the vast majority of her applications had been registered within a month. Ian Mitchell reported that only one of his applications took nearly 4 months to register in November 2019. Ian Witham had said that NCC still didn't appear to be meeting the 28 day time period, but offered no further detail.

It seemed that the problem appeared to be specific to David's applications, with either the nature of his applications or the manner of submission (he sent everything by post, while the others submitted electronically) appearing to be the only factors which differentiated his applications. A suggestion that Lawrence Malyon be invited to join the meeting noted in 6.1, was **agreed**.

8 Other business

- 8.1 Rewilding: Anne questioned whether rewilding proposals could be a threat to PRow. Michelle noted that PRow could not be extinguished other than through due legal process.
- 8.2 Cutting contract: Ian Mitchell welcomed the start of cutting. Russell noted that cutting had had to wait for the cold and wet weather to end, and growth was now going mad.

9 Dates of next meetings

The next meeting was planned for 13 September, 2pm-4pm. It was **agreed** (subject to review if circumstances change) to hold this online, because of limitations on room availability at County Hall. It was also proposed that the subgroup meet on 6 December.

Local Access Forum

Item No:

Report title:	Countryside Access Arrangements Update
Date of meeting:	04 August 2021
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 A** summarises the performance information available for the complete months since the last report.
- 2.2. The new 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 A (Stats for the last 3 months and 2 years)**.
- 2.4. In summary, the Mayrise system of logged requests for service had at 1 June 2021 1200 open issues for Public Rights of Way. There were an additional logged to the Trails Team members. 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 significant 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. 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. There is likely to be continued growth in numbers as the summer season approaches and more "Staycations" are taken.
- 2.6. At the current time there are no additional financial resources earmarked for PROW maintenance. There are proposals to employ additional staff resource, one for each of the 3 Highway areas on an 18 month temporary basis to try and tackle some of the backlog. To date (1 June) these roles have not yet been advertised.
- 2.7. As of the 1 June, the Norfolk Trails Team had 153 open CRM issues.
Highways had 127 open CRM issues
- 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.
- 2.9. In addition to the numbers above, there have been a number of enforcement notices sent out to landowners during 2020/1. The following have been issued:
- 72 Section 131A,134-137 Non-reinstatement Notices issued. 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.
 - During 2020/21, 0 Section 130's (obstructions) or 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.
- 2.11. In terms of other progress, key highlights include:
- Higher incidences of people using local paths during Covid and continuing into 2021 is likely to be the main reason. Also, the wet winter 20/21 saw an increase in flooding reports and associated bridge damage. These issues are still being worked through.
 - 2021 summer cutting underway from end of May. PROW routes will get one cut, some paths get a second cut, subject to funding. Trails routes receive 3 cuts.
 - Enforcement procedures were carried out on a path at Upwell removing gates but the landowner replaced immediately. NCC considering next steps to resolve.
 - Of the £200k capital works the majority has been allocated, the latest project currently underway is at Cley next the Sea where NCC have contributed to path restoration works being undertaken by the Environment Agency. Covid has delayed progress in some areas and any remaining budget in the Capital works allocation will be carried over into 2021/2.
 - The £15k "Urban paths" allocation completed for 2020/1. This is a yearly scheme and a shortlist for urban schemes will be drawn up for 2021/2.
- 2.12. **Norfolk Trails update**
- 2.13. **Repairs and Improvements on Norfolk Trails Network**

Attached are a series of images which shows the before and after repairs **which** have been completed since April 2021 on the Trails Network. This is just a snapshot of the repairs completed during this time.



Reepham station re-surface. Worked with the contractors to return to Reepham to relay a surface on this stretch of the Marriott's way.



Signage installed on the Wherryman's Way between Norwich and Loddon. This now means that the 36 mile route of the Wherryman's Way has been

totally re-signed.



Before image of Boardwalk at FP22



After image of boardwalk at Honing FP22

Works completed at Winterton



Image of the recycled plastic boardwalk construction at Cley next the sea.

- 2.14. Work has commenced by the Environment Agency on the project at Cley next the sea. This work includes footpath improvements on FP4. This is expected to be completed by the end of Spring 2021.
- 2.15. **New cutting contract**
- 2.16. Work has commenced on the cutting contract. All contractors are out on routes clearing and reporting issues as they find them.
- 3. Financial Implications**
- 3.1. None arising from this report

4. Issues, risks and innovation

4.1 None arising from this report

4.2 Highways England Meeting update

4.3 There have been no meetings with Highways England during this time frame.

5. Background

5.1. The background information to this paper is covered by the preceding paper on Public Rights of Way Maintenance, presented to this Committee

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

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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 - Damaged or missing sign		56	91	17	164	
PROW - Obstruction -e.g. building works, fences, ditches, locked gate		29	37	18	84	
PROW - Crops/ploughing affecting footpath		30	37	6	73	
PROW - Surface condition		22	17	9	48	
PROW - Gate/Barrier		12	16	16	44	
PROW - Bridge		7	29	2	38	
PROW - Overgrown hedge/tree		14	16	7	37	
PROW - Tree dangerous/fallen		10	17	7	34	
Trail - Damaged or missing sign		12	16	1	29	
PROW - Misleading sign		7	11	7	25	
Trail - Surface condition	1	11	9	2	23	
PROW - Overgrown surface -e.g. grass/weeds		10	8	4	22	
PROW - Stile damaged/too/high/other		3	13	1	17	
PROW - Illegal / Vehicle Use	1	2	8	5	16	
Trail- Obstruction -e.g. building works, fences, ditches, locked gate		8	6		14	
PROW - Animal(s)	1	2	5	3	11	
Trail - Illegal / Vehicle Use		4	5	1	10	
Trail - Overgrown hedge/tree		3	5	1	9	
Trail - Tree dangerous/fallen	1	6	1	1	9	
Trail - Flooded Path		2	5	1	8	
Trail - Overgrown surface -e.g. grass/weeds		4	4		8	
Trail - Misleading sign		4	2	1	7	
Trail - Bridge	1	3	2		6	
Trail - Crops/ploughing affecting footpath		2	4		6	
Trail - Steps damaged/other	1	3	1	1	6	
PROW - Steps damaged/other		2	3		5	
PROW - Flooded Path			2	2	4	
Trail - Animal(s)		2	2		4	
Trail - Gate/Barrier		2	1		3	
Trail- Stile damaaed/too/high/other		2	1		3	
Total	1	5	274	374	113	767

Report Date Range

Last

▼

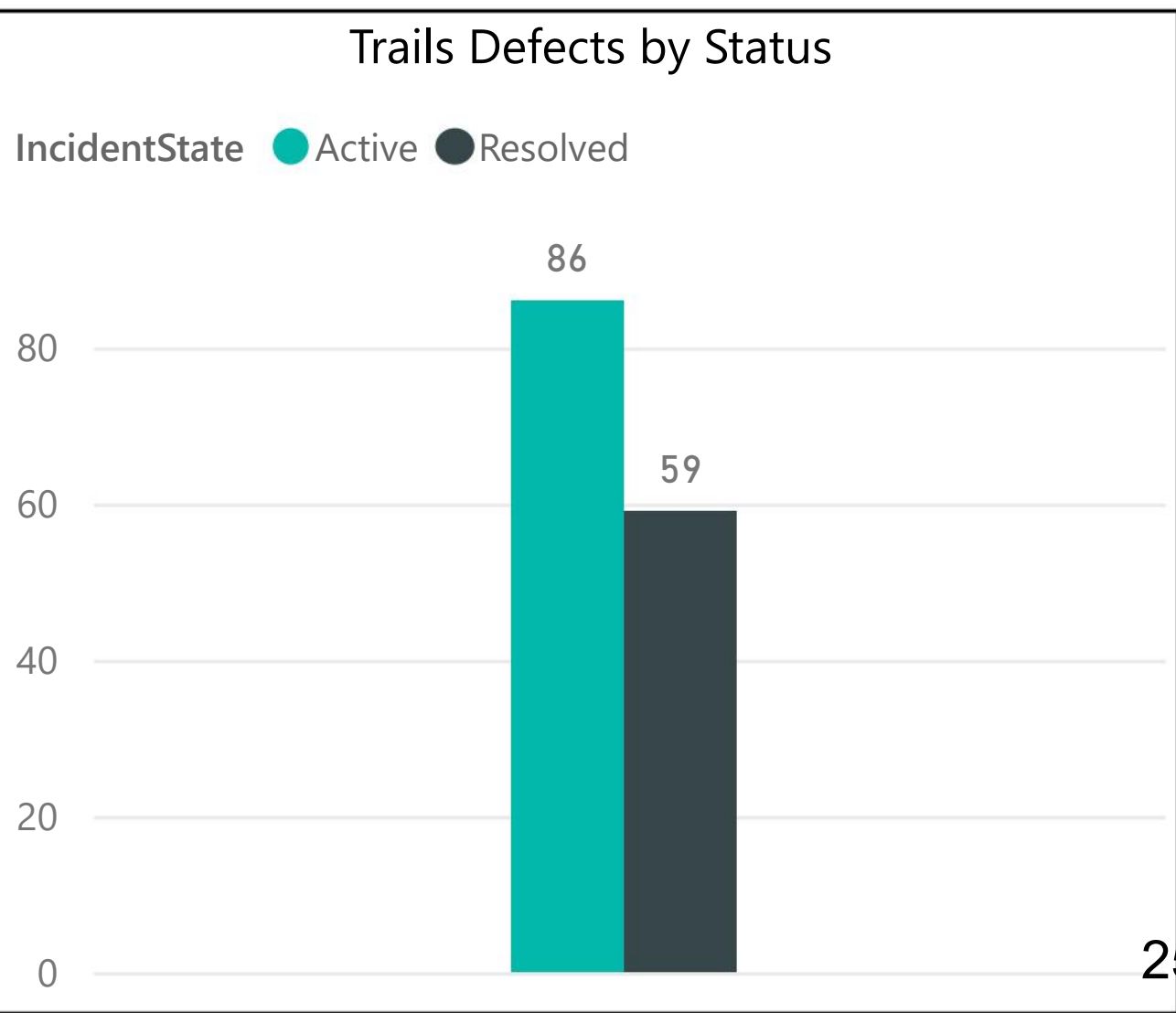
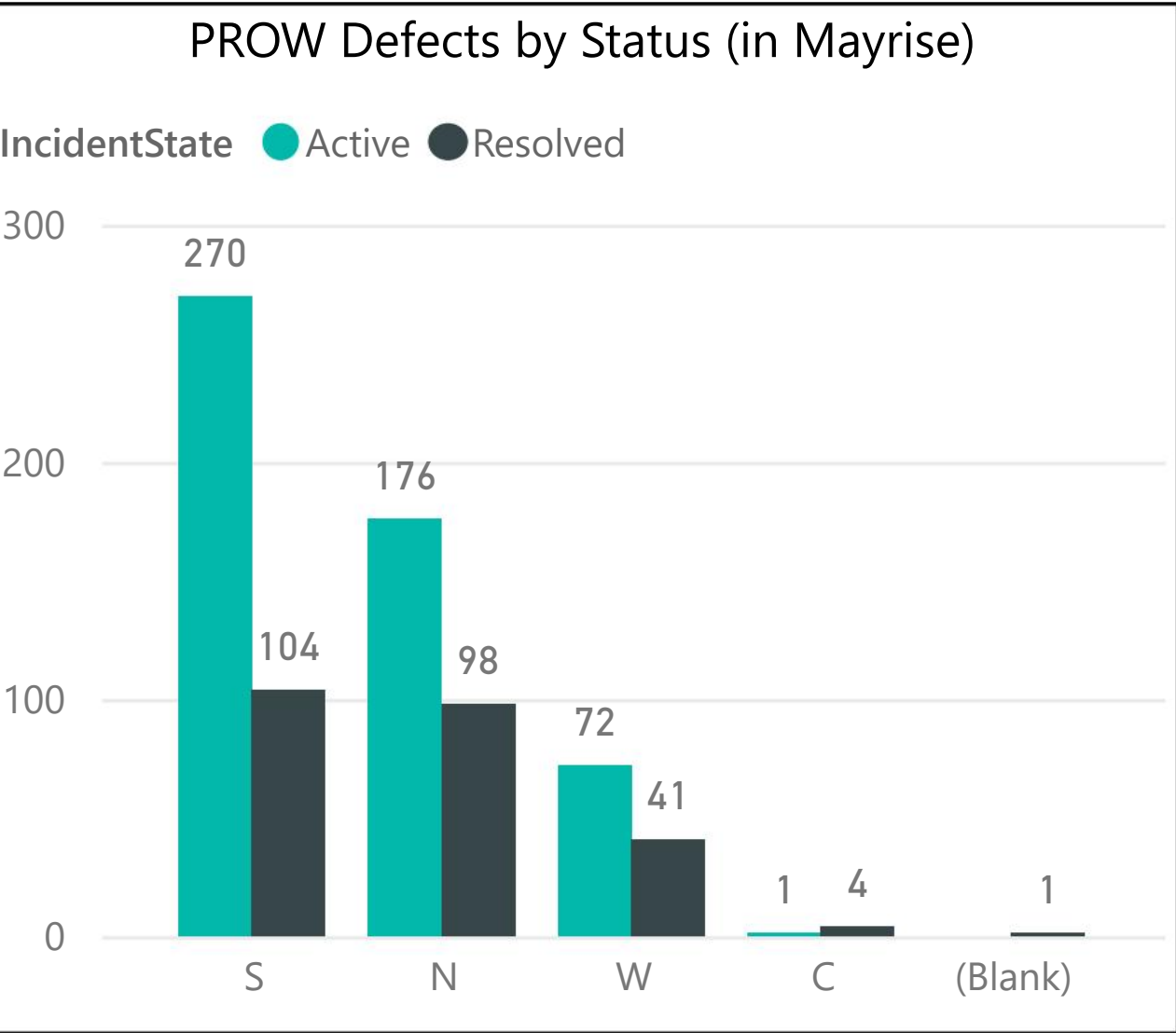
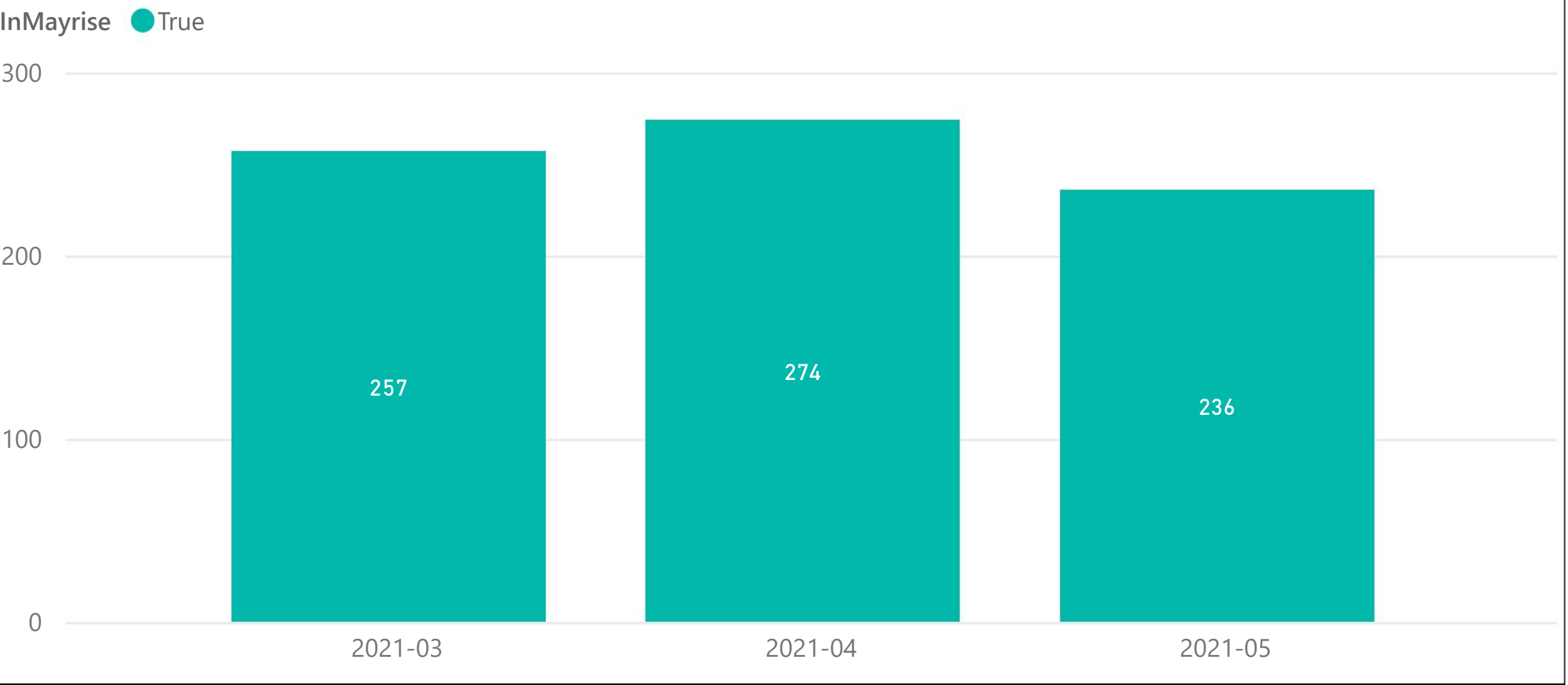
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Months

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📅 02/03/2021 - 01/06/2021

PROW and Trail defects received by month



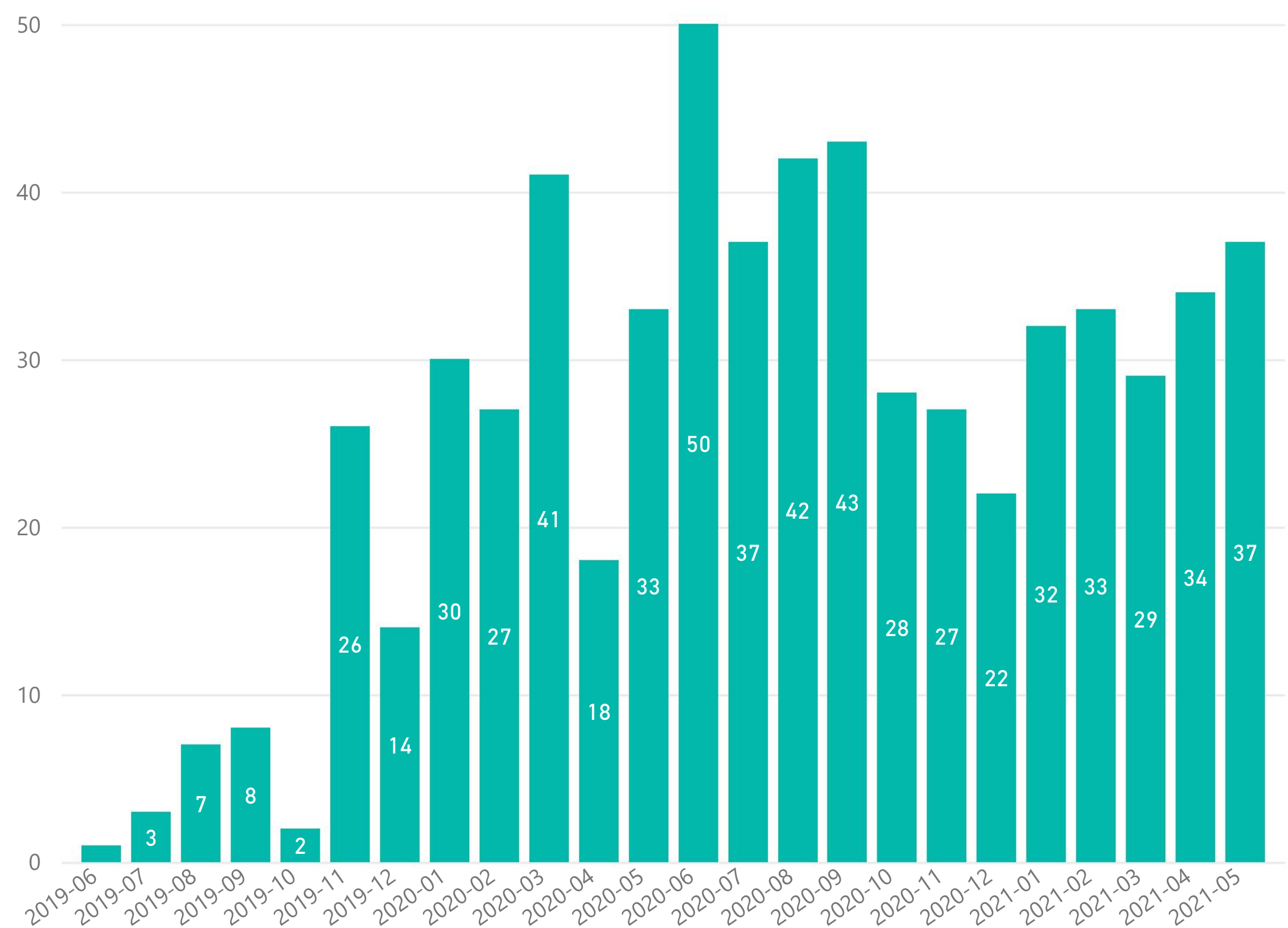
Public Right of Way and Trail FAQ Report

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

24

Months (Calendar)

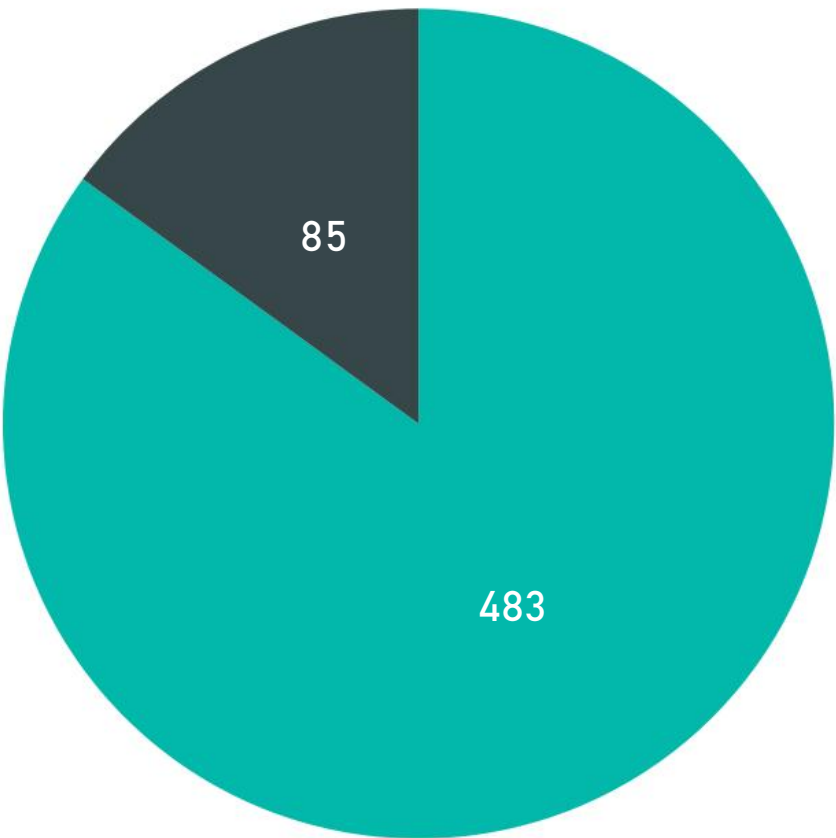
01/06/2019 - 31/05/2021

Volume of PROW/Trail FAQs by question

Question	Count of CaseNumber
I've seen unauthorised cycling, driving or riding on a Public Right of Way or Trail. What can be done?	8
I have an enquiry about PROW ot Trail grass cutting	25
I would like information about a Norfolk Trail	31
	34
I have an enquiry about the definitive map	34
I have an enquiry concerning common land	37
I have an enquiry about a PROW or would like to speak to a PROW officer	455
Total	624

PROW/Trail FAQs received by Status

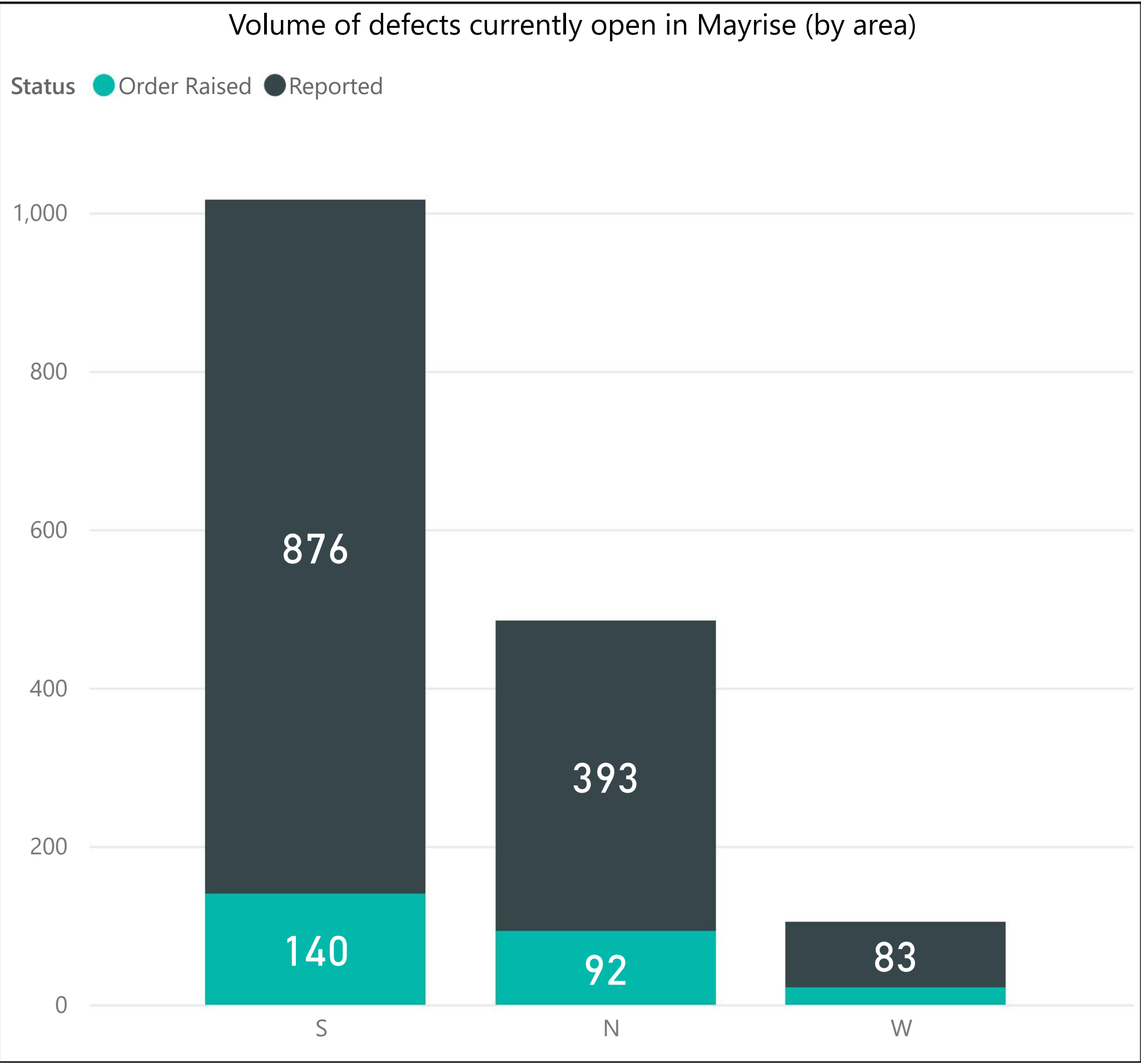
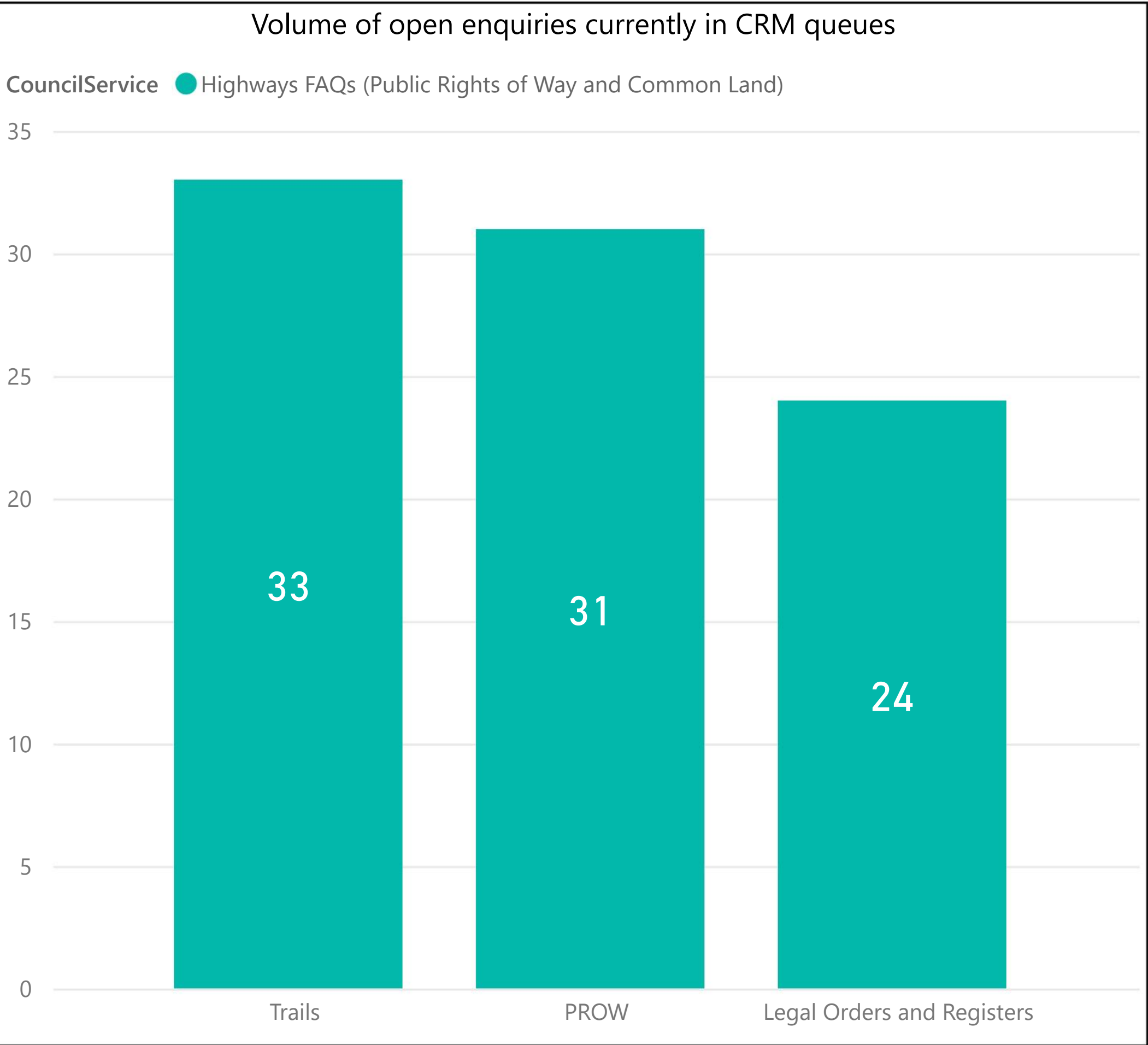
IncidentState Resolved Active



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

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Volume of PROW/Trail defects by type

DescriptionOfFault	C	N	S	W	Total	
PROW - Damaged or missing sign		325	446	103	874	
PROW - Overgrown surface -e.g. grass/weeds	1	326	258	83	668	
PROW - Obstruction -e.g. building works, fences, ditches, locked gate	2	1	262	283	628	
PROW - Crops/ploughing affecting footpath		324	228	54	606	
PROW - Overgrown hedge/tree	2	187	192	87	468	
PROW - Surface condition		172	106	84	362	
PROW - Tree dangerous/fallen	3	166	91	42	302	
PROW - Gate/Barrier	1	112	108	64	285	
PROW - Bridge		36	171	15	222	
Trail - Surface condition	4	5	104	59	204	
Trail - Damaged or missing sign		78	86	13	177	
PROW - Misleading sign	1	1	87	52	163	
Trail - Tree dangerous/fallen	5	5	77	46	146	
Trail - Overgrown surface -e.g. grass/weeds	3	90	32	15	140	
Trail - Overgrown hedge/tree	2	5	68	37	124	
Trail- Obstruction -e.g. building works, fences, ditches, locked gate	4	3	73	36	123	
PROW - Stile damaged/too/high/other		43	70	6	119	
PROW - Illegal / Vehicle Use	1	50	34	27	112	
PROW - Flooded Path		27	26	18	71	
Trail - Gate/Barrier	1	1	30	29	66	
Trail - Bridge	1	4	14	32	62	
Trail - Flooded Path		21	26	5	52	
PROW - Animal(s)	1	23	23	4	51	
Trail - Crops/ploughing affecting footpath		13	34		47	
Trail - Illegal / Vehicle Use	1	26	12	6	45	
PROW - Steps damaged/other		22	17	4	43	
Trail - Misleading sign		14	13	5	32	
Trail - Steps damaged/other	1	2	16	5	31	
Trail- Stile damaged/too/high/other		10	10		20	
Trail - Animal(s)		8	6	4	18	
Total	21	40	2806	2568	828	6263

Report Date Range

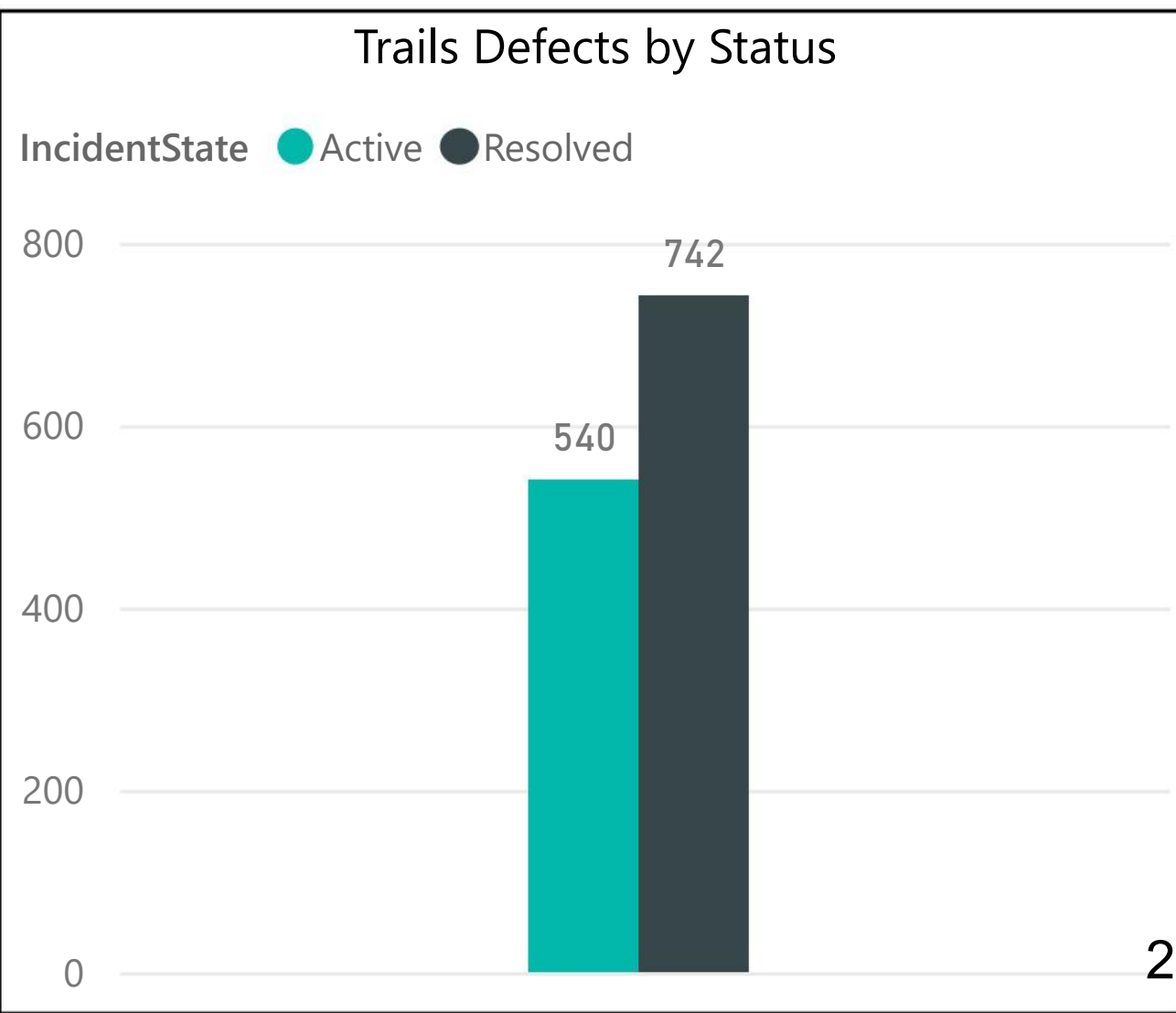
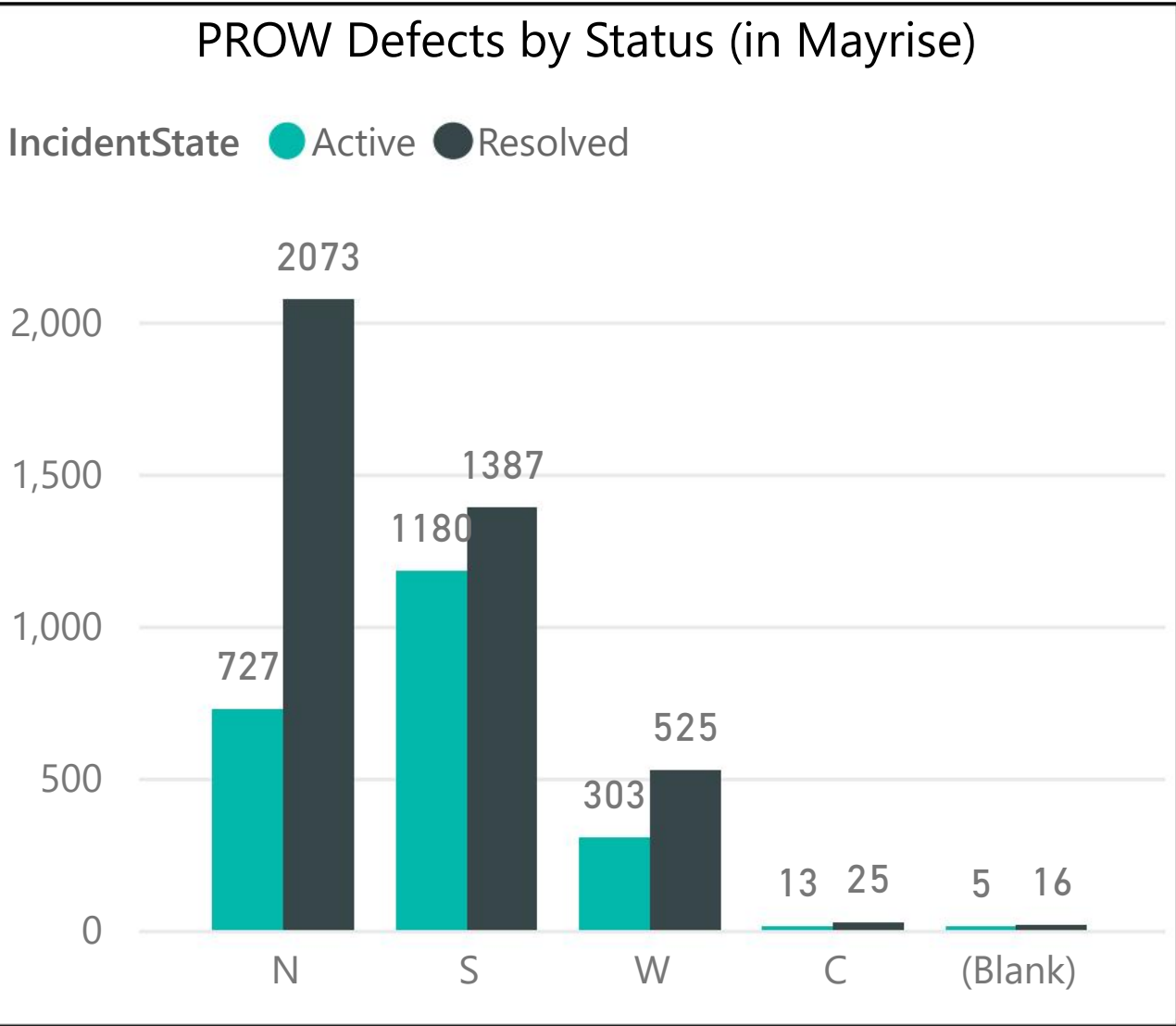
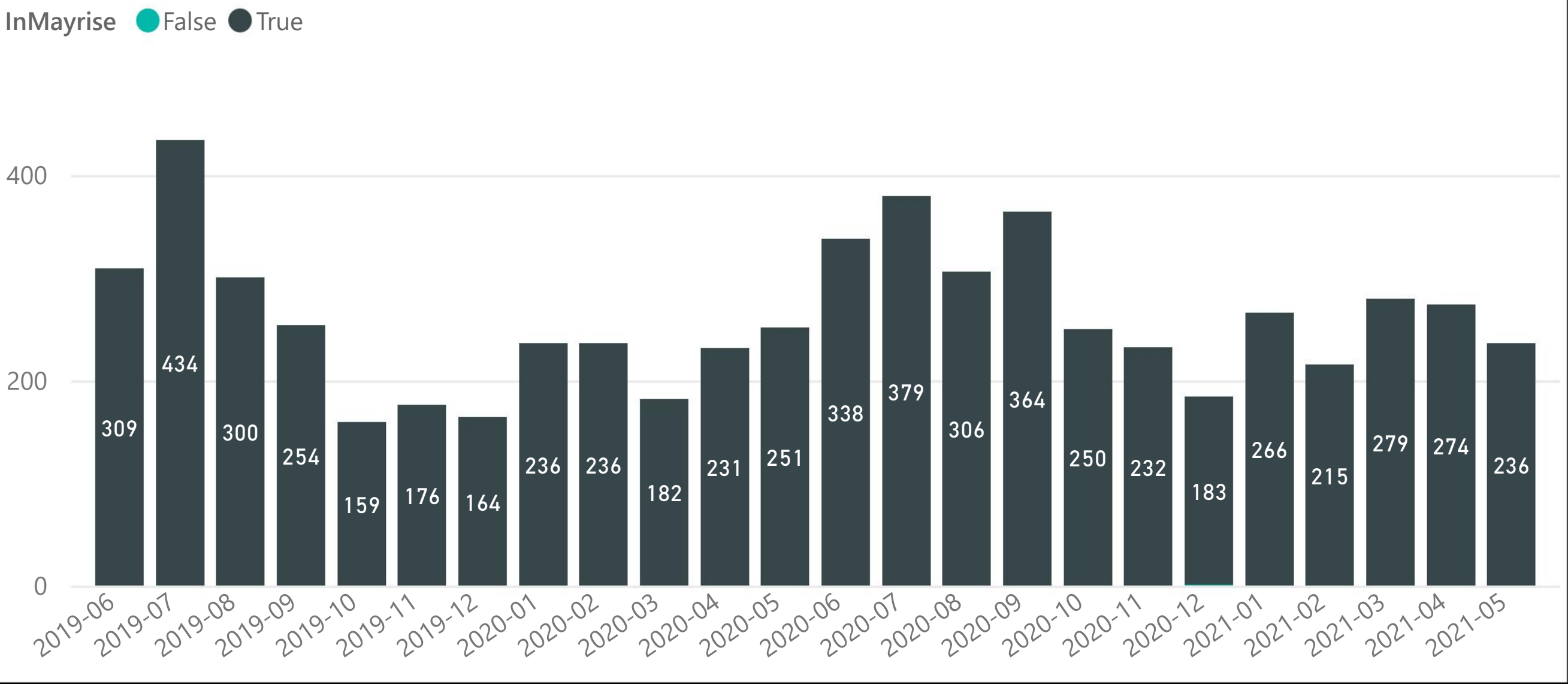
Last

24

Months

02/06/2019 - 01/06/2021

PROW and Trail defects received by month



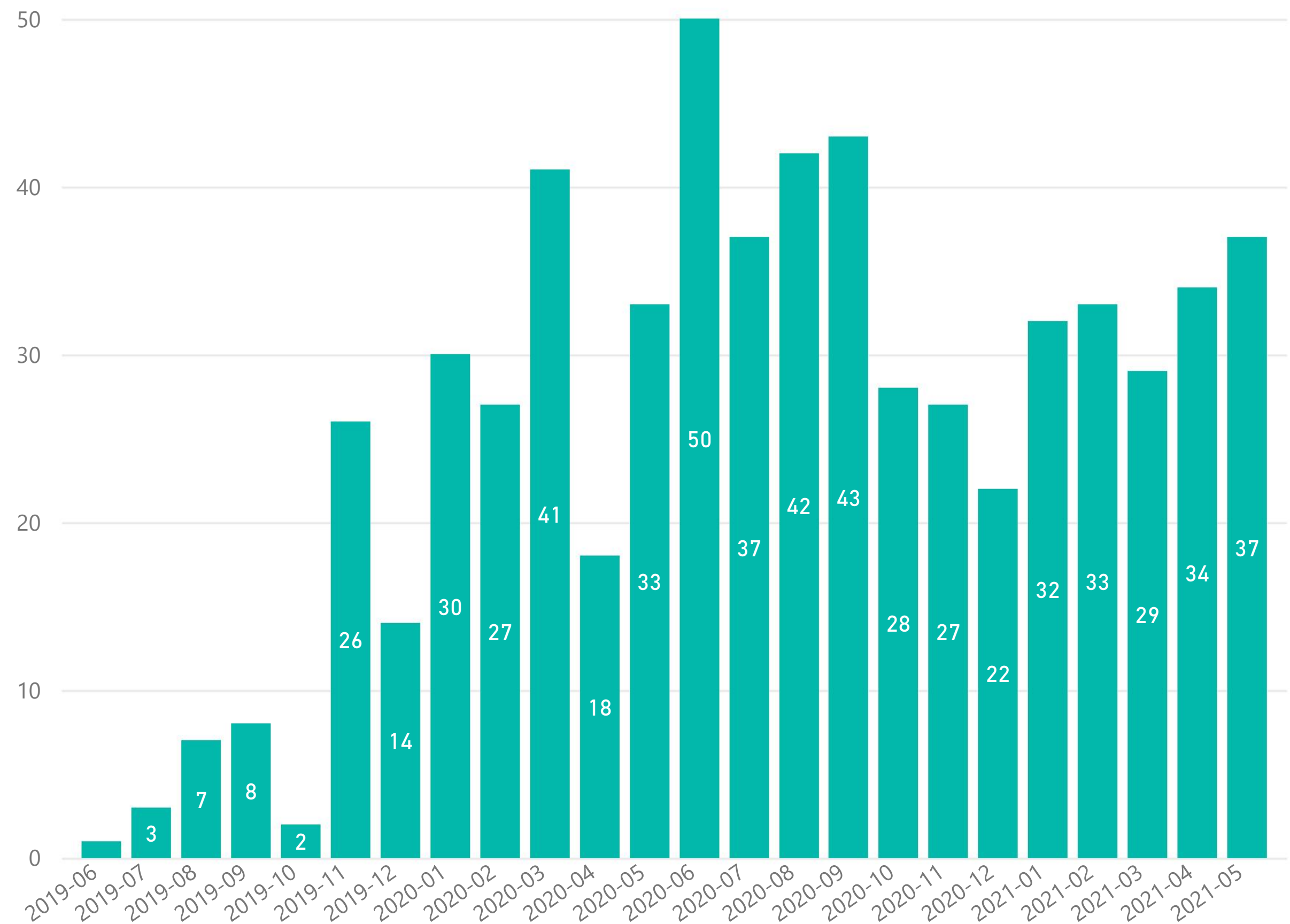
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Volume of PROW/Trail FAQs received by month



Report Date Range

Last

24

Months (Calendar)

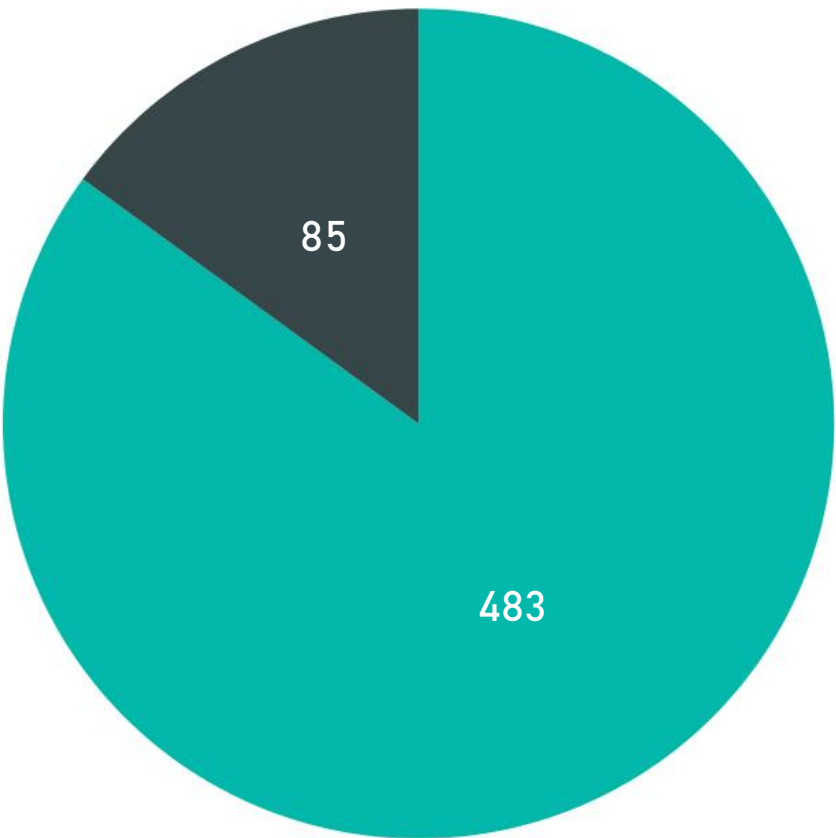
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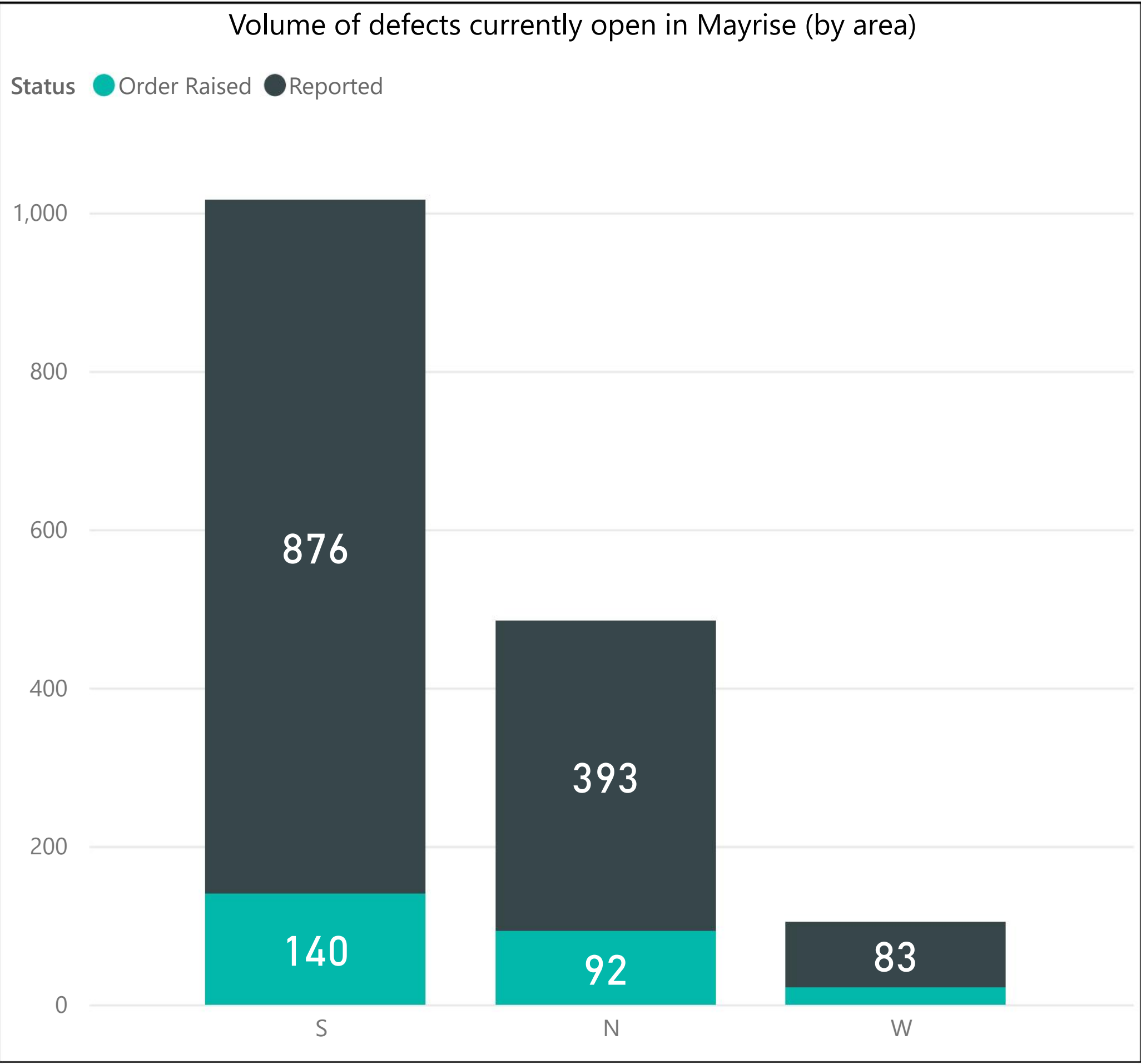
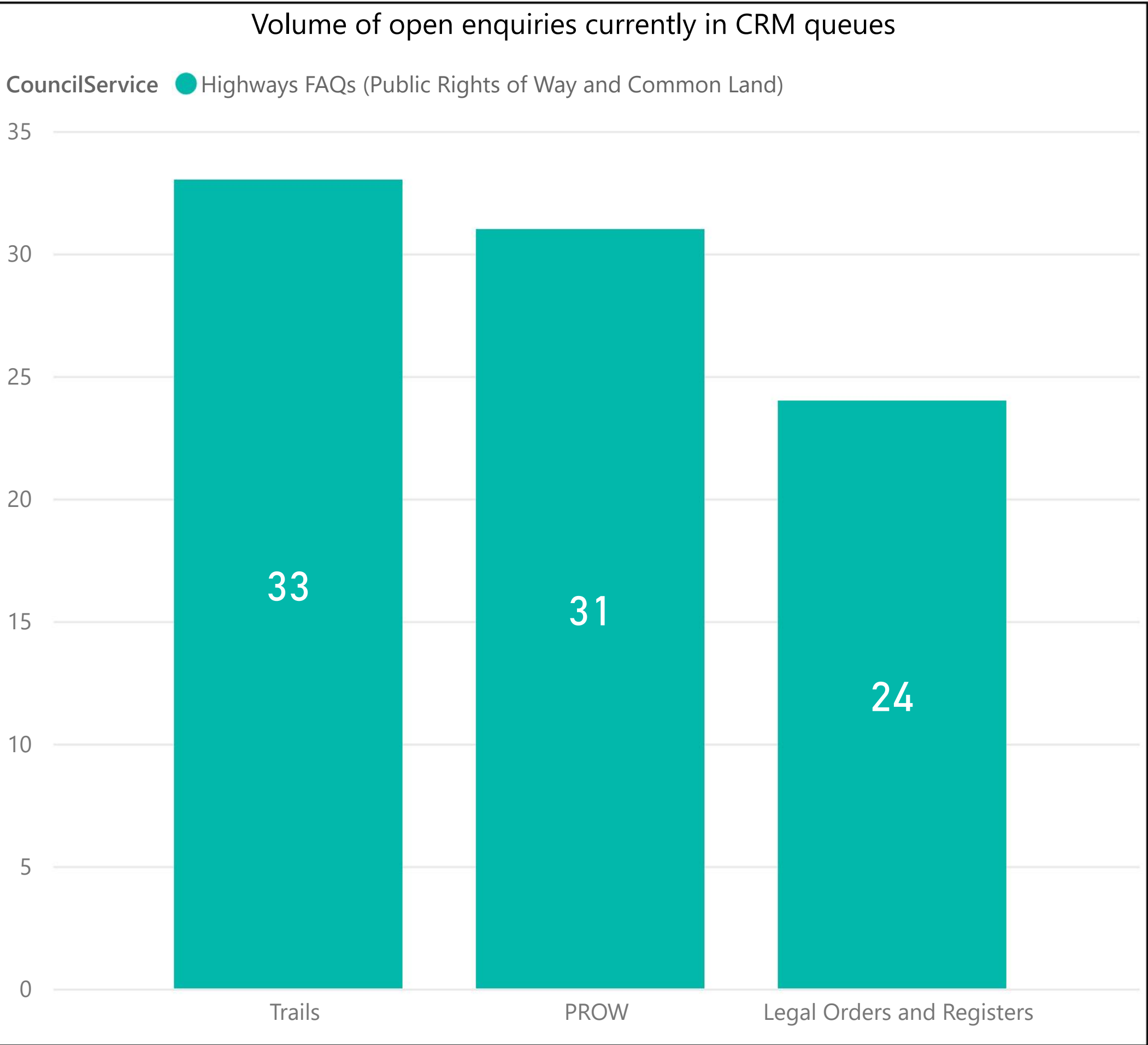
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Norfolk Local Access Forum Committee

Item No:

Decision making report title:	NCC member Walking and Cycling Champion update
Date of meeting:	04 August 2021
Responsible Cabinet Member:	Cllr Andy Grant, Cabinet Member- Environment and Waste
Responsible Director:	Steve Miller, Director of Culture & Heritage
Is this a key decision?	No
<p>Executive Summary</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Recommendation</p> <p>1. To note the progress of the below walking and cycling projects by the Local Access Forum committee.</p>	

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. Proposals

- 2.1 Below is an update on key walking and cycling projects to be delivered in 2021.

2.2 Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Planning (LCWIP)

The draft Norwich LCWIP has been out to consultation for 6 weeks with over 700 completed surveys. Now this has closed the responses will be analysed and the findings used to help develop the final version of the report.

The draft Great Yarmouth LCWIP is planned to go out to consultation in July and will run until early September to provide feedback for the final version of the report.

2.3 Active Travel Fund- Revenue Funding

Following the successful bid to the Department of Transport we have been developing the Active Travel Fund to carry on and expand the work that has been delivered through the Pushing Ahead programme across Norfolk. The work plan includes

- Continuing the Work of Cycling UK across Norfolk

- Workplace engagement across Norfolk
- Norfolk wide Attitudinal Survey into Cycling and Walking
- Development of a Travel Norfolk Website
- Pilot of School Streets programme to enable safer walking and cycling to school

2.4 **Pushing Ahead**

The Pushing Ahead Project, funded by the Department for Transport's Access Fund, continues to deliver projects through 2021 to reduce single occupancy car trips and increase active travel in Norwich and Great Yarmouth. These include ongoing workplace promotion, the continuation of the bicycle loan scheme and promotion of the Beryl Bike Scheme

2.5 **E Cycle Extension Fund**

Norfolk County Council were successful in a bid to the Department of Transport to run a project to allow people to trail e bikes.

The funding will be delivered through a range of initiatives which will include making e-bikes available to trial on free-loan from bicycle shops across the county and increasing the number of E-bikes available for on-street hire through the current [Beryl](#) scheme, which will also see its operating area extended to other parts of Greater Norwich.

The funding will also make adapted e-bikes available and allow the expansion of other incentives, training and e-bike promotion currently delivered through the Council's Pushing Ahead initiative to wider audiences across Norfolk.

2.6 **Completed works on the Norfolk Trails Network**

Work is currently undergoing on the maintenance works on the Norfolk Trails Network that had to be delayed last year. Already work has been completed on the Marriott's Way and the Coast Path with the improvements at Winterton receiving positive publicity in the local newspapers.

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 Pushing Ahead project is funded by the Department for Transport after a successful bid to the Department for Transport's Access Fund.
- The E Cycle Extension project is funded by the Department for Transport after a successful bid to the Department for Transport.

- The upgrade to existing Norfolk Trails Network- is funded by Norfolk County Council internal funding via the National and Norfolk Trails maintenance capital funding.

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 Health and Safety implications (where appropriate)

n/a

8.5 Sustainability implications (where appropriate)

n/a

8.6 Any other implications

n/a

9. Risk Implications/Assessment

9.1

n/a

10. Select Committee comments

10.1

n/a

11. Recommendations

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

12. Background Papers

12.1

n/a

Officer Contact

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

Officer name: Matt Hayward

Tel No.: 01603 223315

Email address: Matthew.hayward2@norfolk.gov.uk



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Norfolk Local Access Forum Committee

Item No:

Decision making report title:	Major Infrastructure Projects and Planning
Date of meeting:	04 August 2021
Responsible Cabinet Member:	Cllr Andy Grant, Cabinet Member- Environment and Waste
Responsible Director:	Steve Miller, Director of Culture & Heritage
Is this a key decision?	No
<p>Executive Summary</p> <p>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 NLAF by NCC Environment Team (Appendix 1).</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <p>1. To note the table of major infrastructure projects in Norfolk.</p>	

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 NLAF (Appendix 1).

2. Proposals

- 2.1. That the NLAF 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**

N/A

8.4. **Health and Safety implications**

N/A

8.5. **Sustainability implications**

N/A

8.6. **Any other implications**

9. Risk Implications/Assessment

9.1. N/A

10. Select Committee comments

10.1. N/A

11. Recommendations

11.1. 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 in this paper, please get in touch with:

Officer name: Matt Hayward **Tel No.:** 01603 223315

Email address: matthew.hayward2@norfolk.gov.uk



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Summary of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) and other Major Strategic Projects impacting on Norfolk

August 2021

1.	Summary of NSIP Proposals – July 2021	
	Proposal (Applicant)	Status / Note
1.1.	Hornsea Project Three – Offshore (2.4 GW) (supplying up to 2 million household with electricity) Wind farm and ancillary onshore grid connection (Orsted);	Hornsea Project Three – Offshore (2.4 GW) (supplying up to 2 million household with electricity) Wind farm and ancillary onshore grid connection (Orsted);
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> <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>S56 DCO application reported to EDT Committee on 7 September 2018. Report recommendation agreed with additional (a) Highway; (b) Coastal erosion; and (c) hedgerow issues raised.</p> <p>Examination ran 10/12/18 – 10/6/19</p> <p>On 1 July 2020 - The Secretary of State granted a development consent order (DCO) for this project with some modifications to the DCO;</p> <p>Archaeological surveys have been undertaken Q1 and Q2 2020.</p> <p>Preliminary Onshore works could begin in early 2021;</p> <p>Decision by the Secretary of State to grant the above DCO was quashed by the High Court on 18 February 2021.</p> <p>The Government now needs to redetermine the proposal with regard to the Judge's ruling, which could involve a second Public Examination.</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>This scheme is approximately 12 months behind the Norfolk Vanguard project (sister project) and uses much of the same proposed onshore infrastructure, for example: shared landfall point; cable route/ducts; and grid connection point.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 56 – reported to Planning and Highways Delegations Committee (19/8/19). Members supported proposal subject to appropriate Planning Requirements being resolved in DCO; Examination – hearings were extended to 12 October 2020 due to Covid-19 restrictions. Hearings now being undertaken using TEAMS; Examination has now finished 12 October 2020. The Examining Authority have three months to make their recommendation to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State then has 3 months to make his final decision. Awaiting final decision from SoS

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	Highway Projects	
1.4.	Blofield to North Burlingham Dualling Scheme Highways England Highways England project page	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14th September HE shared current plans based on feedback received as part of autumn 2018 consultation HE submitted the DCO application 30 December 2020. Planning Inspectorate have asked for comments on the Adequacy of Consultation by 14 January 2021. Construction start estimated to be January – March 2022-23 End date 2024-25
1.5.	(a) A47 / A11 Thickthorn Junction Improvement For further information: https://highwaysengland.co.uk/our-work/east/a47-thickthorn-junction/#:~:text=The%20A47%2FA11%20Thickthorn%20junction%20is%20important%20for%20commuter%2C%20business,along%20with%20commercial%20business%20units.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> S42 consultation on PEIR – Ran between 3/6/19 – 11/7/19. The County Council responded under Urgent Decision S56 DCO submitted to PINS- 31 March 2021 Start of works Jan - March 2023; Open to Traffic October 2024.
1.6.	(b) A47 North Tuddenham to Easton Dualling Scheme For further information: https://highwaysengland.co.uk/our-work/east/a47-north-tuddenham-to-easton-improvement/#:~:text=T he%20North%20Tuddenham%20to%20Easton,vehic les%20on%20this%20single%20carriageway. 9km New dual carriageway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> S42 (PEIR) Consultation ran between 26/2/20 to 8/4/20 (NB was extended to 30/4/20 due to Covid-19). NCC continues to support the dualling of the A47 while raising a number of detailed issues relating to the local highway network etc. These comments have been endorsed through a Cabinet Member Decision (CMD) (April 2020) and a formal response has been sent to Highways England; S56 DCO submitted to PINS- 15 March 2021 (PINS has 28 days to decide whether to accept or not), all supporting documents on the PINS Web-site and NCC are currently assessing; the NCC NWL project team are continuing to work closely with the HE team on this project, and that we are now holding joint 'local liaison group' meetings with representatives from a large number of local parish councils. Detailed discussions have taken place between the

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission of DCO early 2021 • Start of works early 2022 / 2023; • Open to Traffic 2024 / 2025
1.7.	Vauxhall Junction (NSIP Uncertain) Highways England project page	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since the preferred route announcement of the Highways England (HE) scheme, the Great Yarmouth 'Third River Crossing' was awarded funding by the Department for Transport. • Initial assessment commissioned by HE has indicated that the Third River Crossing may have a significant impact on traffic flows in Great Yarmouth, therefore HE to reassess traffic flows in the area so that agreement can be reached as to what is required to improve the road network in Great Yarmouth
1.8.	Third River Crossing – Great Yarmouth National Infrastructure Planning webpage	<p>NCC received confirmation (26/2/18) that the Secretary of State has accepted the section 35 application (Planning Act 2008) for the project to be considered nationally significant and therefore follow the DCO process for statutory approvals. Key dates for delivering are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DCO submitted to PINs with consultation (S56) ran between 17/6/19 to 4/8/19; • Examination took place between 24 September 2019 to 24/3/2020); • Recommendations sent to SoS 24 June 2020; • DCO granted on 24 September 2020 by the Secretary of State; • Start of works on site January 2021; • NCC have submitted the Full Business Case to DfT and are awaiting approval that we hope to receive early in December, enabling the planned start of works early in January 2021. All pre-commencement Requirements within the DCO are currently being worked through. • Assuming start of works is January 2021, completion is expected by early 2023.
1.9.	Norwich Western Link (NWL) Project to create a new 3.8 mile dual carriageway road connecting the western end of Broadland Northway to the A47 trunk road. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not an NSIP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following a review based on the Section 35 requirements the project is not planned to be delivered via a DCO (i.e. not being determined as a NSIP). • Statutory process expected to commence during 2021 and continue through 2022; and construction start date now expected late 2023. • There will be further Public Consultation - planned for mid-2021; and the application is expected to be submitted in late 2021;

		<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; • Aim to have road complete / open late 2025
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