

Norfolk Local Access Forum

Date: **Wednesday 3rd July 2024**

Time: **12:45**

Venue: **Brancaster Sailing Club, Harbour Way, Brancaster Staithe, PE31 8BW**

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

Membership:

Mr Martin Sullivan (Chairman)
Mr Ken Hawkins (Vice-Chairman)

Mr Chris Allhusen
Mrs Elizabeth Meath Baker
Mr Fraser Bowe
Ms Anne Killett
Ms Sarah Morgan
Ms Rebecca Durant

Mr Simon Fowler
Ms Birgit Griem
Mr Kevin Grieve
Mr Rob Lodge

**For further details and general enquiries about this Agenda please contact
NLAf secretary nlaf@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.

We also welcome attendance in person, but public seating is limited, so if you wish to attend please indicate in advance by emailing nlaf@norfolk.gov.uk

Please stay at home if you are unwell, have tested positive for COVID 19, have symptoms of a respiratory infection or if you are a close contact of a positive COVID 19 case. This will help make the event safe for attendees and limit the transmission of respiratory infections including COVID-19.

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 notes of the meeting held on 3rd April 2024 (which was not quorate). To confirm decisions (points 10.2; 11.3; 13.3, 13.4 and 16).

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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 Secretary nlaf@norfolk.gov.uk by **9am Tuesday 2nd July 2024**. For guidance on submitting a public question, please visit

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/councillors-meetings-decisions-and-elections/committees-agendas-and-recent-decisions/ask-a-question-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 Secretary nlaf@norfolk.gov.uk by **9am Tuesday 2nd July 2024**.

8 Feedback from events attended by NLAf members

9 Meetings Forward Plan

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10 NLAf subgroups' report (PRoW; NAIP; Vision and Ideas)

Report by Member of NLAf

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11 Norfolk Access Improvement Plan mid point review

Report by the Director of Culture & Heritage

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12 East Anglia Green NLAf response

Report by Member of NLAf

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13 Standard paragraph for NLAf responses

Report by Member of NLAf

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14 Broads Local Access Forum (BLAF) update

Report by BLAF

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15 Pathmakers Report

Report by Pathmakers

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16 Countryside Access Arrangements update

Report by the Director of Culture & Heritage

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17 Major infrastructure projects and planning

Report by the Director of Culture & Heritage

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Tom McCabe
Chief Executive
Norfolk County Hall
Martineau Lane
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NR1 2DH

Date Agenda Published: 24th June 2024



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3. Minutes

- 3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 24th January 2024 were confirmed as a true record.

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 There were no public questions received.

7. Local member Issues / Questions

- 7.1 There were no member questions received.

8. Feedback from Events

- 8.1 The Vice Chair had not been able to attend the Suffolk LAF meeting in January 2024.

9. Meetings Forward Plan

- 9.1 The NLAF received the report which outlined agenda items for the forthcoming meetings.

Members were encouraged to send further topics for discussion at future meetings to the chair.

10. Natural England support for LAFs

- 10.1 The meeting had received a report recommending that the NLAF advises Natural England to hold regular national or regional meetings (online or in person) for LAFs to facilitate greater communication and collaboration between forums, rather than investing further in a SharePoint system. The meeting thought that support for LAFs by Natural England had diminished considerably in recent months and there was agreement with the proposal.

- 10.2 The NLAF **AGREED** (subject to confirmation at the next meeting) that Natural England be advised that NLAF considers it to be a better use of its limited resource to suspend work on SharePoint and instead arrange national (or two or more regional) meetings for LAF members every year or two years. Although in person meetings would have greatest impact, online meetings would be better than none.

The matter would be raised with Regional LAF colleagues at their next meeting in July 2024.

11. Norfolk's Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) – NLAFF involvement

- 11.1 The NLAFF has been invited to name a representative who will engage with the NCC team developing the Norfolk LNRS to explore opportunities for improved access through nature recovery, to benefit people's health.
- 11.2 Rob Lodge and Martin Sullivan expressed interest in being involved.
- 11.3 The meeting **AGREED** that Rob Lodge and Martin Sullivan would act as interim NLAFF representatives for the Norfolk LNRS (arrangement would be formally approved at the next meeting)

12. Progress update on the Norfolk Walking, Wheeling and Cycling Strategy and Countywide Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)

- 12.1 The report had received a report on progress with the above plans which are set to be adopted by NCC (8th April 2024). The plans align with the Norfolk Access Improvement Plan (NAIP which incorporates Norfolk's Rights of Way Improvement Plan www.norfolk.gov.uk/naip), with the LCWIP offering delivery mechanisms for many active travel projects.
- 12.2 A presentation was given by the NCC team attending. See Appendix 2 for presentations given
- 12.3 The draft LCWIP scheme maps and scheme lists had previously been drawn to the attention of the NLAFF (they were published in Committee agenda papers (Infrastructure and Development meeting 13th March 2024, see page 270 onwards) <https://norfolkcc.cmis.uk.com/norfolkcc/CalendarofMeetings/tabid/128/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/496/Meeting/2047/Committee/171/Default.aspx>
- 12.4 The NLAFF congratulated the team on the very significant work that had gone into engagement and development of the plans. Discussion points raised/ observations included:
 - (i) lack of routes in the northwest of Norfolk. The team explained that there had been no overwhelming evidence of need there.
 - (ii) lack of connectivity between Fakenham and Dereham in the centre of the county.
 - (iii) Improving safe local transport across rural areas (i.e. in areas outside towns which have infrastructure/ investment plans). Wayfinding and cycle parking and integration with other public transport would help.
 - (iv) How postcode data supported the routes developed.
 - (v) Early measurements of progress/outcomes.
 - (vi) Funding for implementing proposals. The Chair of Pathmakers confirmed that the charity would like to assist with funding proposals where feasible.
- 12.5 The NLAFF **NOTED** the update.

13. NLAFF subgroups' report (PRow; NAIP; Vision and Ideas)

- 13.1 The Chair of NLAF received the reports which set out the latest discussions and recommendations of the sub-groups of the NLAF.
- 13.2 The PRoW subgroup had discussed the involvement of local parishes with PRoW maintenance and had concluded that in areas where there is enthusiasm to do so, better results could be achieved than relying on NCC to do this. However, a wholesale move to that approach was not feasible as most parishes were not able to offer this commitment: management responsibility should remain with NCC across the piece.
- 13.3 NLAF recommendations regarding the Transport Asset Management Plan (TAMP) (regarding a change in priorities for maintenance) could not be agreed as the meeting was not quorate. The proposals would be agreed at the July NLAF meeting (or by correspondence) to enable the NLAF's agreed position to be put to NCC within the time framework for the TAMP review.

The NCC Protected Landscapes Manager agreed with the NLAF's proposals regarding changes to the TAMP and said these would be reflected in her team's Norfolk Trails Management Plan.

- 13.4 The NLAF regretted proposed changes to the Norfolk Record Office (NRO) opening hours and restriction on the number of items which could be pre-ordered to view.

The recommendations which would be agreed at the next quorate NLAF meeting were that the NLAF should advise the NRO that it:

- (i) Regrets the proposed changes;
- (ii) Expresses the hope that the changes would be temporary and reversible
- (iii) Suggests that the NRO explores the use of volunteers to maintain and extend opening times

- 13.5 The Vision and Ideas Subgroup had also met with useful discussions ensuing on two reports brought to the NLAF by NCC (the Countryside Access Arrangements report and Major Infrastructure Projects and Planning reports). Although not discussed at the meeting, proposals had been shared with NCC, with the full expectation that there would be good alignment with the information sought by the NLAF and what was provided in future reports.

NLAF members present at the meeting stressed how important they felt it was to get the information sought with minimum call on NCC staff resources.

- 13.6 Points indicated in 13.3, 13.4 and 13.5 would be **AGREED** at the next quorate meeting

14. Broads Local Access Forum (BLAF) update

- 14.1 The Chair of the BLAF was pleased to attend the meeting and thanked the Chair and Vice Chair of the NLAF for regular attendance at BLAF meetings.
- 14.2 The BLAF has been concerned with increasing sewage pollution in the Broads: many of the recreation opportunities involve contact with water. There is insufficient recording of faecal indicators although a UEA science team was making measurements in the Wensum catchment.

- 14.3 The Broads Society was developing a countryside code for the Broads to improve awareness and understanding of various user groups' needs.
- 14.4 The Broads Integrated Access Strategy was in its final draft, covering staithe, moorings and navigation issues.
- 14.5 Recruitment of members to the BLAF would be conducted in April and May. Meetings are often off site in village halls around Norfolk – the next one was due to take place in Bungay.
- 14.6 The NLAF **NOTED** the updates.

15. Pathmakers Projects

- 15.1 The NLAF received a report from the Pathmakers chair. The charity was preparing for the 2025 Walk Norfolk in October, with one walk planned for each day of the month. This year's festival would be the last year funded by the HLF and Pathmakers was therefore hoping to attract sponsorship to maintain the festival. The Pathmakers Chair has been invited to join an NCC steering group working on permissive footpaths, with the expectation that Pathmakers would assist with organising the funds available to landowners for NCC.
- 15.2 The NLAF **NOTED** the report.

16. Appointments to Pathmakers

NLAF appointments to Pathmakers of Sarah Abercrombie, Simon Fowler, Kate MacKenzie, Martin Sullivan and John Jones were agreed for a term of 3 years by NLAF members present (approval would be made at the next quorate NLAF meeting).

Appointments would be **APPROVED** at the next quorate meeting

17. Countryside Access Arrangements update

- 17.1 The Forum received the report which highlighted work to manage the countryside access network in Norfolk work (across Highways, Greenways and Norfolk Trails teams).
- 17.2 A presentation was given by the Lead Officer for Placemaking in the Protected Landscapes Team (Appendix 3) which covered progress to improve reporting into NLAF / other initiatives from PRoW and Trails. This included a resume of NCC systems, defects reported, defects resolved, outstanding defects, staff resource history and analyses in progress.

The intention is to provide the NLAF with a one page summary graphic for each meeting to enable them to quickly see trends (initially just for Norfolk Trails – but with the expectation it will also be provided for PRoW down the line – possibly in a slightly different format - will help with Norfolk Access Improvement Plan reporting). Coupled with counter data (footfall) it could help pinpoint where extra resourcing is required.

- 17.3 The NLAf found the presentation illuminating. Questions / observations
- (i) There was a strong correlation between staff resources available and time taken to resolve defects for Norfolk Trails
 - (ii) Could the distribution of ages of outstanding issues be added to the average age proposed to be included in the analyses?
 - (iii) Could the analysis cover geographical data for the Broads (so that it is possible to see where defects have been resolved in the Broads area – the answer was probably but just for Norfolk Trails)
- 17.4 Norfolk Trails are hoping to develop a stand alone website, which would use GPX information, and could potentially include heat maps of defects reported.
- 17.5 Historic defects on Norfolk Trails that require resolution would be dealt with as a priority (clear the backlog).
- 17.6 The NLAf **NOTED** the report and thanked officers for their time preparing it but remains concerned that the significant backlog of issues reported to NLAf over recent years is not reducing and again seeks the views of the County Council on ways of addressing this.
- 18. Major Infrastructure Projects and Planning**
- 18.1 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. Latest information on each of the schemes was highlighted in the report
- 18.2 The NLAf **NOTED** the table of major infrastructure projects in Norfolk

Martin Sullivan said that he did not intend to stand as Chair again in October. The Forum thanked him for all his commitment, dedication and time to its work over so many years which had contributed to the much higher profile of countryside access now seen across Norfolk in recent years.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 3rd July 2024 at 10am at County Hall (or off site).

The meeting closed at 12:15

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



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Decisions from 3rd April NLAf meeting (which was not quorate) to be confirmed on 3rd July NLAf meeting (numbers refer to points in the meeting notes):

- 10.2 Confirm/Agree that Natural England be advised that NLAf considers it to be a better use of its limited resource to suspend work on SharePoint and instead arrange national (or two or more regional) meetings for LAF members every year or two years.
- 11.3 Confirm/Agree that Rob Lodge and Martin Sullivan would act as NLAf representatives for the Norfolk LNRS.
- 13.3 Confirm/Agree NLAf's recommendations on changes to the Transport Asset Management Plan (TAMP) regarding a change in priorities for maintenance.
- 13.4 Confirm/Agree NLAf's recommendations on proposed changes to the Norfolk Record Office (NRO) opening times and restriction on number of items which can be pre-ordered to view.
- 16 Approve NLAf appointments to Pathmakers as follows: Sarah Abercrombie, Simon Fowler, Kate MacKenzie, Martin Sullivan and John Jones for a term of 3 years.

Report title:	Forward Plan (NLAF agenda)
Date of meeting:	3 rd July 2024 (Brancaster)

Summary

NLAF members are invited to make suggestions for agenda topics for future meetings.

Recommendation

To agree agenda items from those suggested (or from further suggestions) for the NLAF meetings ahead.

1.	Proposal
1.1.	<p><u>Standing agenda items are generally 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) • Subgroups’ meetings (NLAF member report) • Pathmakers update (NLAF member report) • Countryside Access arrangements (NCC report) • NCC Member Champion for Sustainable Transport (NCC report, not brought to every meeting) • Major infrastructure projects update (NCC report) • Future funding for access (NCC report, not brought to every meeting)
1.2.	<p><u>Further suggested agenda items for October 9th 2024 NLAF meeting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointment of NLAF Chair and Vice Chair • Review subgroups’ Terms of Reference, membership and Chairs • CPRE Norfolk’s views on countryside access (guest presentation) • Countryside Access reporting
2.	Recommendations
2.1.	To agree agenda items for 9 th October 2024 and subsequent NLAF meetings
3.	Evidence
3.1.	See proposal

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

NLAF member name :	Martin Sullivan and Ken Hawkins
Email addresses :	nlaf@norfolk.gov.uk
Phone number	Via 01603 222810

Report title:	NLAF Subgroups' report (PRoW, NAIP, Vision and Ideas)
Date of meeting:	3 rd July 2024

Summary

<p>Meetings of the NLAF's subgroups since the previous full NLAF meeting are reported.</p> <p>The PRoW subgroup met on 10th June (see Appendix 1 for minutes).</p> <p>The Vision and Ideas subgroup also met on 10th June (see Appendix 2 for minutes).</p> <p>The Norfolk Access Improvement Plan (NAIP) subgroup did not meet over the reporting period, but two meetings are scheduled, one in July (date to be finalised) and one on 5th September 2024.</p>

1.	Proposal
1.1.	Meetings of the NLAF's subgroups since the previous full NLAF meeting are reported.
2.	Recommendations
2.1.	To note the minutes which are appended. Decisions carried forward from the non-quorate NLAF meeting held on 3 rd April 2024 are covered earlier on the current meeting agenda.
3.	Evidence
3.1.	Appendix 1 PRoW subgroup minutes from 10 th June 2024. Appendix 2 Vision and Ideas subgroup minutes from 10 th June 2024.

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

NLAF member name :	Martin Sullivan Ken Hawkins Rob Lodge
Email address :	nlaf@norfolk.gov.uk

NORFOLK LOCAL ACCESS FORUM : Public Rights of Way Subgroup Minutes

Date: Monday 10 June 2024

Venue: County Hall and MS Teams meeting

All supporting documents are on SharePoint

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

Present	
Ken Hawkins (Chair)	Norfolk Local Access Forum
Keith Bacon	Broads Local Access Forum
Chris Cane	Norfolk Local Access Forum
Ian Mitchell	The Ramblers
Martin Sullivan	Norfolk Local Access Forum
In attendance from item 6	
Su Waldron	Project Officer, NCC Environment
Katy Owen	Protected Landscapes Manager
Helen Terry	National Trail Team Leader

	action
<p>1 Introductions and apologies for absence All attending (online or in person) were welcomed and thanked for attending. It was noted that former subgroup members Paul Baker and Ruth Goodall had resigned from NLAF, and Birgit Griem has resigned from this subgroup.</p>	
<p>2 Minutes of the meeting on 11 March 2024 The minutes were approved.</p>	
<p>3 NLAF meeting on 3 April 2024 The notes of the NLAF meeting had been circulated; the meeting had not been quorate and no formal decisions had been taken.</p>	
<p>4 Matters arising from the minutes</p> <p>4.1 <u>4.1 Norfolk Record Office opening hours</u>: NLAF had not been able formally to consider the recommendation that NLAF respond</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to regret these proposed changes; • to express the hope that they would be temporary and reversible; and • to suggest that NRO explore the possible use of volunteers to enable opening hours to be maintained and extended. <p>4.2 <u>4.2 East of England Coast Partnership</u> (formerly East Anglia Coast Path): an update was given in the Countryside Access Arrangements report (item 6)</p> <p>4.3 <u>4.3 The Great Chalk Way</u>: an update was received from Katy Owen. <i>The Great Chalk Way committee (made up of a group of volunteers) is planning to launch the route in September 2024. The committee has produced interpretation boards to mark the trail and asked for these to be installed at the start and end of the Peddars Way National Trail. Unfortunately, these boards were developed without consideration of accessibility requirements and we are not able to support them in their current format. We offered to provide assistance in this matter, which was declined by the committee. We understand that the committee is now working with private landowners to secure installation of the two boards. We are supporting this project digitally (via weblinks) as a means of</i></p>	Ken

promoting the route. Further information about the trail can be found here: <http://greatechalkway.org.uk/>.

- 4.4 4.5 Report statistics: It was assumed that issues about reported statistics will be addressed in the planned changes to the report format currently used for Countryside Access Arrangements.

5 Partnership and Community Working

Issues from represented organisations: Ian Mitchell reported that the enquiry into Thompson FP1 had resulted in NCC downgrading its order from a BOAT to a Footpath. One objector maintained their objection to this and had requested that the matter be decided by public inquiry rather than through written representations. A decision by PINS was awaited.

6 Countryside Access Arrangements report

- 6.1 General update: A report was received, welcomed and considered. It was noted that Helen Terry had been appointed as Chair of National Trail Coast Path Forum, which engages all the National Trails along the coastline of England and Wales and brings 'a voice for the coast' to the National Trails UK Advisory Council. She was congratulated on this appointment.

Ken had raised a number of questions and comments before the meeting; a written response had been made to these but had not arrived in time to be considered by the meeting. Further issues were identified during the meeting.

- 1 **Report 2.4** - "... persistent use of other reporting systems ... is leading to the loss of data and requiring significant additional administration" **Question** The provision of reporting systems is in the hands of NCC, so presumably it can change or remove inefficient systems, as long as it leaves viable means of reporting to anyone whatever their circumstances. Can it be explained how loss of data occurs and whether this can be prevented by changes in the reporting systems? **Response** *The reporting system that NCC uses and promotes is the most efficient way of getting enquiries through to the appropriate officer. The use of third party (not NCC provided or endorsed) systems, such as Fix My Street, is not compatible with NCC systems and can lead to double or triple handling of data during the transfer to the NCC system, allowing for the introduction of error as data is transcribed; and loss of data, particularly photographic records. A more efficient system does not require changes in the NCC reporting system, only to encourage users to use it; and reiterate that the use of third party systems is having a negative impact on the provision of the service by diverting resource away from the front line.*
- 2 **Report 2.11**, 3rd bullet - **Question** Can it be stated what proportion (by number or length) of PRoW paths are in the cutting contract? It would also help interpretation to indicate whether these statistics include PRoW within Norfolk Trails' responsibility. **Response** *The proportion of Trails managed and PROW managed paths included on the cutting contract will be different. It is not a simple question of proportion of cutting against overall length of PROW. A number of routes on the network would not require cutting, if they have hardened surfaces for example. NCC does not have a full asset inventory of PROW including what length of path "requires" cutting in order to compare with the length of path actually covered by the cutting contracts.*

- 3 **Report 2.11, 5th bullet - Question** It is disappointing to see there is still no progress regarding the obstruction at Upwell. Can it be indicated what sort of issues are preventing progress? **Response** none
- 4 **Report 2.11, 7th bullet - “Most landowners respond to reinstatement notices ...” Question** Can some statistics be provided here - maybe for the revised reporting system currently under development? **Response** *The notices sent out by NCC do generate an element of responses from affected landowners. Many respond to state that work has been carried out, others may do the work but do not notify NCC. Accurate statistics to provide the percentage compliance would require compliance visit(s) to each and every site that has been the subject of a served notice, but we do not have the resource to do this. Instead we carry out a small number of selected compliance visits, but to a large extent rely on landowners who take the trouble to respond as being true to their word.*
- 5 **Report 2.11, 8th bullet - “The £15k “Urban paths” allocation has a shortlist of sites considered for funding for the next 2 to 3 years ...” Question in the meeting** What are ‘urban paths’? **Response in the meeting** was to suggest to whom this question might be directed.
- 6 **Report 2.11, final bullet - Question** “NCC has recently been rated as No1 (against comparable authorities) in the National Highways and Transportation Survey for customer satisfaction regarding public rights of way.” This assertion was made 6 months ago, but I have been unable to find anything among the publicly available information and a request for evidence has not been replied to. Can the source for this assertion be provided? **Response** none
- 7 **Report 3.3 - Question** The link provided here does not work and my understanding is that the TAMP is no longer made publicly available except by request. Can it be stated why this is no longer easily accessible? **Response following the meeting** A copy of the TAMP has been supplied. It had been removed from the website as “The TAMP does not meet necessary accessibility criteria for use by those with screen-readers etc, so is no longer allowed to be available as a download on the NCC website.” (See also 6.2.3 below.)
- 8 Ian Mitchell had compared numbers of issues arising from 5 major causes (damaged or missing sign, overgrown surface, overgrown hedge/tree, obstructions and crops/ploughing) for the two year periods June 2020-22 and June 2022-24. The results are presented in the attached table. This gave rise to discussion about why the increases and decreases might be as they are, accepting that it was difficult to discern a clear overall pattern of change.

6.2 Specific issues

- 1 *King Charles III England Coast Path:* Katy Owen reported that the route change through Great Yarmouth following opening of the new crossing had been discussed with Natural England. *It is something we are keen to deliver and will seek to submit a variation request in due course, however it is not a priority for us at the moment. We are currently experiencing a high volume of issues/paperwork linked to erosion along the coast, which we must prioritise at this time.*
- 2 *Peddars’ Way crossing at Swaffham:* National Highways had indicated that this was an issue for a future programme of work, timescale as yet unknown.
- 3 *Transport Asset Management Plan (TAMP):* NLA had not been able to agree recommendations regarding a change in priorities for maintenance as the meeting was not quorate. The proposals would

<p>be considered at the July NLAf meeting to enable the NLAf’s agreed position to be put to NCC within the time framework for the TAMP review. The NCC Protected Landscapes Manager had agreed with the NLAf’s proposals regarding changes to the TAMP and said these would be reflected in her team’s Norfolk Trails Management Plan.</p> <p>4 <i>Newton by Castle Acre</i>: It was noted that the order to add a byway to the Definitive Map had been confirmed and the period for objections had ended.</p> <p>6.3 <u>Major Infrastructure Projects and Planning Applications</u></p> <p>1 <i>Norwich Western Link Project Update</i>: It was noted that the planning application had not yet been submitted.</p> <p>2 <i>NSIPs update</i>: No report had been received.</p>	Ken
<p>7 Definitive Map Modification Orders</p> <p>No new issues were raised. It was reported that an advert for the post of Case Officer (Legal Orders) was in circulation, though it was not known if this was an additional post. It was noted that the advert mentioned that “[t]he biggest shake up of rights of way law for decades is on the horizon” though this was not elaborated on.</p>	
<p>8 Reports from NCC Officers</p> <p>The meeting was joined by Katy Owen and Helen Terry who were able to give updates about the work in hand and the prospect of further funding being obtained.</p>	
<p>9 Date of next meetings</p> <p>The next subgroup meetings are planned for Mondays 16 September and 9 December, both from 13:30 to 15:00, as hybrid meetings.</p>	all

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

Attachment 1 re PRow subgroup minutes 6.1.8 Comparison between 2 year periods

Problem	Total June 20-June 22	Total June 22-June 24	Percent Change between periods	Nth Nfk June 20- June 22	Nth Nfk June 22- June 24	Percent Change between periods	Sth Nfk June 20- June 22	Sth Nfk June 22- June 24	Percent Change between periods
Damaged or missing Sign - PROW	946	918		338	380		499	445	
Damaged or missing Sign - Trails	188	162		86	77		86	71	
Damaged or missing Sign - Total	1134	1080	95%	424	457	108%	585	516	88%
Overgrown Surface - PROW	882	1036		438	555		334	360	
Overgrown Surface - Trails	267	242		142	134		82	95	
Overgrown Surface - Total	1149	1278	111%	580	689	119%	416	455	109%
Overgrown hedge/tree - PROW	576	641		250	273		224	273	
Overgrown hedge/tree - Trails	208	256		101	107		65	89	
Overgrown hedge/tree - Total	784	897	114%	351	380	108%	289	362	125%
Obstructions - PROW	529	483		182	224		258	190	
Obstructions - Trails	95	92		41	43		41	41	
Obstructions - Total	624	575	92%	223	267	120%	299	231	77%
Crops/ploughing - PROW	582	430		275	227		245	179	
Crops/ploughing - Trails	41	28		10	7		30	20	
Crops/ploughing - Total	623	458	74%	285	234	82%	275	199	72%
Total above	4314	4288	99%	1863	2027	109%	1864	1763	95%
Other problems	2418	1968	81%	1041	954	92%	960	747	78%
Overall Totals	6732	6256	93%	2904	2981	103%	2824	2510	89%

Norfolk Local Access Forum

Subgroup MINUTES



Subgroup	Vision and Ideas
Date of meeting:	10th June 2024
Invitees	Present from 3.15: Rob Lodge (chair), Birgit Griem, Ken Hawkins, Kevin Grieve, Martin Sullivan, Su Waldron From 4.15: Katie Owen, Helen Terry
	Apologies: Jason Moorse

Item		Action to be taken for meeting on
2	Minutes were accepted as a true record.	
3	<p>4.3 promotion of green lanes to walkers, cyclists and horse riders be brought to another meeting.</p> <p>4.4 NAIP Issues that were highlighted in previous discussions have been taken up by officers so there was no need for KG to continue his work.</p>	RL for a meeting to be determined
4.1	<p>Induction of new members: Membership of the NLAFF will be refreshed in April 2025, with the process starting soon. Paul Baker and Ruth Goodall have resigned. NLAFF Chair and Vice Chair have in the past been invited to take part in the recruitment process. SW has been pursuing training for new members which is the Council's responsibility. There was an acknowledgment that various circumstances beyond the NLAFF's control (Covid, Council Chamber meetings and the inability to have informal chats) made it difficult for new members to get to grips with their role quickly and participate fully. There is a commitment to ensuring that new members feel able to make contributions and see their attendance at meetings as worthwhile.</p>	

4.2	<p>NLAF action plan: There is a standing agenda item called 'Forward Plan'.</p>	MS to highlight item at the next full NLAF, with a little explanation as to how it can be used.
4.3	<p>Review of the NAIP: The Vnl group agreed that we have currently have no way of interpreting whether the figures in any NAIP review show progress or not.</p> <p>The NAIP subgroup needs to meet as they need to produce a monitoring report to the Council in November.</p> <p>Alana Baker (Matt Hayward's temporary replacement) is working on a NAIP review.</p>	<p>SW to set up meeting of NAIP subgroup for early July.</p> <p>SW to ask Alana Baker for a brief overview of the midpoint of her review for the NLAF on 3rd July 2024</p>
4.4	<p>Working with and supporting NCC colleagues: Not discussed</p>	
5	<p>Terms of Reference (TOR): All TORs will be reviewed and revised as necessary for presentation by subgroup chairs to the October NLAF meeting where they will need to be approved. RL was in favour of keeping the purpose of the Vnl the same. SW asked whether the Vnl needs extra members from other organisations, as per the example of the PROW subgroup.</p> <p>KH briefly outlined the point reached before Covid regarding the quantification of the benefits of a coherent network incorporating PROWs, the National Trails and the Norfolk Trails, in order to make a case for improved Council spending on this asset.</p>	RL to draft bullet points for TOR and disseminate to subgroup members for discussion.

6	<p>Officers' report: KO 's vision for National Trails include nature recovery, sustainability, visitor management, links with businesses, sponsorship. She wants a National Trails partnership which is elevating and more than statutory. She wants it to be businesslike and sustainable. The first meeting for a refreshed partnership, chaired by Cllr Andrew Jamieson has been scheduled for September. More updates are contained in the Countryside Access Arrangements Report. KO has ambitions for a similar model for Norfolk Trails. Norfolk Trails will engage with Pathmakers and the walking festival. KO wants to appoint a team leader for Norfolk Trails and would like to double the number of officers in both teams in the next 2 to 3 years.</p> <p>KO could not comment on any PROW plans as these are managed by Highways.</p> <p>HT reported on the development of very exciting “creative wayfinding totems”, which are multi-sensory, tactile, visual and inclusive info boards for significant points on the new King Charles III trail. HT found partnership working really useful for funding applications.</p>	
7	<p>AoB: None</p>	
	<p>The meeting finished at 17.00</p>	

If you have any questions please get in touch with:

NLAF Chair: Rob Lodge
Email Address: Robplodge@btinternetcom

Attachments: none



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Norfolk Local Access Forum

Item No:

Report Title: NAIP mid-point review – An Overview

Date of Meeting: 03 July 2024

Responsible Cabinet Member: Choose an item.

Cllr James Bensly, Cabinet Member for Environment and 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: N/A

Executive Summary / Introduction from Cabinet Member

The Greenways Project Team is carrying out a mid-point review on the Norfolk Access Improvement Plan (NAIP) 2019–2029, following feedback from the Norfolk Local Access Forum (NLAF) in Autumn 2023. To date work has included the collation of information from various sources to assess progress against the 2029 targets. The next stage for the NAIP mid-point review will involve holding a set of workshops with NCC officers and NLAF members. The aim of these workshops will be to co-develop a new model for the NAIP monitoring report process. The ambition is to implement a more effective reporting process with key performance indicators which offer streamlined and rigorous data collection and evidencing. This new model will be presented to the NLAF at the October 2024 meeting for approval.

Recommendations:

- 1. NLAF approves the proposal to hold/participate in workshops with NCC Officers to co-develop a new reporting process for the NAIP.**

1. Background and Purpose

1.1 The Greenways Project Team (Environment Service) was asked to carry out a mid-point review on the NAIP. Monitoring reports are collated for the NAIP each year. The NLAF requested that key performance indicators such as easily understandable metrics and data should be included in future reports. We are currently halfway through the 10-year lifespan of the current NAIP and it is therefore an appropriate time to review the reporting process.

2. Proposal

- 2.1 To update the NAIP reporting process to be more streamlined and rigorous, as part of the 2023-24 mid-point review. Reports are collated and submitted to the NLAF each October, as part of the annual NAIP's delivery plan. The NAIP is a statutory document. As such, the mid-point review focuses on improvements to the NAIP's internal reporting structures. It will not trigger a full review of this plan.
- 2.2 NCC Officers will be invited to support this review, as will members of the NLAF and any other stakeholders deemed relevant.
- 2.3 Both NCC Officers and NLAF members will contribute to this process through participation in max. 3 workshops.
- 2.4 The new reporting model will be presented to the October 2024 NLAF meeting for approval.

3. Impact of the Proposal

- 3.1 Support the NAIP reporting process to be more efficient, effective, and robust.
- 3.2 Provide key performance indicators that track success and performance over time.
- 3.3 Provide high quality data in an easily accessible format to inform processes of NLAF, NCC Officers and wider stakeholders.

4. Evidence and Reasons for Decision

- 4.1 Implement a reporting process structured around performance indicators will support measurable progress towards the objectives of the NAIP.
- 4.2 The report will supply more accessible data which can be utilised to inform decision-making across NLAF, Environment Service and their stakeholders.

5. Alternative Options

- 5.1 Reject proposal - continue with annual reporting model used previously. NLAF concerns around accessibility of data not addressed.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 Staff time from NCC Officers

6.2 Support from NCC Digital Customer Service team to bring relevant documents in line with accessible information standards.

7. Resource Implications

7.1 **Staff: NCC Officers from Public Rights of Way team, Protected Landscapes Team (Norfolk and National Trails), Greenways Team.**

7.2 **Property: No property resource implication**

7.3 **IT: Support from NCC digital customer service team**

8. Other Implications

8.1 **Legal Implications: The scope of the review acknowledges that the NAIP is a statutory required document – see Countryside Right Of Way Act, 2000, Section 94.**

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 None provided.

11. Recommendations

1. **NLAF approves the proposal to hold/participate in workshops with NCC Officers to co-develop a new reporting process for the NAIP**

12. Background Papers

12.1 Norfolk Access Improvement Plan:

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/43034/Norfolk-Access-Improvement-Plan>

12.2 Appendix 1 - proposed project flow chart PDF

Officer Contact

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

Officer name: Alanna Baker / Charlotte Watts

Telephone no.: 01603 989726 / 01603 228883

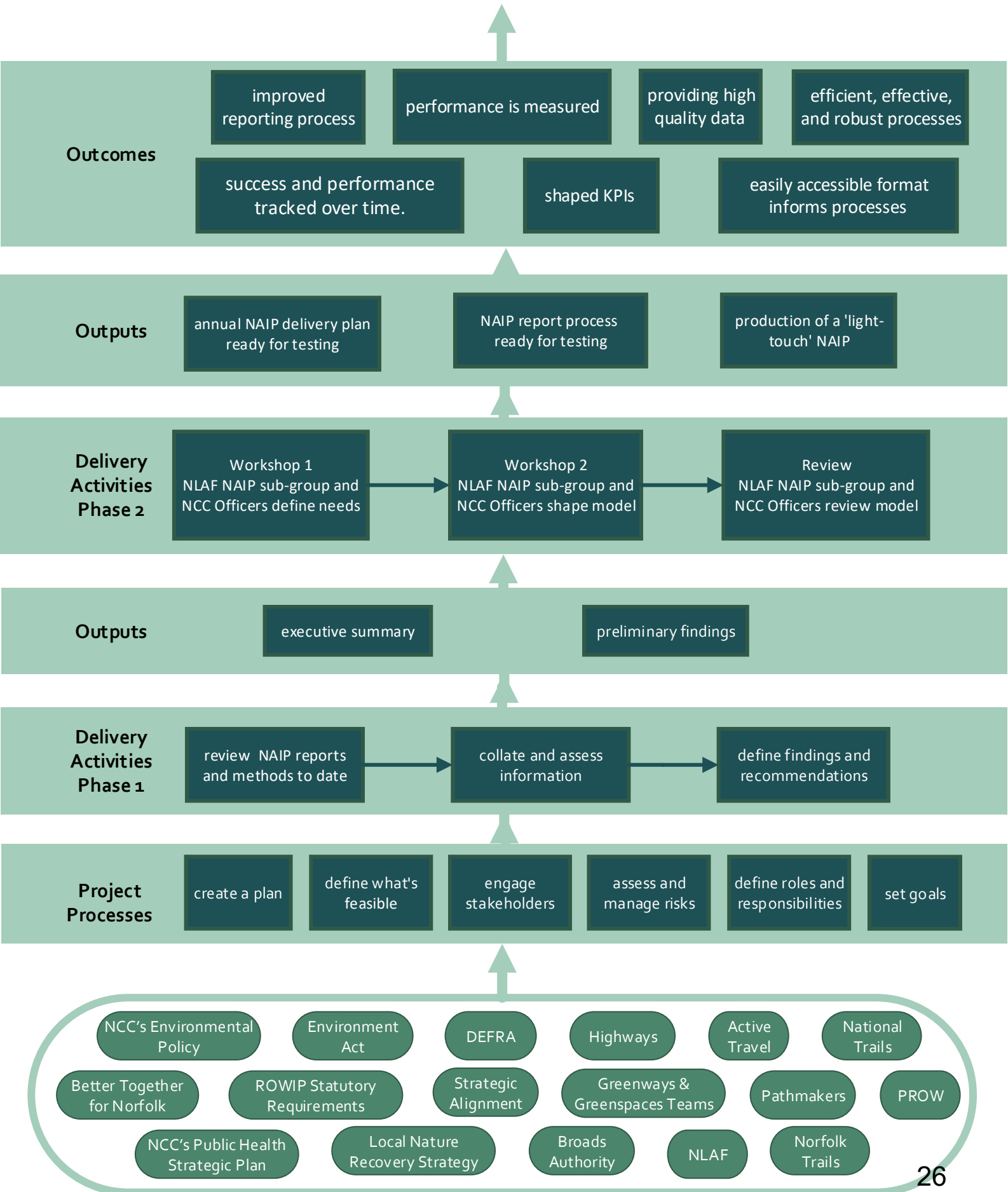
Email: alanna.baker@norfolk.gov.uk / charlotte.watts@norfolk.gov.uk



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Project Flow Chart - NAIP mid-point review

A new model for the annual NAIP monitoring report that is streamlined and rigorous.



Norfolk Local Access Forum (Forum member report)

Report title:	East Anglia Green NLAf response
Date of meeting:	3 rd July 2024

Summary

It is beyond NLAf's remit to object to the proposed run of pylons across the county, so the proposed response concentrates on minimising the impacts on public rights of way and other areas to which the public has access.

1.	Proposal
1.1.	That NLAf responds to the consultation in similar terms to its previous response, as set out below.
2.	Recommendations
2.1.	<p>The Norfolk Local Access Forum, while understanding and accepting the need for more green power from offshore wind, nevertheless is concerned that there will be undesirable impact across the county (and other areas beyond our remit). Ideally, we would prefer there not to be another run of overhead cables across the county; even where there is no direct impact on access, the additional visual intrusion is not welcomed. We would therefore ask that all alternatives are thoroughly investigated and evaluated, including running the line offshore to nearer to its destination, or putting it underground, again ideally throughout its length but failing that at least through areas where the visual impact is greatest. Should the construction go ahead, we would ask that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the greatest amount of notice is given where access to public rights of way or other areas open to public use will be affected • any periods of limited use or closure are minimised, • work be phased to facilitate the continuing use of as much of the affected paths as possible, and • once works are completed, the area concerned is restored to at least its previous standard and, wherever possible, improved. <p>We also consider that compensation should be awarded to those carrying responsibility for public access where they are required to take steps to facilitate any works.</p> <p>We would emphasise the need to ensure that any pylons erected are chosen to have the smallest visual intrusion, particularly though not only when seen from public rights of way and other areas open to the public.</p>
3.	Evidence
3.1.	not applicable

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

NLAf member name : Ken Hawkins
Email address : Via nlaf@norfolk.gov.uk



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Report title:	Standard paragraph for NLAFF responses
Date of meeting:	3 rd July 2024

Summary

A standard paragraph stating the NLAFF’s powers and duties under legislation has been drafted to use on consultations to which the NLAFF responds. The paragraph also specifically requests a response to indicate how the NLAFF’s advice has been treated and to what effect.

1.	Proposal
1.1.	<p>A standard paragraph to use on all consultations to which the NLAFF responds has been drafted as follows:</p> <p>[insert heading to identify issue] [insert name of relevant section 94(4) body] is required, in accordance with section 95(5) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, to have regard to relevant advice from a Local Access Forum in carrying out its functions. This letter constitutes formal advice from the Norfolk Local Access Forum*. [insert advice] Please let me know how you have taken, or plan to take, this advice into account in regard to this matter. [signature block]</p> <p>*Section 94 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW Act) sets out how local authorities and National Park authorities can establish advisory bodies known as Local Access Forums to advise decision-making organisations about making improvements to public access for the purposes of open-air recreation and the enjoyment of the area, and as to such other matters as may be prescribed. See https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/section/94 and Guidance on Local Access Forums in England issued by the Secretary of State, 2007.</p> <p>The Norfolk Local Access Forum gives advice to “Section 94(4) bodies”, which include: Norfolk County Council; unitary, district and borough councils in Norfolk; government departments such as Defra, the MOD, the Planning Inspectorate and Highways England; Natural England; the Forestry Commission; English Heritage; Sport England; the Norfolk Coast National Landscape (previously AONB) conservation board; and Norfolk parish and town councils.</p> <p>These bodies are required under Section 94(5) of the CROW Act to have regard in carrying out their functions to any relevant advice given to them by an access forum. Whilst not bound to follow such advice, the section 94(4) bodies are legally required to take it into account in carrying out their functions. You are</p>

	therefore requested to inform Norfolk Local Access Forum how its advice has been taken into account.
2.	Recommendations
2.1.	That the NLAF adopts the above standard paragraph for use on all consultations to which it responds.
3.	Evidence
3.1.	The above paragraph sets out the provisions under which the NLAF gives advice and how this advice should be considered thus providing clarity to those receiving the advice.

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

NLAF member name :	Ken Hawkins Martin Sullivan
Email address :	Via nlaf@norfolk.gov.uk



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Norfolk Local Access Forum (Forum member report)

Report title:	Broads Local Access Forum (BLAF) update
Date of meeting:	3 rd July 2024

Summary

An update from the Broads Local Access Forum (BLAF) will be given to the NLAF as part of ongoing interaction and information sharing between the two LAFs in Norfolk.

1.	Proposal
1.1.	NLAF members will receive an update from the BLAF
2.	Recommendations
2.1.	To note the update
3.	Evidence
3.1.	<p>The Broads Authority is the special statutory authority with responsibility for the Broads National Park https://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/learning/broads-curriculum/the-broads-national-park</p> <p>Under Section 94 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, there is provision for National Park Authorities to set up a Local Access Forum to advise on improvements to public access for outdoor recreation and sustainable travel within their executive area. The Broads Authority have done this https://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/about-us/committees/local-access-forum to develop a successful independent advisory forum for their area.</p> <p>Thus there are two LAFs for Norfolk: the Norfolk LAF www.norfolk.gov.uk/nlaf covering all Norfolk with members appointed by NCC as highway authority for Norfolk, and the Broads LAF covering the Broads Authority executive area, with members appointed by the Broads Authority.</p> <p>The NLAF Chair and Vice Chair regularly attend BLAF meetings, and the BLAF Chair is a member of the NLAF PRoW and NAIP subgroups, meaning there is good ongoing interaction and engagement between the two LAFs.</p> <p>The Broads Authority Waterways and Recreation Officer has also attended recent NLAF meetings.</p>

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

Report author	Keith Bacon (Chair of the BLAF)
Email address :	blaf@broads-authority.gov.uk



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Report title:	Pathmakers report
Date of meeting:	3 rd July 2024

Summary

Pathmakers recent highlights and successes are presented to Norfolk Local Access Forum members.

1.	Proposal
1.1.	Work on Walk Norfolk 2024 in October proceeds. Most of the walks are now in place and we hope to launch the publicity shortly. Most of this will be on line. There seems to be a certain amount of money available for wellbeing, and so we have appointed a consultant to investigate this area, and see how we can develop this aspect of what we are offering.
2.	Recommendations
2.1.	To note work ongoing by Pathmakers to improve access to the Norfolk countryside for people of all abilities and backgrounds.
3.	Evidence
3.1.	Pathmakers is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation which has been established by the Norfolk Local Access Forum. https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-details/?subid=0&regid=1161475 Its mission is to improve access to the Norfolk Countryside for people of all abilities and backgrounds. Pathmakers works with organisations and communities to help run, facilitate or support walking projects - both financially and in other ways - that improve countryside access. www.pathmakers.org.uk

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

NLAF member name : Simon Fowler
Email address : nlaf@norfolk.gov.uk



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

Item No:

Report Title: Countryside Access Arrangements update

Date of Meeting: July 2024

Responsible Cabinet Member: Cllr James Bensly (Cabinet Member for Environment & Waste)

Responsible Director: Steve Miller, Director of Culture & Heritage

Is this a Key Decision? No

Executive Summary / Introduction from Cabinet Member

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.

Recommendation:

1. That the Norfolk Local Access Forum notes the progress made to date since the Countryside Access Officer posts were introduced.

1. Background and Purpose

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. 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. Proposal

- 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.
- Use of the NCC system is the most efficient way of reporting issues, Other systems require additional administration which puts additional strain on limited staff resources.
- Minor updates continue to be made to CRM to enhance operation and feedback elements.
- 2.3 A new report has been prepared to display the relevant PROW/Trails information via PowerBI **Appendix 1 (a) Stats for the last 3 months and Appendix 1 (b) Stats for the last 2 years.**
- 2.4 In summary, the Mayrise system of logged requests for service on 5th June 2024 had 1,682 open issues for Public Rights of Way (up 142 comparable with the last quarter figures). The fact that overall numbers remain high 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. Vigorous vegetation growth has led to an increase in enquiries about surface maintenance. With regard to Section 2.2 above, exacerbating this issue is that NCC continues to receive, from one source, a high volume of enquiries regarding PROW issues, some of which were considered disparaging and aggressive, and also persistent use of other reporting systems which is leading to the loss of data and requiring significant additional administration. This is diverting the limited resources away from the priorities of the service.
- 2.5 The original 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 LAs are now re-evaluating the importance of adequately maintaining local path networks and several Eastern Region Highway Authorities have recently reported increases in staff numbers and maintenance budgets in order to manage the demand. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the increased use of local networks continues with people having formed new habits of getting outdoor exercise. There is no shortage of evidence relating to the importance of how local path networks contribute to health and wellbeing.
- 2.6 At the current time there are no additional financial resources earmarked for PROW maintenance. 3 x PROW Technicians have commenced their roles in mid-September 2021, one each in support of Countryside Access Officer for the three highway areas in an attempt to tackle some of the backlog of open issues. The contracts have now been extended to March 2025.

- 2.7 Overall, the number of unresolved public enquiries through the CRM system is remaining up slightly from the last quarter. As of the 5th June 2024, the Norfolk Trails Team had 219 open CRM issues (up 20)
PROW had 188 open CRM issues, (up 7)
- 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 2024. 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:
- 64 Section 131A,134-137 Non-reinstatement Notices/emails 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.
 - Since April 2024, 7 Section 130's (obstructions) or s56 (out of repair) notices have been received by NCC. These are legal notices served against 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 staff resources.
- 2.11 In terms of other progress, key highlights include:
- Higher incidences of people using local paths during Covid and anecdotal evidence that this has continued since. The wet winter 20/21 saw an increase in flooding reports and associated bridge damage. These issues are still being worked through and there have been further instances of issues caused by the wet winter of 2023/4. 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 each financial year.
 - Smaller scale bridges/ligger crossings remain a Highway Area responsibility and are also subject to continual cyclic replacement.
 - 2024 cutting: The 2024 season commenced with cutting from early may which continues and nears the end of the first cut (of 2 for PROW and 3 for Trails)
 - 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 to date this only currently applies to a handful of parishes.
 - Enforcement procedures were carried out on a path at Upwell in 2021 but the path is again obstructed. The matter is now with NPLaw regarding potential court action. June 2024 update: No further progress has been made. Several longstanding obstruction cases remain ongoing. A growing number of encroachment cases are under investigation.
 - In 2023 PROW staff attended an “enforcement” course run by the Institute of Public Rights of Way(IPROW). As a result the CAO's will be compiling some procedures for PROW to complement NCC's overarching enforcement protocols drawn up by Trading Standards and others, to ensure a consistent approach across the Council.
-

- Not all ‘enforcement’ relies on more formal action. It might be more appropriately be termed as “compliance”. Most landowners respond to reinstatement notices and there continues to be dialogue with most landowners leading to small scale improvements that are nevertheless essential to the integrity of the network. A landowner at Wigenhall proposes to bequeath a replacement bridge on a favourite walk. This is due for completion by the end of June 2024
- The £15k “Urban paths” allocation has a shortlist of sites considered for funding for the next 2 to 3 years assuming this funding stream remains available. Two schemes were completed in 2023. Prices for the work have risen significantly but the overall budget for such works has remained static. Discussions are ongoing with a Parish Council regarding a scheme in South area for 2024.
- County Councillors have “Member Fund” to allocate to local Highway projects each year, increased to £11k each for 2023/24 and this can be spent on small scale PROW projects of maintenance or improvement. To date, uptake on tackling PROW issues has been limited. Several potential schemes have been suggested by PROW staff.
- NCC has recently been rated as No1 (against comparable authorities) in the National Highways and Transportation Survey for customer satisfaction regarding public rights of way.

2.12 Norfolk and National Trails

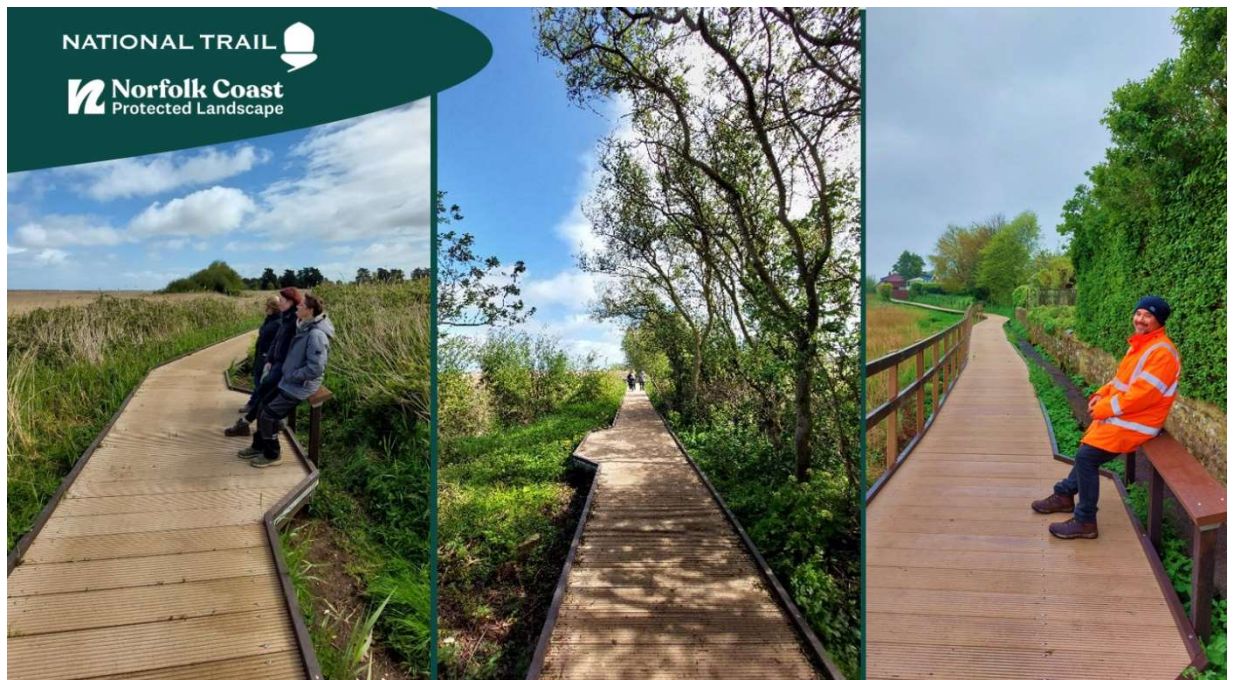
Updates on work taking place over the last quarter are outlined below.

2.13 National Trails: Peddars Way & Norfolk Coast Path

East of England Coast Partnership (formerly East Anglia Coast Path) update:

Partnership talks were recently led by Suffolk County Council. Motion to co-finance an Officer put forward and supported by all partners in principle. Greater clarity/agreement on financial implications and intentions of Partnership formation is required before Norfolk County Council can commit funds. There have been no further communications or meetings since Dec 2023.

Brancaster boardwalk: The Brancaster Boardwalk has been completed and is open to the public. Feedback to date has been excellent. A launch event scheduled for 7 June has been postponed to later in the year, as Norfolk County Council is now in the pre-election period. Our intention is to now celebrate this more formally early autumn with activities at Brancaster, to engage with new audiences.

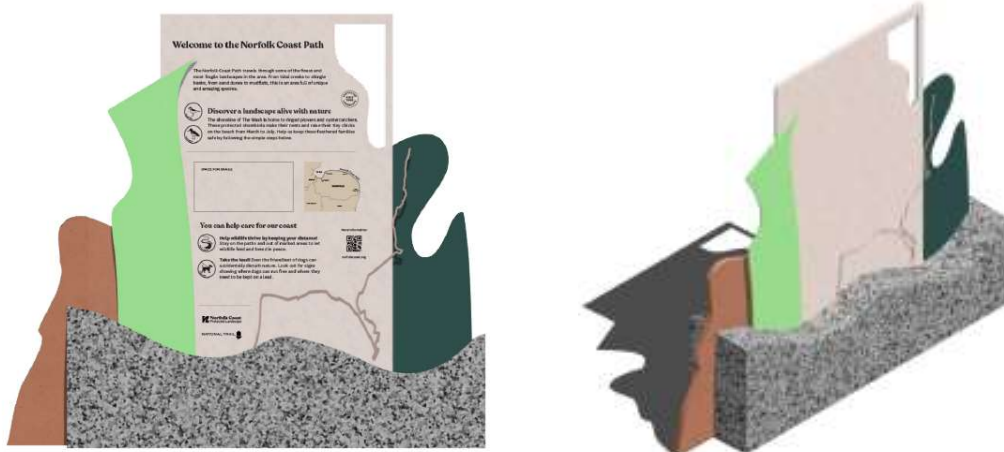


Norfolk Coast Path developments: ‘Stretch 3’ of the Norfolk Coast Path (part of the King Charles III England Coast Path, between Hunstanton to Weybourne) is still with the planning inspectorate. We currently have no date but conversation is ongoing between Natural England and the inspectorate, indicating it is progressing.

Maintenance at Beeston Bump, Sheringham: Repair works at Beeston Bump are a priority. We are currently waiting for permission/consent from NNDC and Natural England.

Coastal erosion: Variation reports are underway at Sidestrand and Happisburgh locations, linked to severe coastal erosion. This is a priority work area for the team and is currently absorbing a lot of resource.

Interpretation: New interpretation is underway for the newly opened Stretch 4 of the Coast Path, between Hunstanton and Sutton Bridge. Signs have been designed to be aligned with our Protected Landscapes new branding and use mixed/tactile materials to engage with wider range of users. The signs at each location will be slightly different to fit in with the location, and to retain attention.



Additional interpretation for ‘Stretch 3’: A funding bid (£43,100) has been submitted to Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) for enhanced interpretation further along the National Trail. There is a panel meeting on 10 June to award funding.

Engagement through guided walks: We are collaborating with the Youth Hostel Association (YHA) on developing guided walks, with the ambition being to align with Pathmakers/walking festival and the Norfolk Coast Dark Skies Festival. This is part of a national programme of events and helps us introduce the Coast Path to a new audience.

Engagement through the NTUK Summit: National Trail Team attended the NTUK summit in Cheltenham. Helen Terry was invited to present the Brancaster Boardwalk project as an example of best practice.

National Trails Coast Path Forum: Helen Terry has been appointed as Chair of National Trail Coast Path Forum. This forum engages all the National Trails along the coastline of England and Wales and brings ‘a voice for the coast’ to the National Trails UK Advisory Council.

National Trail Partnership: Work continues on revitalising the National Partnership, and the team had a meeting with Cllr Andrew Jamieson, Chair of the Partnership and Deputy Leader of the Council to discuss this on 7 June 2024. We will be updating the Partnership’s Terms of Reference, Mission and Vision and reviewing membership of the Partnership. The first meeting expected end of August/beginning of September 2024.

Cutting Contract Tender: One of the most prominent issues on the Trails network is vegetation growth, which means the cutting contract is an important part of the maintenance schedule. This is the framework for the National Trails, Norfolk Trails and the Public Rights of Way teams. The contract was up for re-tender this year and Benjiman Grapes in the National Trail team has been leading on changes to ensure the contractors work effectively and can manage a sustainable area. We have now appointed our contractors this year and will be monitoring their progress. However, it will remain a challenge to keep abreast of the growth due to the recent weather conditions.

2.14 Norfolk Trails

Recruitment: Recruitment of Norfolk Trails team leader and additional Norfolk Trails Maintenance Officer is approved and underway. This will provide valuable assistance to Martin Caplin and Jason Smyth in maintaining the promoted Norfolk Trails network. This recruitment will represent a significant increase in staffing levels, bringing the number of Norfolk Trail officers to four.

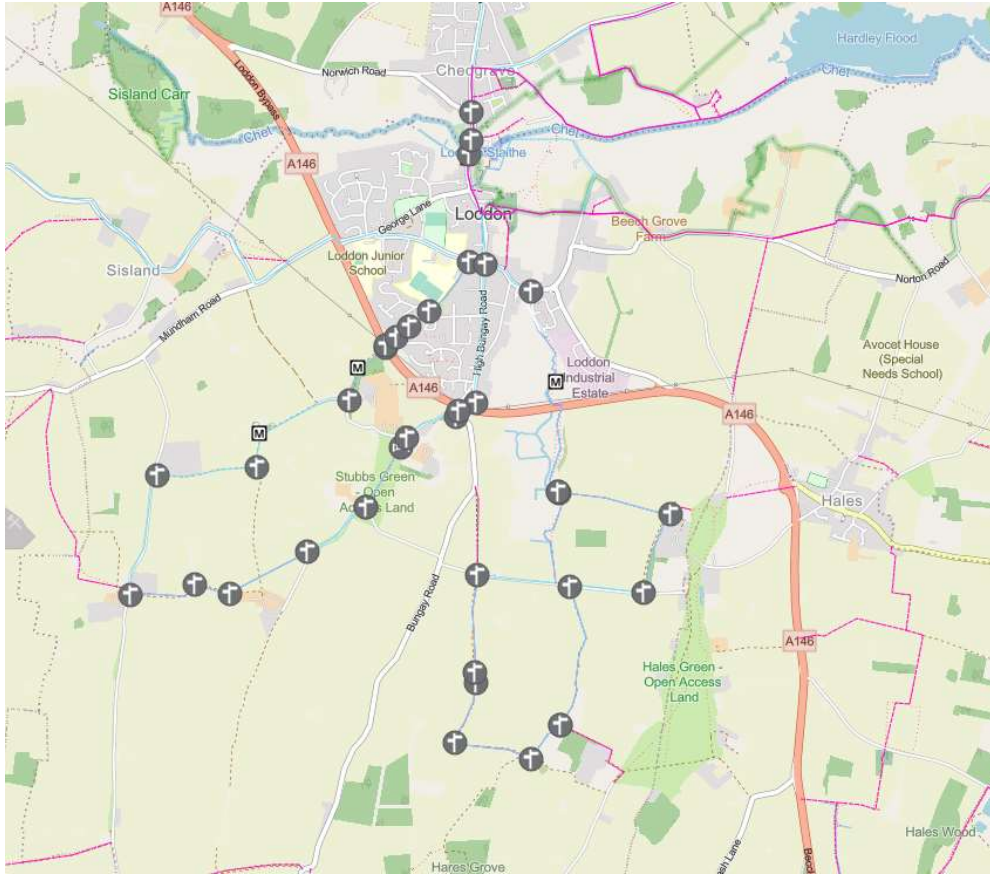
Wherryman’s Way Circular Walks: As part of the Community Infrastructure Levy (GP51) Wherryman’s Way Circular Walks Improvements Project, the Norfolk Trails team have completed the required outputs, improving access and making the routes viable for more users. In the last three months they have:

- Improved four circular walks with bi-directional signage throughout and waymarking
- Improved access including replacing squeeze gates with wide-berth kissing gates
- Improved bridge width and included handrails and access ramps
- Added seating

The full list of works is outlined in the table below:

Location	Improvement
Loddon Ingloss Circular Walk	12 fingerposts and 4 waymarkers
Rockland Circular Walk	8 fingerposts and 2 waymarkers
Claxton Circular Walk	10 fingerposts and 1 waymarker
Warren Hills Circular Walk	9 fingerposts and 1 waymarker
Loddon BR23	Culvert improvement
Loddon FP16	Bridge Access Improvements
Loddon FP14	Bridge Access Improvements
Loddon FP18	2 Kissing gates
Loddon FP16	1 Kissing gate
Loddon FP14 Cannell Road	New Ligger Bench
Loddon FP14	Replace Ligger Bench

Map of signage improvements:



Examples of work completed:





3. Clarification of Timescales re issue reporting

- 3.1 The NLA requested clarification of the issue reporting process which is presented below:
- 3.2 If an issue is reported online this will be allocated to the tablet of the responsible Countryside Access Officer/ Trail Officer for review almost straight away. If there is a danger to life, we advise customers to call in and our

colleagues in the customer service centre would alert the local team so that they can take remedial action within 2 hours. If a report is made by fixmystreet or by email, there will be a delay as these have to be manually added to the system (usually one working day)

- 3.3 Officers will assign a priority to each defect reported based upon a risk assessment. Our Countryside Access Officers will prioritise enquiries as per the TAMP):

9.1.1.1.7. Public Rights of Way

9.1.1.1.7.1. Work programmes are based on a risk assessment of the severity of the problem and the likelihood of its affecting others. Issue logged for attention as follows:

- High – if it affects a nationally, or regionally, promoted route
- Medium – if it affects a well-connected or well used path
- Low – if it affects only an isolated generally unused path or one that runs alongside another path. Those deemed a low priority will be actioned when resources are available.

A full breakdown of the defect risk register for PROW can be found in APP D (viii) of the TAMP here: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/-/media/norfolk/downloads/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/policies-and-strategies/roads-and-transport/transport-asset-management-plan-part-3.pdf>

The risk register helps officers determine the priority. The timescales of which are below.

(i) If the defect is not deemed an emergency and is on a trail, it is allocated to a Trails Officer to investigate, prioritise and action based upon the resources available.

(ii) If an issue has already been reported, this should be visible on the online map so the customer knows that this has already been identified. The customer who reported the issue will get an email update after investigation to advise if this is a duplicate (where we have identified the issue already and it is in the system); if we are sending out a letter to landowners; or if we have identified work is required. If it has been identified that work is needed and a customer has not had a response in over 6 weeks, our customer service colleague will look to see the status of the defect and assign to the relevant officer to provide an update.

4. Evidence and Reasons for Decision

4.1 N/A

5. Alternative Options

5.1 N/A

6. Financial Implications

6.1 Officers and contractors are aware of labour, plant, fuel, and material rising costs, these rising costs are discussed regularly with our contractors adjustments are then made to NCC financial control systems, however funding availability may have an impact on project delivery if costs continue to rise. This ongoing issue will be monitored and fed back to the LAF as deemed necessary.

7. Resource Implications

7.1 Staff:
Please see paragraph 6.1

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. **That the Norfolk Local Access Forum notes the progress made to date since the Countryside Access Officer posts were introduced.**

12. Background Papers

12.1 none other than the Appendices

12.2

Officer Contact

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

Officer name:

Jason Moorse

Katy Owen

Telephone no.:

Tel No: 01553 778002

Tel No. 01603 222773

Email:

jason.moorse@norfolk.gov.uk

katy.owen@norfolk.gov.uk



If you need this report in large print, audio, braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact 0344 800 8020 or 0344 800 8011 (textphone) and we will do our best to help.

Appendix 1 (a) Performance information (PROw/Trails defects) last 3 months

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

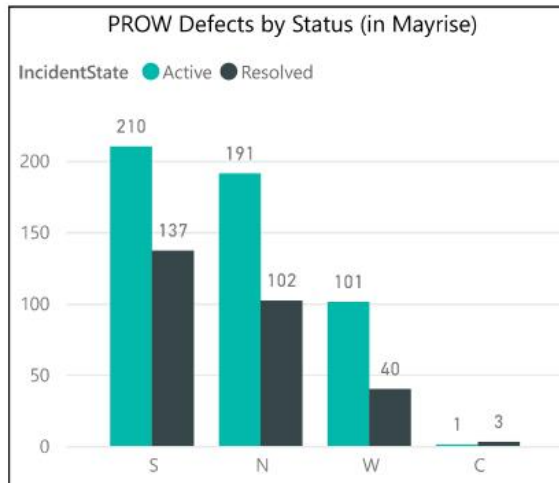
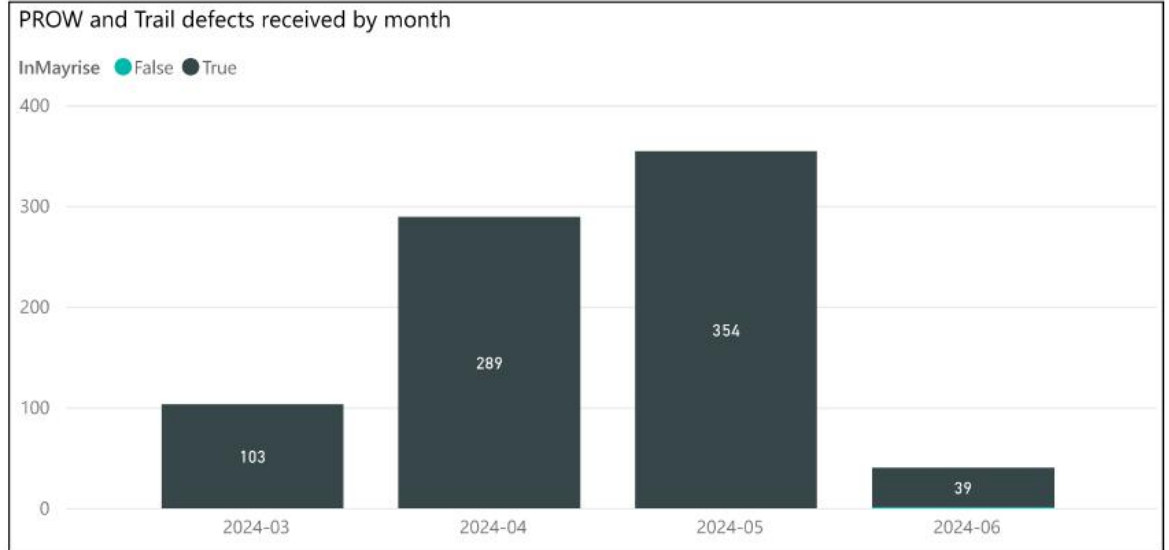
Volume of PROW/Trail defects by type

DescriptionOfFault	C	N	S	W	Total	
PROW - Damaged or missing sign		50	76	34	160	
PROW - Overgrown surface -e.g. grass/weeds		65	46	24	135	
PROW - Crops/ploughing affecting footpath		24	42	10	76	
PROW - Overgrown hedge/tree	1	20	33	7	61	
PROW - Obstruction -e.g. building works, fences, ditches, locked gate		17	30	12	59	
PROW - Surface condition		26	14	12	52	
PROW - Misleading sign		11	21	5	37	
PROW - Tree dangerous/fallen		6	18	5	29	
Trail - Surface condition		14	6	4	24	
PROW - Gate/Barrier		7	7	4	18	
PROW - Bridge		4	8	2	14	
Trail - Damaged or missing sign		5	7	2	14	
Trail - Overgrown surface -e.g. grass/weeds		5	6	2	13	
Trail - Overgrown hedge/tree		6	2	4	12	
Trail - Tree dangerous/fallen	1	6	4	1	12	
Trail - Flooded Path		1	2	6	9	
Trail - Steps damaged/other		6	3		9	
Trail- Obstruction -e.g. building works, fences, ditches, locked gate		4	2	2	8	
PROW - Illegal / Vehicle Use		3	1	2	6	
PROW - Stile damaged/too/high/other		4	2		6	
	1	1		3	5	
PROW - Flooded Path		1	4		5	
PROW - Steps damaged/other		4	1		5	
Trail - Illegal / Vehicle Use	1	3	1		5	
Trail - Bridge	1	1	2		4	
Trail - Misleading sign		1	3		4	
PROW - Animal(s)			2	1	3	
Trail - Crops/ploughing affecting footpath			3		3	
Trail - Gate/Barrier		1	1	1	3	
Trail - Animal(s)			1	1	2	
Total	1	4	298	347	144	794

Report Date Range

Last
3
Months

📅 07/03/2024 - 06/06/2024



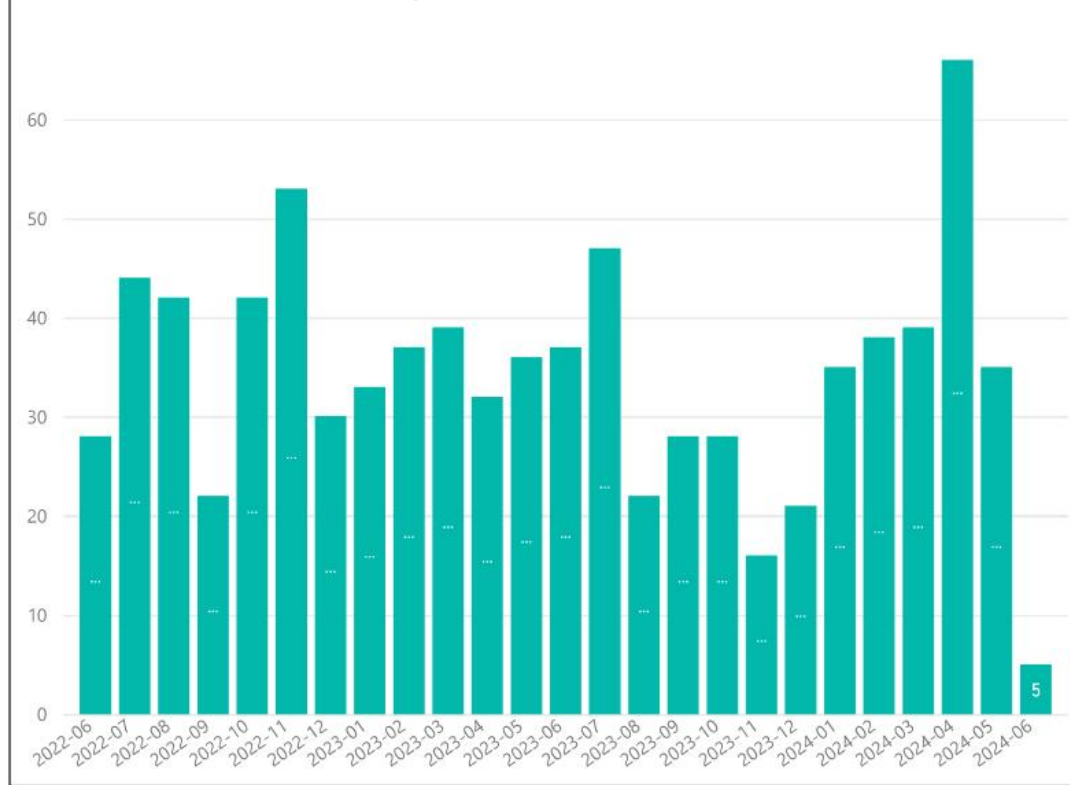
Public Right of Way and Trail FAQ Report

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

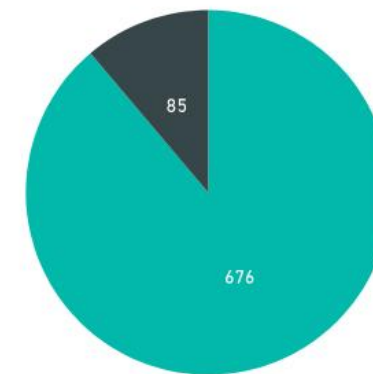
Last [v] 2 [v] Years [v]
 07/06/2022 - 06/06/2024

Volume of PROW/Trail FAQs by question

Question	Count of CaseNumber
Section 130 notice received	1
I've seen unauthorised cycling, driving or riding on a Public Right of Way or Trail. What can be done?	10
I would like information about a Norfolk Trail	26
I have an enquiry about the definitive map	27
I have an enquiry about PROW or Trail grass cutting	36
I have an enquiry concerning common land	36
	51
I have an enquiry about a PROW or would like to speak to a PROW officer	668
Total	855

PROW/Trail FAQs received by Status

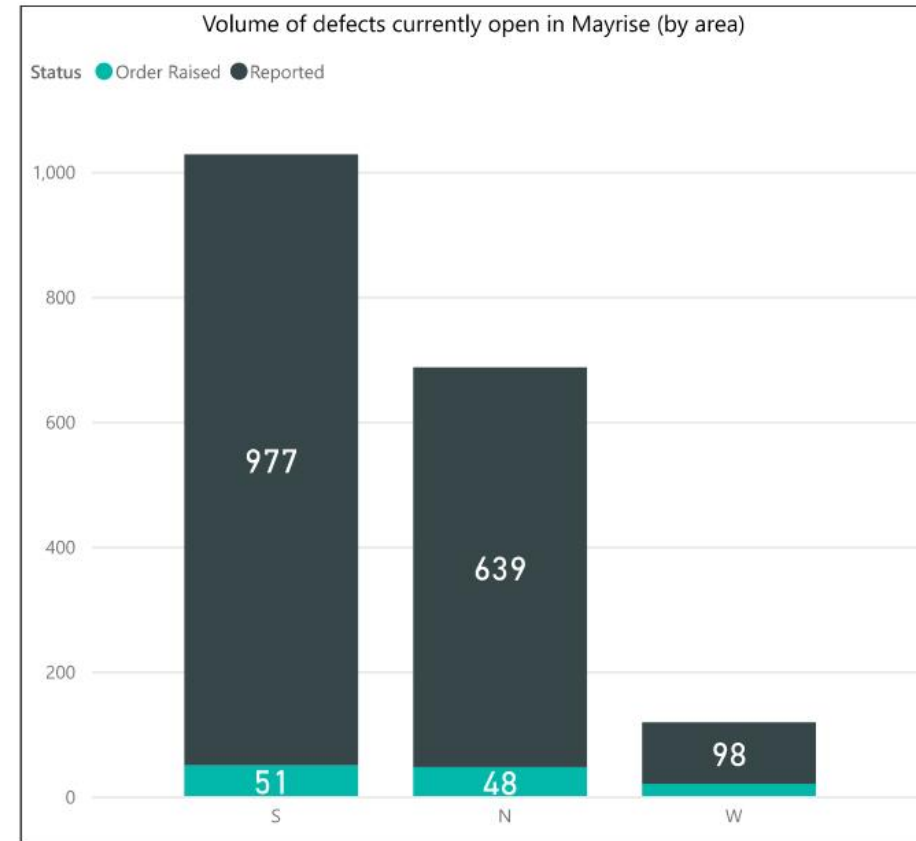
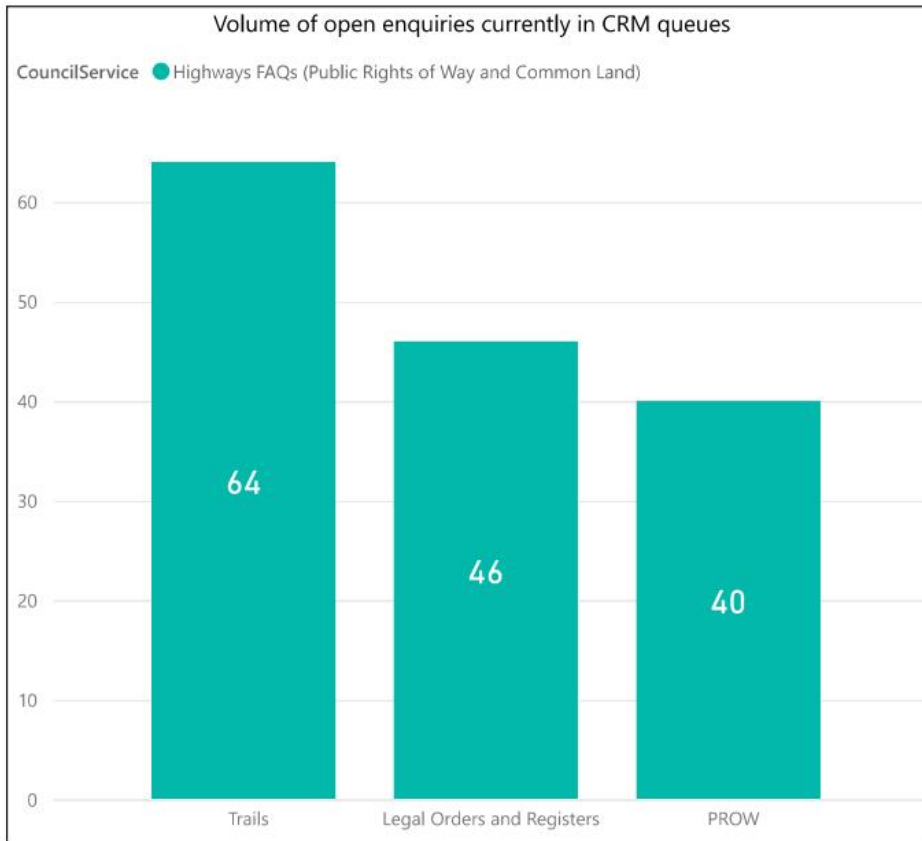
IncidentState ● Resolved ● Active



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.



This page looks at the average number of days from when a defect is reported to inspected and reported to repaired.

This data is for all defects within the Highways Management System (it does not include general enquiries)

This is the average length of time between report and inspection (in days) for defects created in the specified time scale.



Select time period

CREATEDATE

Last

3

Months

07/03/2024 - 06/06/2024

Average of Reported to Inspected Days

LEVEL2	Average of NCC_PL_Days_Reported-Inspected
PROW	7.92
TRLS	8.05
Total	7.95

This is the average length of time between report and repair (in days) for defects created in the specified time scale. This looks at all defects that have been completed.



Average of report to Repair Days

LEVEL2	Average of NCCReportRepairDays
PROW	23.03
TRLS	49.90
Total	34.92

Appendix 1 (b) Performance information (PROW/Trails defects) last 2 years

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	3	555	360	118	1036	
PROW - Damaged or missing sign		380	445	93	918	
PROW - Overgrown hedge/tree	6	273	273	89	641	
PROW - Obstruction -e.g. building works, fences, ditches, locked gate	1	224	190	68	483	
PROW - Crops/ploughing affecting footpath		227	178	25	430	
PROW - Surface condition	2	188	101	49	340	
Trail - Overgrown hedge/tree	19	107	89	41	256	
Trail - Overgrown surface -e.g. grass/weeds	4	134	95	9	242	
Trail - Surface condition	10	128	67	20	225	
PROW - Tree dangerous/fallen	3	106	82	32	223	
Trail - Damaged or missing sign		77	71	14	162	
PROW - Bridge		41	107	11	159	
PROW - Gate/Barrier		80	54	22	156	
PROW - Misleading sign		69	59	10	138	
Trail - Tree dangerous/fallen	9	81	32	7	129	
Trail- Obstruction -e.g. building works, fences, ditches, locked gate	2	43	41	6	92	
PROW - Flooded Path		28	33	6	67	
PROW - Stile damaged/too/high/other		25	36	2	63	
Trail - Gate/Barrier	6	23	30	4	63	
Trail - Illegal / Vehicle Use	6	33	17	2	58	
PROW - Illegal / Vehicle Use		18	23	14	55	
Trail - Steps damaged/other	1	36	7	2	46	
Trail - Bridge	3	10	24	4	41	
	1	1	17	15	40	
PROW - Animal(s)			17	15	39	
Trail - Misleading sign	1		13	13	35	
PROW - Steps damaged/other			17	11	32	
Trail - Flooded Path	1	10	13	8	32	
Trail - Crops/ploughing affecting footpath		7	20	1	28	
Trail - Animal(s)			8	5	16	
Total	2	78	2981	2510	685	6256

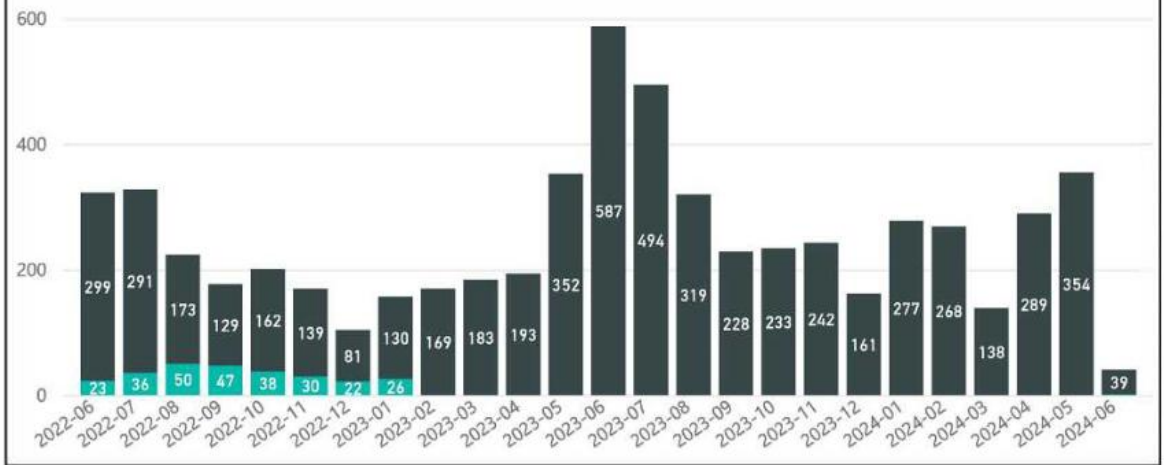
Report Date Range

Last 2 Years

07/06/2022 - 06/06/2024

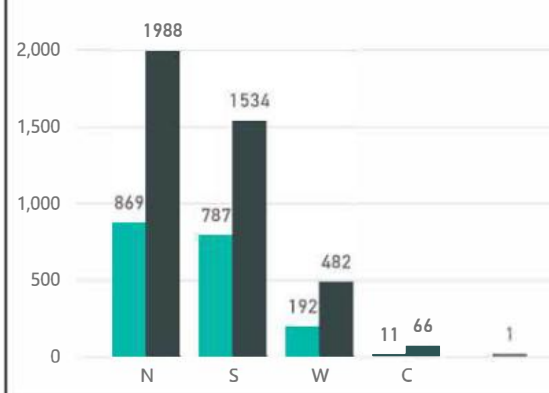
PROW and Trail defects received by month

InMayrise ● False ● True



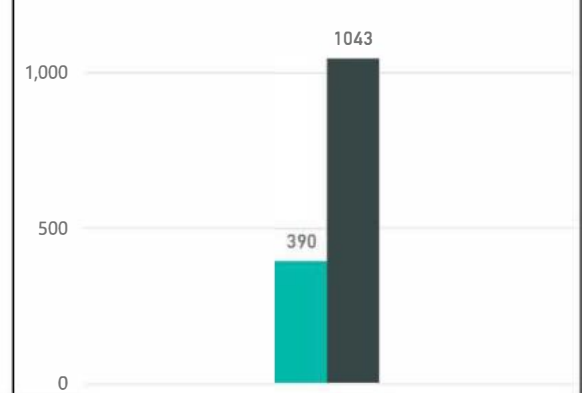
PROW Defects by Status (in Mayrise)

IncidentState ● Active ● Resolved



Trails Defects by Status

IncidentState ● Active ● Resolved



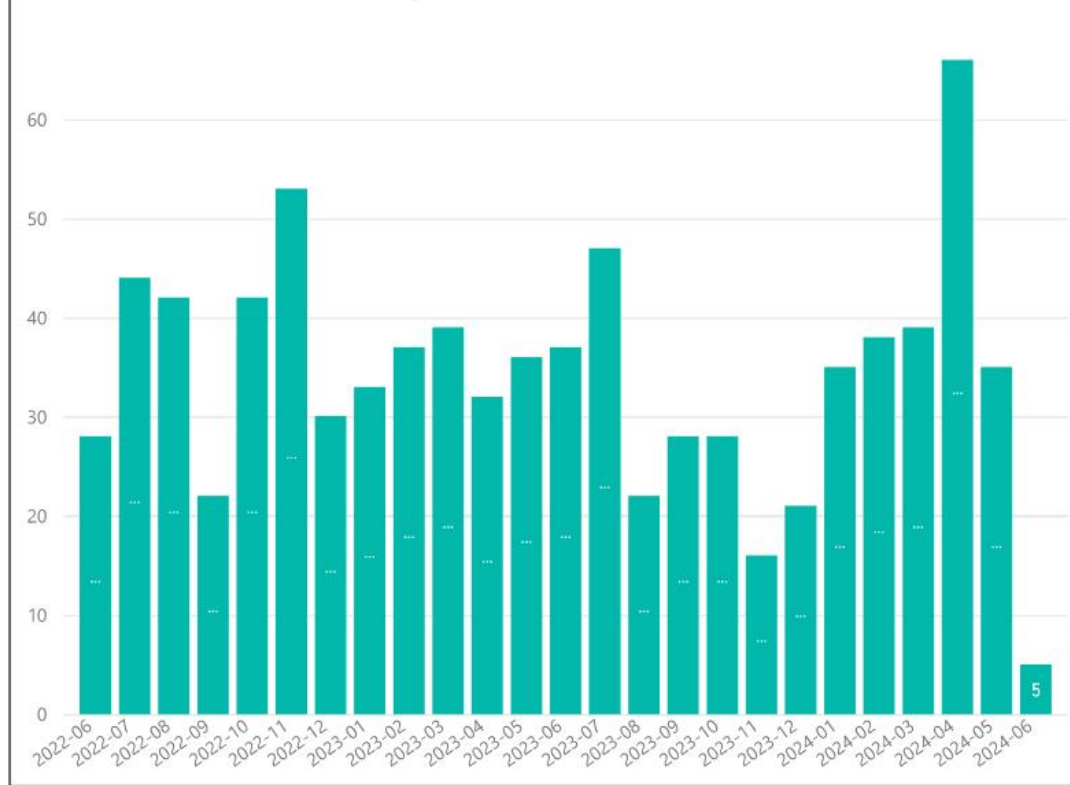
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Volume of PROW/Trail FAQs received by month



Report Date Range

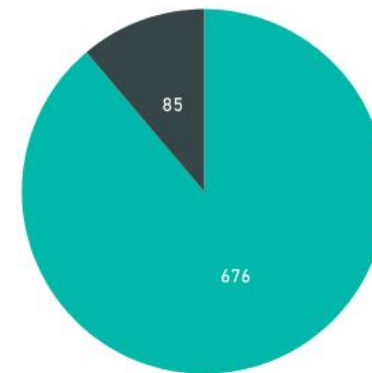
Last [v] 2 [v] Years [v]
 07/06/2022 - 06/06/2024

Volume of PROW/Trail FAQs by question

Question	Count of CaseNumber
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Total	855

PROW/Trail FAQs received by Status

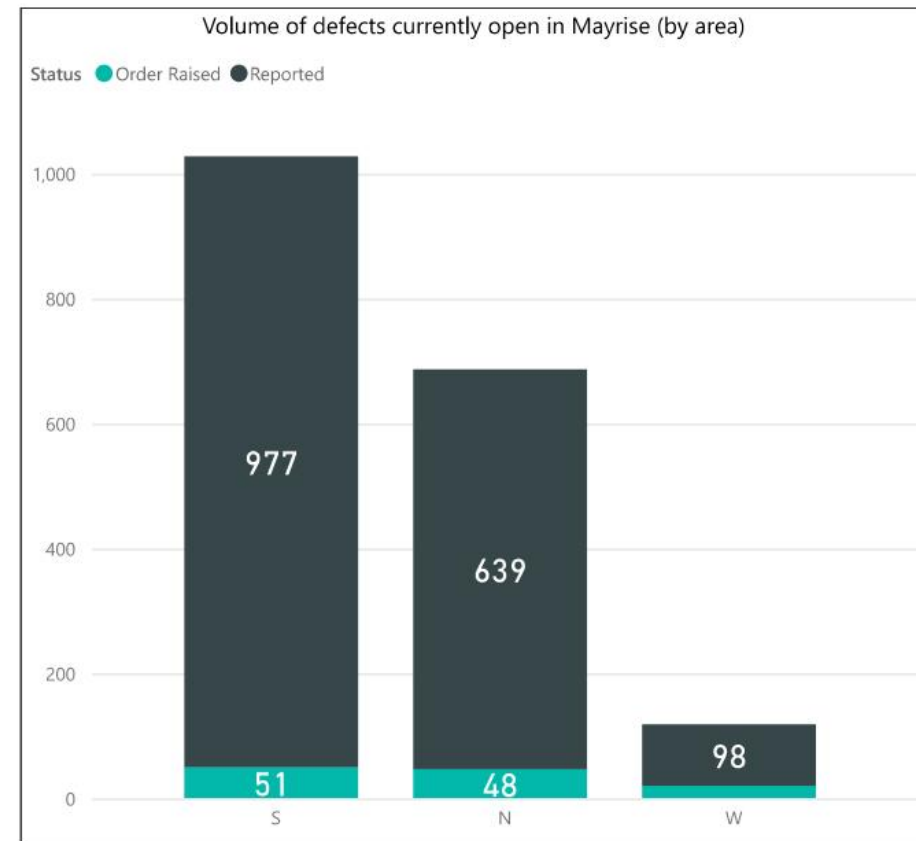
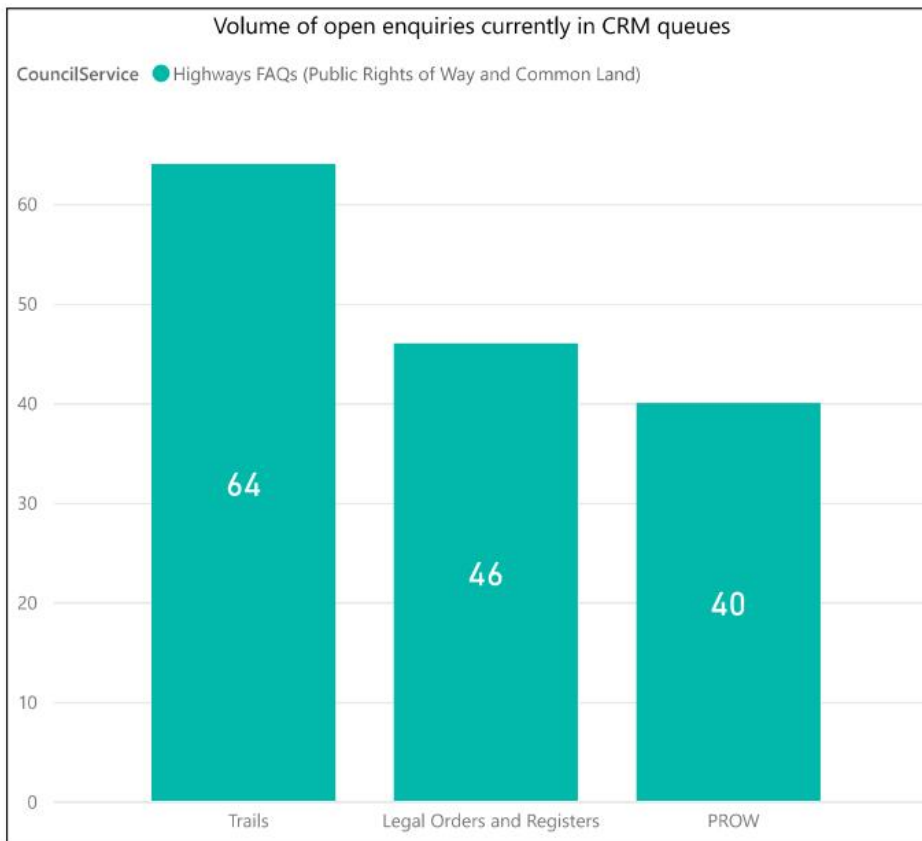
IncidentState ● Resolved ● Active



Active Enquiries

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This page looks at the average number of days from when a defect is reported to inspected and reported to repaired.

This data is for all defects within the Highways Management System (it does not include general enquiries)

This is the average length of time between report and inspection (in days) for defects created in the specified time scale.



Select time period

CREATEDATE

Last

3

Months

07/03/2024 - 06/06/2024

Average of Reported to Inspected Days

LEVEL2	Average of NCC_PI_Days_Reported-Inspected
PROW	7.92
TRLS	8.05
Total	7.95

This is the average length of time between report and repair (in days) for defects created in the specified time scale. This looks at all defects that have been completed.



Average of report to Repair Days

LEVEL2	Average of NCCReportRepairDays
PROW	23.03
TRLS	49.90
Total	34.92

Norfolk Local Access Forum

Item No:

Report Title: Major Infrastructure Projects and Planning

Date of Meeting: 3rd July 2024

Responsible Cabinet Member: Cllr James Bensly (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 NLAF by the NCC Growth and Investment 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 the NCC Growth and Investment Team and made available to the NLAF (Appendix 1)

2. Proposal

- 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 FAQs here

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/application-process/frequently-asked-questions/#pre-app>

4.2 The Local Access Forums Regulations

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2007/268/contents/made>

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/contents>

5. Alternative Options

5.1 none

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: Su Waldron

Telephone no.

Email: su.waldron@norfolk.gov.uk



If you need this report in large print, audio, braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact 0344 800 8020 or 0344 800 8011 (textphone) and we will do our best to help.

Appendix 1 (Major Infrastructure Projects and Planning report)

Summary of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) and other Major Strategic Projects- June 2024

See also <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/policies-and-strategies/strategic-planning-and-infrastructure/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects>

Summary of NSIP Proposals and other Major Projects		
	Proposal (Applicant)	Status / Note
1. 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)</p> <p>For further information: https://hornseaproject3.co.uk/ https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/hornsea-project-three-offshore-wind-farm/</p> <p>Onshore works have commenced. There have been several “flooding issues” associated with works in North Norfolk and at the Norwich Main Substation site. These are currently being investigated by LLFA; EA; Highway Authority and the relevant Planning Authorities</p> <p>Hornsea 3 community Benefit Fund will be available soon (2023/24), in the meantime applications to the East Coast Community Fund by communities affected by the cabling route are encouraged: https://grantscape.org.uk/fund/eastcoastcommunityfund/</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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landfall at Happisburgh; • Grid Connection at Necton 	<p>Applicant: Vattenfall (Swedish)</p> <p>For further information: https://group.vattenfall.com/uk/what-we-do/our-projects/vattenfallinnorfolk/norfolk-vanguard https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/norfolk-vanguard/</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>Construction has started September 2023, with ducting to be installed from March 2024 (Necton to River Wensum).</p> <p>Community Benefit Fund expected https://group.vattenfall.com/uk/what-we-do/our-projects/vattenfallinnorfolk/norfolk-zone-community-benefit-fund</p> <p>In December 2023 Vattenfall announced they were selling both Norfolk Vanguard and Norfolk Boreas to RWE and that the Norfolk Boreas Project would be re-instated. The sale to RWE was completed in May 2024.</p>
1.3	<p>Norfolk 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: https://group.vattenfall.com/uk/what-we-do/our-projects/vattenfallinnorfolk/norfolk-boreas https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/norfolk-boreas/</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>In December 2023 Vattenfall announced they were selling both Norfolk Vanguard and Norfolk Boreas to RWE and that the Norfolk Boreas Project would be re-instated. The sale to RWE was completed in May 2024.</p>
1.4	<p>Extension to Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon Wind Farms (Single NSIP)</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 	<p>Applicant: Equinor (Norwegian)</p> <p>For further information: https://www.equinor.com/en/how-and-why/impact-assessments/dudgeon-and-sheringham-extension-projects.html https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/sheringham-and-dudgeon-extension-projects</p> <p>The Secretary of State granted development consent on 17 April 2024.</p>

	station (too small output).	
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2. Onshore Projects		
Highway Projects		
2.1	<p>A47 Blofield to North Burlingham Dualling Scheme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start date January – March 2022-23; • End date 2024-25; • Cost £50-£100 million <p>The project will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver 2.6 KM of dual carriageway 	<p>Applicant: National Highways</p> <p>For further information:</p> <p>https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/east/a47-blofield-to-north-burlingham/</p> <p>https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/a47-blofield-to-north-burlingham/</p> <p>Planning consent has been granted to proceed with the works to the A47 between Blofield and North Burlingham.</p> <p>A legal case heard in July 2003 had challenged the decisions from the Secretary of State for Transport to grant development consent orders (DCOs) for this and two other A47 improvement schemes near Norwich. The High Court dismissed the claimant’s argument.</p> <p>However, on 18 October, the Court of Appeal granted the claimant a right to have his appeal heard.</p> <p>A one-day hearing was held on 16 January 2024 and on 22 February the Court of Appeal Judges dismissed the appeal. A request to hear the case at the Supreme Court was lodged, but the Judges have dismissed this appeal.</p>
2.2	<p>A47 / A11 Thickthorn Junction Improvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start of works Jan - March 2023; • Open to Traffic 2024/2025. • Cost- £50-£100 million <p>The project will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • help relieve congestion at Thickthorn junction by providing two new free- 	<p>Applicant: National Highways</p> <p>For further information:</p> <p>https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/east/a47-thickthorn-junction-near-norwich</p> <p>A decision on the application for a Development Consent Order for A47 – A11 Thickthorn Junction was taken on 14 October 2022 and has now been issued.</p>

	<p>flowing slip roads that will connect the A47 with the A11. The new slip roads will re-route traffic away from the junction and flow it under new underpasses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove the existing footbridge over the A47 and a new footbridge for walkers, cyclists and horse riders provided. 	<p>Start of works June 2023 - delayed;</p> <p>Timetable is awaiting confirmation following the election period.</p> <p>(See above A47 Update from National Highways on the legal challenge.)</p>
2.3	<p>A47 North Tuddenham to Easton Dualling Scheme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start of works Jan-March 22-23 End Date 2024 / 2025 Cost £100 - £250 million <p>The scheme will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a new dual carriageway to replace the existing single carriageway between North Tuddenham and Easton. Build two new junctions to better connect the side roads into the new dual carriageway, the first will be at Berry's Lane and Wood Lane and the second is at Blind Lane and Taverham Road. Remove the existing roundabout at Easton to create safer routes for walkers, cyclists and other vulnerable users. 	<p>Applicant: National Highways</p> <p>For further information: https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/east/a47-north-tuddenham-to-easton-improvements9km</p> <p>Development Consent Order (DCO) granted.</p> <p>Timetable is awaiting confirmation following the election period.</p>

2.4	<p>A47 Vauxhall Junction (not currently a NSIP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start Date 2023-24 • End Date 2024-25 • Cost £25- £50 million <p>Proposals under development.</p> <p>The scheme will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • make journeys quicker, safer and more reliable, allow for increased future traffic and help grow the local economy (Great Yarmouth) 	<p>Applicant: National Highways</p> <p>For further information:</p> <p>https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/east/a47-vauxhall-roundabout/</p>
2.6	<p>Norwich Western Link (NWL) (not an NSIP)</p> <p>The scheme will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a new 3.8 mile dual carriageway road connecting the western end of Broadland Northway to the A47 trunk road. 	<p>Applicant: Norfolk County Council</p> <p>Further information:</p> <p>https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/major-projects-and-improvement-plans/norwich/norwich-western-link/about-the-norwich-western-link</p> <p>NCC Cabinet agreed the appointment of the contractor in June 2021.</p> <p>An update was taken to cabinet on 4 December 2023 (https://norfolkcc.cmis.uk.com/norfolkcc/CalendarofMeetings/tabid/128/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/496/Meeting/2055/Committee/169/Default.aspx)</p> <p>The report confirmed an updated budget and timescale for delivery (main construction 2026-2029) and it was agreed to submit the planning application as soon as possible (early 2024).</p> <p>Planning application was submitted in April 2024</p>
3. Other Projects (not highways related)		
3.1	<p>The Medworth Project – Waste to Energy</p> <p>Energy from waste combined heat and power facility generating electricity and steam on land at Algores Way, Wisbech.</p>	<p>Applicant: MVV Environment Ltd.</p> <p>Further information:</p> <p>https://www.mvv-medworthchp.co.uk/about-the-project</p> <p>https://www.mvv-medworthchp.co.uk/news/</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. • Grid connection will be in Norfolk to Walpole sub-station via an over-head power line 132 kv 	<p>https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/medworth-energy-from-waste-combined-heat-and-power-facility/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application was received by the Planning Inspectorate on Thursday 7 July 2022 and accepted for examination. Examination opened on 21 February 2023 and closed 21.8.2023 • Details of the Preliminary Meeting TBC • Public Rights of Way plan available here • Targeted start construction 2024; and complete by 2026. <p>Secretary of State granted development consent on 20 February 2024.</p>
3.2	<p>Norwich to Tilbury (previously East Anglia Green) - National Grid</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>	<p>Applicant: National Grid</p> <p>Further information: https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/norwich-to-tilbury/</p> <p>Interactive map https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ba2cbd9ac64c4723847fae8637d50df3/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soft launch” of the project on 26 January 2022; • Non-Statutory Consultation on the Preferred Route Corridor ran to 16 June 2022 • Statutory Consultation (S42) – April 2024; • Statutory Consultation Submission DCO – Q1 2-25 ; • Examination and Decision 2025-2026 • Construction starts 2027 • Fully Operational from 2031 <p>NCC response to non-statutory consultation(September 2023): CMIS > Calendar of Meetings</p>

		NCC are currently preparing their response to the Statutory Consultation, going to Planning and Highways Delegation Committee on 10 June. Deadline for the consultation has been extended to Friday 26 July due to the election period.
3.3	<p>Grimsby to Walpole – National Grid</p> <p>Proposed new 400 kV overhead line and substation at Walpole</p>	<p>Proposal includes a new stand-alone Substation located at Walpole comprising 12.6 Ha site. There would be approximately 2 – 3 KM of 400kV overhead line entering Norfolk from the Lincolnshire border.</p> <p>Non-statutory Consultation was held on 18 January 2024 for 8 week period.</p> <p>Further detail can be viewed:</p> <p>https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/grimsby-to-walpole</p>
3.4	<p>Eastern Green Links 3 and 4</p> <p>National Grid project</p>	<p>These two offshore projects comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EGL 3 – HVDC marine cable from Scotland to Lincs (554 km). Landfall the cable buried and would link to a new convertor station at Walpole • EGL 4 – HVDC marine cable from Scotland to Lincs (450 km). Landfall the cable buried and would link to a new convertor station at Walpole • Convertor station sites 19.2 Ha (for both EGL 3 AND 4). <p>Non-statutory Consultation went live in May; the deadline for consultation has been extended to Monday 15 July due to the election period.</p> <p>https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/eastern-green-link-3-and-4</p>
3.5	<p>Fens Reservoir</p> <p>New Reservoir North of Chatteris</p>	<p>Applicant: Anglian Water and Cambridge Water</p> <p>Water transfer infrastructure expected in Norfolk covering new pipelines and service reservoir (TBC).</p> <p>Second round Non statutory Consultation went live 30 May for an 8 week period.</p>

		https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/WA010004
3.6	Larkshall Mill Aggregate Manufacturing and Carbon Capture Facility	The application has been withdrawn by the applicant.