

Norfolk Local Access Forum

Date: **Wednesday 4th October 2023**

Time: **10:30**

Venue: **Edwards Room, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich NR1 2SG**

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

Membership:

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

Mr Chris Allhusen	Mr Simon Fowler
Mr Paul Baker	Ms Ruth Goodall
Mrs Elizabeth Meath Baker	Ms Birgit Griem
Mr Fraser Bowe	Mr Kevin Grieve
Ms Anne Killett	Mr Rob Lodge
Mr Andrew Darby	Ms Sarah Morgan
Ms Karen Davidson	Mr Niall Pettitt
Ms Rebecca Durant	Cllr Maxine Webb

**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 Election of Chair

3 Election of Vice Chair

4 Chair's Announcements

5 Minutes

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 5th July 2023

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6 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.

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

8 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 **5pm Monday 2nd October 2023**. 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>

9 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 **5pm Monday 2nd October 2023**.

10 Feedback from events attended by NLAf members

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

Date Agenda Published: 27th September 2023



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Norfolk Local Access Forum
Minutes of the Meeting Held on 05 July 2023
at 12:30 at Worstead Village Hall, Norfolk

Member:

Martin Sullivan - Chair
Ken Hawkins – Vice Chair
Sarah Morgan
Anne Killett
Simon Fowler
Rebecca Durant
Birgit Griem
Rob Lodge
Ruth Goodall
Kevin Grieve

Representing:

Motorised Vehicles / Pathmakers
Walking
Equestrian
Equestrian
Walking / Pathmakers (Chair)
Cycling and Sustainable Transport
Walking
Nature Conservation
Access to land at the water's edge
Health and wellbeing

Officers Present:

Benjiman Grapes National Trail Officer
Adam Hinchliffe National Trail Officer
Helen Terry National Trail Team Leader
Jason Moore Highways Manager
Su Waldron Project Officer (Environment Team)
Katy Owen Protected Landscapes Manager, CES

1. Apologies for Absence

- 1.1 Chris Allhusen, Elizabeth Meath-Baker, Fraser Bowe, Cllr Maxine Webb, Cllr Lana Hemsall, Paul Baker, Andrew Darby (all NLAFF members)
Matt Hayward (NCC staff)

Cllr Penny Carpenter is no longer a NLAFF member. Cllrs Lana Hemsall and Maxine Webb have been appointed to the NLAFF

Karen Davidson has resigned from the NLAFF

2. Chair's Announcements**2.1 Consultations**

The Chair summarised consultations that the NLAFF had responded to between April 2023 and July 2023 (Appendix 1). The NLAFF's response to planned closures on the England Coast Path (ECP) at Cromer and Mundesley would be discussed under urgent business.

Arrangements for future NLAFF meetings

The Chair reported that NCC Democratic Services have stepped back from their involvement with NLAFF meetings meaning that meetings could be run in a less formal manner.

3. Minutes

3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 5th April 2023 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

4. Declarations of Interest

4.1 There were no interests declared.

5. Urgent Business

5.1 The Forum's response to two planning applications from North Norfolk District Council (NNDC) regarding closures to the ECP at Cromer and Mundesley for sea defence works was discussed.

5.2 The NLA **AGREED** their responses to be sent to NNDC

PF/23/0941 (Cromer) - <https://idoxpa.north-norfolk.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=RTO8I4LN04T00>
It appears that no significant account has been taken of the tourist implications for Cromer and how any effects might be moderated. It also seems clear that the England Coast Path (ECP) runs through parts of the work site and the Norfolk Local Access Forum therefore strongly requests that the planned work be reviewed to ensure that the ECP is safeguarded and safely accessible throughout any works. Should it need to be closed, the closure should be for the shortest possible period and there should be a convenient diversion established and clearly signposted.

PF/23/0942 (Mundesley) - <https://idoxpa.north-norfolk.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=RTO91WLN03D00>
It appears that no significant account has been taken of the tourist implications for Mundesley and how any effects might be moderated. It also seems clear that the England Coast Path (ECP) runs through parts of the work site and the Norfolk Local Access Forum therefore endorses the Norfolk County Council public rights of way response and strongly requests that the planned work be reviewed to ensure that the ECP is safeguarded and safely accessible throughout any works. Should it need to be closed, the closure should be for the shortest possible period and there should be a convenient diversion established and clearly signposted.

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 reported that the Suffolk LAF had taken place in April although he had not been able to attend. Nothing had been drawn to his attention.

8.2 The vice chair reported that he attended the Broads LAF (BLAF) in June which had received a presentation from Ruth Bradshaw of the Campaign for National Parks. A survey by the CNP had revealed that only 0.5% of the Broads National Park is open access which compares unfavourably with Dartmoor, or the Lake District, although this did not account for access to the water. The BLAF also wanted greater action from agencies to improve water quality and would be writing to the Broads Authority about this.

8.3 The next east regional LAF would take place on 20th July.

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 to the chair.

9.3 The NLAf **NOTED** the Forward plan.

10. Norfolk Way Art Trail (funded by the EXPERIENCE project): a tool for community engagement and placemaking

10.1 The Forum received a report from Katy Owen, Manager Protected Landscapes, Norfolk County Council

10.2 The Norfolk Way Art Trail aims to encourage more people to use the Norfolk Trails network and at different times of year. The Art Trail was funded through the EU EXPERIENCE project, which has now closed. The NCC Protected Landscapes Team are now working on a bid to the Arts Council and/ or National Lottery for further funding to improve engagement with Norfolk Trails through additional multisensory art works which will be accessible to all. These would be developed through a process of co-creation and engagement with the local community. The NLAf would be kept abreast of developments.

The chair of Pathmakers, the NLAf's charity, felt that Pathmakers could be involved with potential selection of sites for new art installations to the west of the county, and with community outreach.

10.3 The NLAf **NOTED** the work to develop the Norfolk Art Trail and invited NLAf members to propose additional opportunities.

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

11.1 The NLAf received the reports which set out the latest discussions and recommendations of the sub-groups of the NLAf.

11.2 The NLAf **NOTED** the update and **AGREED**

1. To request an in-depth meeting with NCC Highways specifically for NLAF and other PRoW subgroup members, to explore statistics and information from the Customer Relationship Management (CRM) database concerning PROW faults and resolution (Minute 6.1.4 of the PROW subgroup).
2. To request that Norfolk County Council investigates whether the provisions of s26 of the Highways Act 1980 could be applied to riverside paths lost by water erosion. (Minute 6.2.5 of PROW subgroup).

12. Pathmakers Projects

- 12.1 The NLAF received a report from the Pathmakers chair giving details of recent activities including significant funding awarded from the National Lottery for this year's Norfolk walking festival.
NLAF members congratulated Pathmakers on its success.
- 12.2 The NLAF **NOTED** the report.

13. Potential and Future Funding for Access

- 13.1 The Forum received the report from the Manager of Protected Landscapes at NCC, which gave the NLAF an overview of funding bids in concept/development stage and update on successful applications. The overview covered relevant areas of PRoW, Norfolk Trails and Highways Teams.
The NLAF were introduced to Helen Terry who has recently accepted a post as National Trail Manager and would be developing a business plan and a bid for funding from Farming in Protected Landscapes for access to nature and heritage. Funding from Natural England is received annually (£94,000 for staffing and £14,000 for expenditure) but this did not cover full costs.
A paper to NCC cabinet was under development concerning a future funding model for Norfolk Trails. The Vicechair asked if the wider Public Rights of Way (PROW) network would also receive more funding and it was confirmed that a more holistic approach would be adopted to make effective use of funds across promoted Norfolk Trails and PROW (no distinction between Trails and PROW). This was welcomed by NLAF members.
- 13.2 The NLAF **NOTED** the report.

14. Countryside Access Arrangements update

- 14.1 The Forum received the report which highlighted this work in terms of the volumes of customer queries received and responded to. The paper highlighted the work in terms of the volumes of customer queries received and responded to. The paper also highlighted other key areas of work including a review of large structures (bridges etc.).

Some parishes have taken on PROW vegetation cutting directly with some NCC Councillors using their own member funds to help with costs. The NCC vegetation cutting contract comes up for review shortly (2024) and various aspects would be

explored to ensure work is undertaken in an environmentally friendly manner whilst also economising activities to assist contractors.

The Brancaster boardwalk is going through the planning application process.

- 14.2 The Forum asked about materials used for hard surfacing such as the Weavers' Way improvements which can look stark when first installed. NCC staff reassured members that the surface naturalised with time.
- 14.3 The NLAF requested an update on enforcement at Upwell. The NCC Highways manager present said that progress was being made but the situation was complex.
- 14.4 The NLAF expressed thanks to NCC staff for the level of information provided to the meeting.
- 14.5 The NLAF **NOTED** the progress made to date since the Countryside Access Officer posts were introduced and hoped that staffing resource could be increased to meet the additional demand.

15. NCC Member Sustainable Transport update

- 15.1 The Forum received the annexed report which provided a summary of the key walking and cycling projects relevant to the Local Access Forum.

One NLAF member thought that the lack of a safe place in Norwich to lock up a bike could deter more people for using the Marriott's Way to commute into Norwich.

- 15.2 The NLAF **NOTED** the progress of the walking and cycling projects as outlined in the report.

16. Major Infrastructure Projects and Planning

- 16.1 The Forum received the annexed report which updated them on the major infrastructure projects that were currently underway in the County which impacted on Public Rights of Way.
- 16.2 Key updates were noted, including:
- A47 dualling schemes (decision awaited)
 - A47 Vauxhall junction improvements – revised timetable
 - Norwich Western link revised team activities
- 16.3 The NLAF asked whether the route of the ECP through Great Yarmouth would be altered following work to establish the 3rd river crossing? Officers said that a variation order would be made where necessary.
- 16.4 The NLAF would agree a response to a consultation just received on the East Anglia Green pylons project between Norwich and Tilbury including impact on the landscape in addition to temporary impacts on Rights of Way as the pylon route is established.

16.5 The NLAFF **NOTED** the table of major infrastructure projects in Norfolk.

Thanks were expressed to Nicola LeDain, Committees Officer with NCC Democratic Services for her work over many meetings to support the work of the Norfolk Local Access Forum. Democratic Services are stepping back from future involvement with NLAFF meetings. The Forum also thanked Russell Wilson who has now left NCC, for his support and many updates on Norfolk Trails over the years.

Thanks were also expressed to Martin Caplin, Katy Owen and Su Waldron for their help with arrangements for the NLAFF's informal site/ study visit to Honing station before the meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 5 October 2023 at 10am. Venue will be advised in due course.

The meeting closed at 13.45

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

Appendix 1

NLAFF consultations April 2023 to July 2023

1. 8th June 2023. Response received from Hon Mark Spencer to the NLAFF's letter to Defra concerning environmental land management schemes and permissive access. No stakeholder engagement meeting has yet been scheduled, and no confirmed timeline has been agreed. Promise to stay in touch and share updates as things develop.
2. 24th May 2023. PROW subgroup raised a query with NCC Highways over CRM fault reporting and resolution. Dialogue underway.
3. 26th June 2023. Consultation on potential mitigation projects funded by developer contributions to address recreation impacts on key nature conservation sites. Pathmakers will complete the questionnaire. Potential topic for October 2023 NLAFF?
4. 23rd June 2023. England Coast Path closures. These relate to two planning applications by North Norfolk District Council for sea defence works. The NLAFF plans to make representations to both to highlight the need that the ECP is safeguarded and safely accessible throughout the works. Ken's draft response has been circulated to you all and there are printed copies available here today for your final review and agreement.
5. 12th June 2023. The NLAFF PROW subgroup asked NPLaw about progress with a longstanding obstruction to a PROW at Upwell.

6. 28th April 2023. The NLAf wrote to NCC Highways (Bridges) to ask if Potter Heigham bridge could be closed permanently to motorised traffic and received a response saying that there were no current plans to undertake such a permanent closure. However, the team was waiting feedback from a survey of residents at Potter Heigham initiated by the parish council and discussions had taken place with the NCC Councillor Richard Price, the Broads Authority and the parish council regarding a possible feasibility study.
7. The NLAf wrote to the Norfolk Records Office concerning changes to the opening times asking if consideration could be given to opening on an evening and/ or at a weekend as it was felt that limiting opening times could bar a number of people from access to research applications for historic rights of way. A reply from the County Archivist acknowledged the concerns and said these would be taken into account when opening hours are reviewed again.
8. 19th May 2023. The NLAf were invited to send individual comments to a public consultation on green spaces in Norwich.
9. 7th June 2023. The NLAf were invited to respond to a survey to shape Norfolk's cycling and walking strategy. The survey is open to 13th July 2023 <https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/consultation/have-your-say-on-your-towns-lcwip/>
10. The NLAf received updates on the Sep and Dep extension project cabling and Norwich Western Link project



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Report title:	NLAF task group feedback
Date of meeting:	4 th October 2023

Summary

Ideas from a task group (all NLAF members invited) to explore options to encourage greater discussion and participation in NLAF meetings will be discussed.

1.	Proposal
1.1.	Encouraging greater discussion and participation in NLAF meetings has been explored by a task group (all NLAF members invited). Any and every idea were welcomed, not seeking to reach any detailed decisions, but to set a broad picture of options on how the forum might proceed. Ideas emerging will be reported into this NLAF meeting.
2.	Recommendations
2.1.	To agree a date for a further task group of NLAF members and relevant NCC staff in November or December to refine the ideas which have emerged, with a view to implementing the new ideas from January 2024.
3.	Evidence
3.1.	The LAF does not have unfettered freedom to do whatever it wants. It is subject to three constraining elements. One is the government guidance from Defra; the second element is the County Council, which provides invaluable and significant support, but also has protocols and timescales which we need to follow The final element is the NLAF's own constitution https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/partnerships/local-access-forum/about-the-local-access-forum which places some supportive limits on what we can do and how we do it.

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

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



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Report title:	Forward Plan (NLAF agenda)
Date of meeting:	4 th October 2023

Summary

<p>A plan for agenda items for future NLAF meetings has been prepared for discussion and agreement.</p> <p>Recommendation To agree agenda items from those suggested (or from further suggestions) for the NLAF meetings ahead.</p>
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1.	Proposal
1.1.	<p><u>Standing agenda items are as follows:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairman’s announcement (not a report) • Feedback from conferences and events attended by NLAF members (not a report) • Meetings forward plan (NLAF member report) • Sub groups’ meetings (NLAF member report) • Pathmakers update (NLAF member report) • Countryside Access arrangements (NCC report) • NCC Member Champion for Sustainable Transport (NCC report) • Major infrastructure projects update (NCC report) • Future funding for access (NCC report)
1.2.	<p><u>January 2024 (next meeting). Items to consider</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defra LAF Sharepoint • Data counters and footfall on Norfolk Trails
1.3.	<p><u>Other potential ideas (for consideration for July meeting or subsequent meetings)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water based activities • NCC Cycling and Walking Strategy • Public access on County Farms • Wendling Way • Great Chalk Way
2.	Recommendations
2.1.	To agree agenda items for future meetings from the above list or from other suggestions
3.	Evidence

3.1.	See proposal
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If you have any questions about this report please get in touch with:

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



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Norfolk Local Access Forum

Item No:

Report Title: Norfolk County Council Accessibility Audit Updates

Date of Meeting: 04 October 2023

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

Responsible Director: Steve Miller, Director of Culture & Heritage

Is this a Key Decision? No

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

Executive Summary / Introduction from Cabinet Member

As part of the Greenways programme we are reviewing our current accessibility audit process to take in learnings from the Monument and Experience projects as well as the updated Paths for All, Outdoor Accessibility Guidance.

Recommendations:

- 1. To review the presentation on the progress on updating Norfolk County Council's Accessibility Audits and provide feedback to the presenting officers.**

1. Background and Purpose

2. Proposal

- 2.1** The presentation covers an overview of the Outdoor Accessibility Guidance 2023 with particular focus on the access chain and Management zones. It provides the proposals for information gathering to support decision makers and the engagement approach for the project. Finally the presentation provides an overview of the timescales and next steps.

3. Impact of the Proposal

3.1. As detailed in the presentation Norfolk County Councils accessibility audits will be updated following the updated guidance and learning from the Monument and Experience projects.

4. Evidence and Reasons for Decision

4.1 N/A

5. Alternative Options

5.1 N/A

6. Financial Implications

6.1 N/A

7. Resource Implications

7.1 **Staff:** None

7.2 **Property:** None

7.3 **IT:** None

8. Other Implications

8.1 **Legal Implications:** None

8.2 **Human Rights Implications:** None

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):** None

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 presentation on the Accessibility Audit Updates**

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: Matthew Hayward

Telephone no.: 01603 223315

Email: matthew.hayward2@norfolk.gov.uk



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Access Audit Review

Norfolk County Council Environment Service
Norfolk Local Access Forum
4th October 2023

Strategic Alignment

- **A well-managed Access network (NAIP Theme 1) includes a statement of action to create better access for disabled users and conduct access audits** on Norfolk Trails and PRow with help from users to assess current provision (surface condition, infrastructure, signage) for those with mobility problems, visual impairments or mental health difficulties etc. and agree priorities for route improvements. Also, to then **seek funding for improvements.**
- **A Well Connected Access Network (NAIP Theme 2)** this includes specifically increasing the number and length of all-abilities routes connecting people and places
- **A Well Promoted Access Network (NAIP Theme 4)** includes the aim to increase use of the network by people who currently do not use it and at times outside the summer months by 20% by 2029 (from 2010 baseline).
- **An Access Network that Supports / Delivers Health Outcomes (NAIP Theme 7)** We will improve the health and wellbeing of residents and visitors through initiatives which promote and demonstrate the benefits of physical activity to those not currently using the access network or who would benefit from additional physical activity as identified in the Norfolk Public Health Strategy

Outdoor Accessibility Guidance 2023



Replaces 'Countryside for All' Guide



Aligns with the By All Reasonable Means (BARM) guidance - framed by the same approach but goes further



Combines **Least Restrictive Access** and the **Access Chain** → more diverse needs



Based on **the most widely agreed technical standards** and broadly consistent with wider standards



Access Chain → wider remit of the Equality Act → considers **wider social and psychological barriers** highlighted in a site review

The Access Chain

Visitor experience

Decision to visit

Journey and arrival

On-site experience

Return home



Examples of things to consider

Information about access and accessible facilities
Accessible formats and choice of languages available
Promotion and publicity present a welcoming and inclusive image for all visitors
Good publicity with targeted distribution

Public/community transport
Accessible car parking/drop off
Welcoming entrance with orientation information
Free entry for carers/supporters
Inclusive facilities eg toilets, changing facilities, cafes

Routes and signposting for all abilities
Inclusive events planning
Accessible information and interpretation
Inclusive facilities eg toilets, changing facilities, cafes
Inclusive visitor experiences available to a diverse audience

Public/community transport
Accessible car parking/pick up
Feedback and involvement encouraged
Activity packs for groups - accessible formats and choice of languages available

Management Zones

Guidance includes how to prioritise routes for auditing

- **Management Zones** – A, B & C
- **Zone Standards** relating to barriers, surface, width, width restrictions, resting points, gradient, crossfall or camber, surface breaks, height clearance, distance, clarity
- Zoning system can assist with **asset-mapping** using FieldMaps (→ National Trails)

Zone A	Formal, intensively managed landscapes (eg visitor centres, urban landscapes, recreational hubs)	Applies the highest access standards and provides access for the most people.
Zone B	Informal, moderately managed landscapes (eg walking and cycle trails, country parks, urban fringe)	Access standards are lower but Least Restrictive Access approach maximises opportunities.
Zone C	Open, wilder, lightly managed landscape without major barriers (eg open countryside, nature reserve, woodland)	Access standards are lower but Least Restrictive Access approach maximises opportunities.
Some areas of wild, open countryside and forest will be outside the zoning system, but if improvements are planned, they should aim to meet at least Zone C standards.		

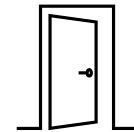
Deciding to visit a trail

Based on Access Chain → three broad categories:

1. Path/Terrain
2. Facilities
3. Sensory

Alongside:

- **Visual and Written information:** easily found; easy-to-use maps; photography; seasonal information
- Pre-visit information (Step 1 of the Access Chain) and create a **Comms Plan** for every audited route based on this.
- We must **consider how we could promote a route at the beginning** of any improvements work as well as revisiting existing routes.



Information for decision- makers

- Asset-mapping
- Zoning – A, B & C
- Applying process to QGIS FieldMaps
- Zoning system assisting with decision-making and route prioritisation
- Least Restrictive Access Principles remain but bolstered by wider Access Chain considerations
- Equipment needed – feedback from pilots
- Improvements → what bench where?
- Embed whole journey mindset → Getting to the start of the path and going home

Engagement: Taking a pan- disability approach

- Measurements fixed by new guidance, others have more flexibility
- Access and Inclusion Service (NCC)
- Three parts of newly structured audit:
 1. Path/Terrain
 2. Facilities
 3. Sensory

Asking user representatives:

1. Feedback on information included – rating the usefulness of different measures? Anything that has been missed but is useful?
2. How to meaningfully audit subjective measurements? (e.g. sensory)
3. Ideas for user involvement in audit process

Next Steps

- Phase One until 31st March 2024
- Feedback from Access and Inclusion
- User representative engagement on draft audit
- Selecting pilot sites
- First stage testing of Audit process

Report title:	NLAF Subgroups' report (PRoW, NAIP, Vision and Ideas)
Date of meeting:	4 th October 2023

Summary

<p>Meetings of the NLAF's subgroups are reported.</p> <p>The PRoW subgroup met on 11th September 2023 (see Appendix 1 for minutes).</p> <p>The NAIP subgroup met on 4th September 2023 (see Appendix 2 for minutes and Appendix 3 for the draft NCC NAIP monitoring report).</p> <p>The Vision and Ideas subgroup has a new chair and is aiming to meet shortly.</p>
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1.	Proposal
1.1.	See Summary
2.	Recommendations
2.1.	<p>To note the minutes from the PRoW subgroup and agree any follow up NLAF actions recommended</p> <p>To note the minutes from the NAIP subgroup and agree any further NLAF comments on the draft NCC NAIP monitoring report</p> <p>To note that the Vision and Ideas subgroup will be chaired by Rob Lodge who will develop it to fit with current NLAF and NCC thinking</p>
3.	Evidence
3.1.	Please see Appendices.

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 11 September 2023

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
Simon Fowler		Norfolk Local Access Forum
Ruth Goodall		Norfolk Local Access Forum
Ann Melhuish		Carriage driver
Ian Mitchell		The Ramblers
Martin Sullivan		Norfolk Local Access Forum
In attendance		
Adam Hinchliffe		National Trail Officer
Jason Moore		Area Manager West, NCC Highways
Katy Owen		Protected Landscapes
Su Waldron		Project Officer, NCC Environment
Helen Terry		National Trails Team Leader

		action
1	<p>Introductions and apologies for absence Apologies had been received from Paul Baker, Birgit Griem and Matt Hayward (Lead Project Manager, NCC Environment).</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of the meeting on 12 June 2023 The minutes were approved, noting that Chris Cane gave apologies after the meeting for not attending.</p>	
3	<p>NLAF meetings on 5 July 2023 The minutes of the NLAF meeting had been circulated in advance. It was noted that a future funding model for Norfolk Trails (including a more holistic approach to make effective use of funds across promoted Norfolk Trails and PROW) continued to be worked on.</p>	
4	<p>Matters arising from the minutes</p> <p>4.1 <u>1 CPRE representative</u>: Keith Bacon noted that he had not had any connection with CPRE for a little while so was unable to encourage it to provide a representative.</p> <p>4.2 <u>4.2 Norfolk Record Office opening hours</u>: Gary Tuson, County Archivist, has responded to say he would be reviewing opening hours again and taking NLAF comments into account later in the year.” It was agreed to follow this up in October or November.</p> <p>4.3 <u>4.3 East Anglia Coast Path</u>: It was reported that, following a restructure in Suffolk, a meeting was planned at the end of November, also including Natural England, to take ideas forward; Essex was also supportive.</p> <p>4.4 <u>4.4 The Great Chalk Way</u>: There was no change to report.</p> <p>4.5 <u>4.5 Potter Heigham bridge</u>: Jason reported that there was no change. Keith noted that NCC had responded to the engineering issue, to reinstate the road; any change would be a separate matter. It was believed that the parish council had had mixed responses to its consultation. Unless there</p>	Ken

<p>was further parish input, nothing more would happen; if there was input, funding of some £10k would be likely to be needed to investigate possibilities.</p> <p>4.6 <u>4.6 North Norfolk District Council planning applications at Cromer and Mundesley</u>: The representations made by NLAf on these applications were noted.</p> <p>4.7 <u>6.1 Brancaster boardwalk planning application</u>: Katy reported that there had been substantial negative comment on the planning application. After discussion, it was agreed to recommend to NLAf that a supportive comment be submitted. As the deadline for comments was 22 September, this would be taken forward by email exchange, in accordance with NLAf procedures.</p>	Ken
<p>5 Partnership and Community Working</p> <p><u>Issues from represented organisations:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Ian Witham for Open Spaces Society had expressed concern about ‘the atrociously overgrown state of our rights-of-way’; he had received a response from a Countryside Access Officer stating that “Grass cutting is by far the largest part of the PROW maintenance commitment but limited budgets mean that not all eligible paths can be cut. With the limited number of cuts that the budget constraints permit, I am afraid that it is inevitable that some regrowth may occur.” This was considered as part of item 6.2 below. 2 Ian Mitchell noted that a bridge had collapsed resulting in the emergency closure of Blickling FP19, expected to be for some time. 	
<p>6 Countryside Access Arrangements report</p> <p>6.1 <u>General update</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 The report had been circulated before the meeting. Jason reported on the PRoW section of the report, noting that £1m worth of bridges were being repaired this year. Staff had been booked on to an iPROW training course on enforcement in November. New cutting contracts were under consideration, to see if the amount of cutting could be increased. He noted that changes in the cutting programme overall had caused concern: working earlier in some areas had inevitably delayed cutting in others. He was satisfied that cutting quality had improved. Ken asked about the increase in open issues; Jason noted that there had been significant staff absence which had not helped. He hoped that the 3 PROW Technician posts running to March 2025 would be extended, but that depended on funding. Ken had again grouped the defects by category (Appendix 1). 2 Adam spoke to the Norfolk Trails section of the report. Helen said that options were being considered to replace people counters, which had deteriorated during the covid lockdown and subsequently. 3 Katy reported on a new team member (Lizzie Robinson) for a 3 year fixed term data management post. It was suggested that if, as planned, NLAf restarted the Vision & Ideas subgroup, this might be a useful connection to make. She also reported that a job advertisement had just been issues for an Assistant Trails Officer. <p>6.2 <u>Specific issues</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 <i>Criteria for intervention</i>: The discussion around dealing with issues noted above was illustrated by the receipt on 9 September of a response to an issue reported on 23 July 2022, confirming action was needed, but advising a further 6 weeks (on average) would be needed. 2 <i>Legal challenges regarding longstanding obstruction at Upwell</i>: It 	KO

<p>was reported that there was no change on this issue, first reported to the subgroup in September 2021. Jason reported that it was still under discussion, but not all procedures had been followed correctly, so the process was being restarted.</p> <p>3 <i>Paths 'lost to the river'</i>: It was noted that Lawrence Malyon, Senior Legal Orders Officer, had indicated that, in theory, Section 26 of the Highways Act 1980 could be used, but that Section 28 of the same Act would open NCC up to the possibility/likelihood of claims of compensation, which NCC could not afford. Simon considered that this was an excessively risk averse response with which he was disappointed. Keith said this had been reported to Broads LAF, which would like to see a test case. (Ann reported the interruption of a path at Santon Downham, though Adam thought this was because of a fallen tree: Ann would supply details after the meeting.)</p> <p>4 <i>England Coast Path</i>: It was noted that NCC was still working to establish the Hunstanton to Sutton Bridge section by the end of 2023. The Weybourne to Hunstanton section had still to be determined.</p> <p>5 <i>Report statistics</i>: It was reported that a meeting specifically for NLAf and other PRoW subgroup members to have the statistics provided with the report explained in detail was being planned for 28 September.</p>	<p>all</p>
<p>6.3 <u>Major Infrastructure Projects and Planning Applications</u></p> <p>1 <u>Norwich to Tilbury (formerly known as East Anglia GREEN)</u>: The submission made by NLAf was noted. Ken gave information about a similar submission made by The Ramblers, adding that an offer had been made to survey the route in Norfolk to list the paths involved: it was hoped that this survey might become available to NLAf.</p> <p>2 <u>Update</u>: Alice Craske, Project Support Officer had been unable to circulate her usual update in time for the meeting; it is sent to subgroup members with these minutes with an invitation to comment on anything where it was felt that NLAf should prepare a response.</p>	<p>all</p>
<p>7 Definitive Map Modification Orders</p> <p>Ian presented a table (Appendix 2) prepared in July from the NCC website, He stated that 30-35 applications had been removed, which he had been told had been done following complaints about the inclusion of personal details; they had not yet reappeared. There were 214 listed orders, though he considered 25 of them had in fact been completed. Simon expressed concern that none of the recent submissions had been processed, though in part this reflected the time taken to determine each order.</p>	
<p>8 Other matters</p> <p>No other matters were raised.</p>	
<p>9 Date of next meetings</p> <p>The next Subgroup meeting is planned for Monday 11 December, from 14:00 to 16:00, as a hybrid meeting (in person and online). Subject to the setting of the NLAf meeting timetable, and the availability of rooms, proposed 2024 dates for the subgroup were Mondays 11 March, 10 June, 16 September and 9 or 16 December, all from 14:00 to 16:00, as hybrid meetings.</p>	<p>all</p>

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

Appendix 1 o O te
Volume of PROW/Trail defects by type: labelled 05/09/2021 - 04/09/2023 (2 years)

Issue	PROW	Trails	Total
Growth			2074
Overgrown surface -e.g. grass/weeds	944	240	
Overgrown hedge/tree	618	272	
Crops			431
Crops/ploughing affecting footpath	400	31	
Trees			349
Tree dangerous/fallen	230	119	
Obstructions			552
Obstruction -e.g. building works, fences, ditches, locked gate	458	94	
Stiles, gates and bridges			550
Bridge	175	41	
Gate/Barrier	135	59	
Stile damaged/too/high/other	89	51	
Surface			663
Surface condition	298	228	
Flooded Path	51	19	
Steps damaged/other	32	35	
Signage			1156
Damaged or missing sign	855	160	
Misleading sign	109	32	
Other			170
Illegal / Vehicle Use	49	54	
Animal(s)	48	19	
Total	4491	1454	5945

NOTE: this table shows 8 fewer defects than indicated, but not visible, in the report

Appendix 2 o O te
Definitive Map Modification Applications on NCC website (July 2023) by year of registration

Year	Gross number	<u>Number</u> apparently finished	Remainder
1995	1	0	1
1999	1	1	0
2013	1	0	1
2014	2	1	1
2015	0	0	0
2016	11	4	7
2017	16	4	12
2018	24	8	16
2019	34	4	30
2020	21	3	18
2021	64	0	64
2022	34	0	34
2023 to date	5	0	5
	-----	-----	-----
Totals	214	25	189
	=====	====	=====

APPENDIX 2

NORFOLK LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Norfolk Access Improvement Plan Subgroup

Date: 4th September 2023 **Time:** 1100

Venue: Virtual meeting

DRAFT MINUTES – NAIP SUBGROUP

Sub group members	
Martin Sullivan (CHAIR)	Norfolk Local Access Forum
Kevin Grieve	Norfolk Local Access Forum
Keith Bacon	Broads Local Access Forum
Ken Hawkins	Norfolk Local Access Forum
Niall Pettitt	Norfolk Local Access Forum
NCC staff	
Matt Hayward (MH)	
Su Waldron (SW)	
Jason Moorse (JM)	
Lisa Marrison (LM)	

Item	Note	ACTION
1	Present: MS (chair), KB, KH, MH, JM, SW, Apologies KG, LM	
2	Minutes of previous meeting The minutes of the meeting held on September 21 st 2022 were accepted as a true record	
3	<p>Draft NAIP monitoring report</p> <p><u>Monitoring report comments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MH ran through the monitoring report, which covers one year (from September 2022 to September 2023) and had been formatted to comply with accessibility requirements. Text on highlighted projects for each theme now was presented with the statement of action objective it delivers against. Photos would be added shortly to the report. - Theme 1 KB queried the number of parishes that receive funding under Service Delegation Agreements to manage PROWs (page 3) which was just 6 parishes. JM said the current arrangement was a pilot which would be rolled out further - Theme 2 Excellent progress with creating circular routes - Theme 3 KB asked about engaging with the Broads Authority over the shared goals for access in the Broads as the authority is currently updating its access strategy. MH said he intended to liaise with the authority shortly 	MH : develop shared goals with

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Theme 4, 5, 6, 7 Detailed reporting on highlights - Theme 8 KB advised that now would be a good time to engage with the Broads Authority on boat moorings and PROW (SOA 8.5) as the authority is working on its integrated access strategy. 	<p>the Broads Authority, and on boat moorings on PROW</p>
<p>4 Next steps / actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MS thought the document was an excellent summary of progress with NAIP objectives. - KH thought the issue of target reporting was difficult, and this view had also been expressed by email by KG (not at the meeting). KH thought that future iterations of the ROWIP for Norfolk could have KPIs where measurements were appropriate. However he also thought that a lot of actions reported on are not directly measurable, although obviously contributing towards the overarching goal of creating better access to the countryside for Norfolk. - MH asked the group whether they felt that NCC was on track to deliver its ambition to deliver better countryside access by 2029. Those present agreed that it was, although there were areas such as the DMMO backlog that remained challenging. - SW to append the monitoring report to NLAf subgroups' report for Oct 4th meeting: all NLAf members to be invited to provide comments on the report to NCC. 	<p>SW append monitoring report to subgroups' report.</p> <p>Comments to be invited from full NLAf on monitoring report</p>
<p>5 AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - KH asked about non-reinstatement notices mentioned in Theme 1 and whether it was possible to find out whether the situation had resolved itself through the farming process (i.e. harvesting of a crop) or NCC intervention. JM agreed to investigate if the CRM system would allow this distinction. - Staff in JM's team are undergoing training from IPROW on enforcement – NCC wishes to get better at enforcements. 	<p>JM to explore enforcement categories on CRM</p>
<p>6 Date of next meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not set, but a similar timeframe in 2024 likely 	

APPENDIX 3

Norfolk Access Improvement Plan Monitoring Report - September 2022 to August 2023

Introduction

This report provides a summary of progress with delivery of the Norfolk Access Improvement Plan (NAIP) - a ten year plan for increasing public use and enjoyment of the county's countryside access network produced by Norfolk County Council (NCC) as highway authority for Norfolk. The NAIP 2019-2029 is available through this link: [Norfolk Access Improvement Plan - Norfolk County Council](#). It has been produced for the Norfolk Local Access Forum (NLAF) to enable them to monitor the plan in association with NCC.

This report demonstrates a wide range of activities that are ongoing to deliver against the NAIP objectives and covers services and projects operated and delivered by Norfolk County Council (NCC). It is divided into the eight themes of the NAIP and each theme section is made up of three elements:

Firstly, the report provides a summary of the NAIP statement of actions, describing what the theme covers, the challenges faced and the 2029 target. The status of a statement of action objective can be:

- **Not Started** – works have yet to begin on this action
- **Started** – works have started on delivering against this action
- **Ongoing** – works continuing as part of standard Council business as usual (BAU)
- **Achieved** – objectives for the delivery period have been met

Secondly, an overview tracks progress since 2019 against overarching theme targets.

Thirdly, a more comprehensive highlights section includes outputs and benefits of important projects that have been ongoing and/or completed between September 2022 and August 2023; it has been made clear which statement of actions objectives each project highlight delivers against.

Theme One: Well Managed Access Network

Description of theme:

We will manage a well-signed and maintained network of multiuse routes (Public Rights of Way and promoted Norfolk Trails and the National Trail in Norfolk) efficiently and economically, providing access to coastal, rural and urban areas, using good systems and standards.

Challenge:

The consequence of reduced public funding has meant less resource to manage the access network, with poor satisfaction rates in comparison with some other highway authorities. The challenge is to find innovative and new ways to help deliver network management, working with partners and communities

Target by 2029:

- Improve the Highways and Transport Network Survey Key Benchmark Indicator for Public Rights of Way KBI15 to 57 (from 54) (to match or exceed the national average)
- Improve the Highways and Transport Network Survey Key Indicator for Public Rights of Way (Aspects) KBI16 to 55 (from 51) (to match or exceed the national average)
- Improve all component Benchmark Indicators for KBI 16 to match or exceed the national average (see Appendix 8.5 of NAIP)
- Increase volunteer involvement with PRow management (see target under 'Community-led access network')
- Improve our standing against other Highway Authorities in the National Highways and Transport network survey.

Statement of Action Objectives (text shortened)

- 1.1 Manage signage. **Status: Ongoing**
- 1.2 Manage path surfaces. **Status: Ongoing**
- 1.3 Manage linear woodlands. **Status: Ongoing**
- 1.4 Improve Access for All. **Status: Ongoing**
- 1.5 Better landowner relationships. **Status: Ongoing**

- 1.6 Effective fault reporting. **Status: Ongoing**
- 1.7 Address access-related faults. **Status: Ongoing**
- 1.8 Maintain the Definitive Map for Norfolk. **Status: Ongoing**
- 1.9 Manage Norfolk Trails and National Trail/ Coast Path establishment. **Status: Ongoing**
- 1.10 Create new access in growth areas **Status: Ongoing**
- 1.11 Train volunteers in path maintenance **Status: Started**

Theme One: progress with theme target (2019 to 2023)

National Highways and Transport Network Survey Key Benchmarking indicators (KBI)

The 2022 survey (the most recent) shows that NCC matches the national average score for overall satisfaction with Rights of Way KBI 15, which was recorded at 55%. The Council falls just below the national average for KBI16 (Rights of Way, aspects) with a score of 48% satisfaction (national average is 50%). NCC falls just below the national average in all of the individual benchmark indicators under the Cycling and Walking theme (WCBI17 to WCBI23), and records slightly lower scores than it did in 2021 with the exception of overgrown footpaths and bridleways which this year was just one point off the national average. <https://www.nhtnetwork.co.uk/isolated/page/793> Ease of use by those with disabilities (WCB21) remains 3 points below the national average. **Not on target.**

Increase volunteer involvement with PRow management

Six local parish councils are now paid on a rolling yearly contract under Service Delegation Agreements (SDA) to manage cutting on the PRowS in their jurisdiction. In addition to this a small section of the Weavers Way cutting is managed by a private land trust under an adapted SDA. It has been noted that complaints about cutting requirements in one of these Parishes has reduced significantly with the SDA in place.

Delivers against statement of action objectives 1.2 and 1.11.

Highlights Sept 22 – Aug 23:

Faults on Public Rights of Way

Between 2nd August 2022 and 1st August 2023 (12 months), 3017 faults on Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and Norfolk Trails were logged on the Customer Relationship Management (CRM) enquiries system. The top categories of fault for this reporting period related to overgrown vegetation (surfaces and hedges/ trees), damaged or missing signs, obstructions and crops affecting the footpath. On average over the reporting period, it took 19 days between reporting and inspection and 67 days from reporting to repair with Trails issues taking slightly longer for each with 23 days for inspection and 82 days for repair. The CRM system has been improved to provide more information leading to fewer follow up requests. Figures are reported quarterly to the NLAF and published with agenda papers. **Delivers against statement of action objectives 1.6 and 1.7.**

PRoW Staffing

3 x PROW Technicians contracts have now been extended to March 2025, one each to support the Countryside Access Officer for the three highway areas, to support the resolution of open issues. **Delivers against statement of action objectives 1.1, 1.2 and 1.7.**

Non-reinstatement notices and obstructions

Between 1st August 2022 and 1st August 2023, 167 131A, 134 – 137 non-reinstatement notices/ emails were issued. The majority were resolved without recourse to enforcement action (which brings significant resource pressures). Over the same period, five Section 130 notices (obstructions) and 2 s56 (out of repair) notices were received by NCC. **Delivers against statement of action objective 1.2**

Resurfacing projects:

Marriott's Way work involved:

At Weston Longville North - a) removed metal bollards and reinstate holes; b) removed broken gate post and regrade 15m of slope to a gentle (less than 1:15) slope topped with 5 tonnes of Breedon Gravel and c) re-hang field gate on existing post

At Swannington - 1km of surface scrape to remove mud and leaf litter and restore value to route through Mileplain plantation.

At Great Witchingham - Access Improvements for cyclists and wheelchair users a) Heath Lane crossing made accessible chicane removed and drainage installed surfacing granite, scrape back of original surface and b) Lake House access road crossing improvements after complaint by powered wheelchair user about the slope, erosion and chicane restricting access. Slope reprofiled to 1:15 to make it accessible by wheelchair and also re-surfaced.

Delivers against statement of action objectives 1.2 and 1.4.

Fakenham RB8 work included: a) cleared river and extensive tree work to re-establish 890m PROW width, then installing culverts and creating overspill ponds to alleviate flooding of footpath; b) levelling of the Restricted byway to reduce cross gradient of over 1:10 and the subbase of reject flint cobbles has been dressed to make the path level and firm; c) the byway has been widened out to 4m and overhanging trees removed, ponds have been created with culverts under the byway to maintain the connectivity of the Wensum and the adjacent floodplain after the improvements have raised the bank levels (additional benefit of providing nursery pools for fish fry). Funded by Capital Maintenance Fund with contributions from Fakenham Town Council. **Delivers against statement of action objectives 1.2 and 1.4.**

Wendling Beck Dereham FP19 and Dereham FP20 (between Mill Lane and Gressenhall Road) work involved: a) resurfacing of Public Right of Way footpaths; 1,230 metres length at 2800mm width with Breedon Gravel; b) removal of pedestrian kissing gate and field gate and installation of new large box kissing gate as per landowner request at Gressenhall Road entrance to path; c) permissive cycling agreed with landowners; and d) wildflower seeded, appropriate to site, along whole length. Funded by Jubilee Committee. **Delivers against statement of action objectives 1.2, 1.4, 1.5 and 1.10.**

Holme Dunes – Thornham boardwalk replacement delivers on dual purpose of visitor access and wildlife protection: a) NCC worked with ecologists to protect rare Natterjack toads (European Protected Species and b) installation of passing places, benches and viewing platforms. Accessibility for wheelchair users has greatly enhanced. NCC Capital Maintenance Funded. **Delivers against statement of action objectives 1.2 and 1.4.**

Bure Valley Path Two-thirds of the 9-mile path following the route of a heritage steam train was upgraded, making it more accessible and bringing the heritage railway alive to visitors. Work included: a) resurfacing 4,520 metres of the path, completed in Sept 2022; b) modular furniture including 3 access-friendly picnic benches; c) mile markers and new station signage and d) planting of New Zealand grass rosemary lavender, buddleia, heather, holly, trailing plants and 750 m² of wildflowers has resulted in a biodiversity net gain. **Delivers against statement of action objectives 1.1, 1.2, 1.4 and 1.5.**

Dereham FP34 boardwalk work included: a) the bridge which had been dislodged due to high water levels was re-installed on concrete footings and secured to the ground; b) 1.2m boardwalk has been installed including non-slip mesh and edging batten; c) The boardwalk has been aligned along the definitive line of the path to the maximum width of the footpath and d) 2 viewing points/ passing places have also been installed. **Delivers against statement of action objectives 1.2 and 1.7.**

Access improvements on the Wherryman's Way: update since September 2022

Due to a combination of complex ecology needs at Hardley Flood and rising material costs due to inflation designs are continuing to be progress at Bramerton to keep in line with the CIL budget. Planning approval will be required and it is targeted to get the scheme into planning by the end of the financial year. NCC are keeping key stakeholders in the community regularly updated with monthly meetings. **Delivers against statement of action objectives 1.2 and 1.5.**

Learnings from MONUMENT (Interreg 2 Seas): Reviewing Access Audits

The Greenways Projects team is currently reviewing and enhancing the Access Audit process. To develop this, the team will be working closely with the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion team, Norfolk Trails team, National Trails team, Natural Norfolk and the Greenways Green Infrastructure team, as well as taking into consideration national guidance. The aims of this review are a) increase the number and range of people accessing the outdoors through the access network; b) using a consistent approach and we are delivering clear and consistent information; c) increase the number of accessible walks in Norfolk and be confident in how these are communicated and d) share with partner accessibility websites. **Delivers against statement of action objective 1.4**

Coastal Path updates – Stretch 3 and 4

On 1 May 2023, the UK Government's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra UK) announced that the England Coast Path would be referred to as King Charles III England Coast Path. In Norfolk, the route will be branded as the Norfolk Coast Path on the fingers of the signposts, with a Natural England "Part of King Charles III England Coast Path" roundel on the post. This is to retain the branding of the Norfolk Coast Path that we have established over 38 years since the Peddars Way and Norfolk Coast Path opened in 1986.

Proposals for Stretch 3 (Weybourne to Hunstanton) of the King Charles III England Coast Path have been published but not yet approved by the Secretary of State. NCC officers are continuing to provide Natural England with expert local advice to ensure full consultation with local interests during development of the 60km route.

Proposals for Stretch 4 (Hunstanton to Sutton Bridge) of King Charles III England Coast Path have been approved. Establishment is in progress and the route is due to be open by the end of 2023. Updates are available online at

https://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/en_GB/trails/england-coast-path-east/

After completion of Kings Charles III England Coast Path, Natural England will work together with NCC to align the Norfolk Coast Path with King Charles III England Coast Path stretches where they currently don't line up together. This is to create one definitive path which is more logical and coherent for the public and reduces future maintenance costs. **Delivers against statement of action objective 1.9.**

EXPERIENCE (Interreg FCE)

On average, 30% of Norfolk residents require special provisions for access to tourist destinations, such as wheelchairs, mobility aids, additional hearing/visual interpretation and easy to understand signage. Most accessibility requirements were met, and visitors were able to suggest further considerations improve their experience at future events. Overall, the project activities contributed to visitor wellbeing by improving access to tourism opportunities, connections to other people and with the environment. A target of 33% of the itineraries were created to be suitable for visitors with a range of access needs. **Delivers against statement of action objective 1.4.**

Theme Two: Well Connected Access Network

Description of theme:

We will develop an integrated green network of routes and paths that provides opportunities for all users, improves ecological resilience, creates opportunities to connect with green space and places of natural and cultural heritage, improves connections for work/education/recreation for residents and addresses other gaps with demonstrable need where possible, both within and outside targeted 'growth' areas.

Challenge:

Norfolk's population is predicted to grow from 898,4000 (mid 2017) to 1,002,300 by 2041 (Norfolk Insight). The challenge is to ensure that people can connect with places and green space sustainably from where they live.

Target by 2029:

Increase the number and length of all-abilities routes connecting people and places by 10 routes and 100 kilometres by 2029.

Statement of Action Objectives (text shortened):

- 2.1 Improve connectivity through planning **Status: Ongoing**
- 2.2 Create circular walks in growth areas **Status: Achieved**
- 2.3 Increase the number / length of multi-modal routes **Status: Ongoing**
- 2.4 Re-purpose disused railways for green access **Status: Ongoing**
- 2.5 Improve connectivity for wildlife **Status: Ongoing**
- 2.6 Encourage applications to register unrecorded paths **Status: Ongoing**
- 2.7 Retain and create new permissive access **Status: Ongoing**

Theme Two: Progress with theme target (2019 to 2023)

21 separate sections of Norfolk Trails have been upgraded on Norfolk Trails to all abilities standard, totalling 81km in length. These include circulars and access improvements on the Weavers' Way, Wherryman's Way, Angles Way, Marriott's Way, Norfolk Coast Path and for the Breaking New Ground Brecks Project. **Good progress.**

35 circular routes have been created on Norfolk Trails totalling 177.5km in length. These circulars provide improved interpretation and integration with the wider access network helping people to connect with places, heritage and nature. New circulars are on the Weavers' Way, Wherryman's Way, Kett's Country Long Distance Trail, Norfolk Coast Path and Bure Valley Path. **On target.**

Highlights Sept 22 – Aug 23:

Jubilee Trails

Of the five Platinum Jubilee Waymarked routes two are offering new and improved access:

The Elizabeth Way: utilisation and enhancement of a section of disused railway line between Dersingham and Ingoldisthorpe providing almost 2km of new Greenway Delivery with 1,817metres length at 2800mm width resurfaced with Breedon gravel. Work also included installation of three heritage railway gates, fencing and chicanes and wildflower seeded, appropriate to site, along whole length with replanting, with ecological enhancements programmed post construction phase for winter 2023. Funded by the Jubilee Committee.

The West Acre Way: primarily using newly dedicated permissive paths across the Westacre Estate to link elements of the existing footpath network. The trail runs through a new and cutting-edge large scale environmental scheme in the extraordinary Nar Valley. An additional 'Jubilee Loop' offers a shorter route around Walton Common. Further permissive paths across the estate are under development

Delivers against statement of action objectives 2.3, 2.4 and 2.7.

Transport Connectivity Corridor

This survey season (Apr-Sept) the Transport Connectivity Corridor project has surveyed over 150 roadside verges and plans to put forward at least 94 new potential Roadside Nature Reserves (RNRs) to a panel of experts for approval (approx. a third of our overall goal to triple the number of RNRs in Norfolk). In addition to this, the Transport Connectivity Corridor project has successfully completed invasive species and scrub management as well as approximately 7,330m² of wildflower planning on two verges in North Norfolk - funded by the Greater Resilient Coasts Funding Partnership. Missing or severely damaged RNR Posts in North Norfolk were also replaced using this funding. **Delivers against statement of action objective 2.5.**

Bure Valley Path Circulars

The location of the five circular walks are: Brampton, Buxton, Little Hautbois, Coltishall and Belaugh. Greenways Projects team are activating these circulars that were created and waymarked out by EXPERIENCE (Interreg FCE) and Greater Norwich Growth Board CIL funding. They will engage with local stakeholders and research local themes in order to create an exciting interpretation for both Norfolk residents and visitors to enjoy. Communications and marketing will promote the Bure Valley Path and its circulars, including digital information about the walks. Funded by Greater Norwich Growth Board CIL **Delivers against statement of action objective 2.2.**

Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIP) update

The Countywide LCWIP builds on plans already created for King's Lynn, Greater Norwich and Great Yarmouth and NCC and district councils have been working together to identify potential active travel network improvements which will enable enhanced levels of active travel within 20 towns and market towns across the county. Proposals include improving existing countywide cycling routes and walking trails as well as feasibility studies to create new cycling and walking routes. A period of public engagement on the LCWIP ran from 18 May 2023 for 6 weeks. NCC are at stage 5 (prioritising improvements) of the LCWIP planning process and from this, strategic routes for improvements will be identified. **Delivers against statement of action objectives 2.1 and 2.3.**

Definitive Map

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 introduced a provisional cut-off date of 1st January 2026 for the recording of historic rights of way not recorded on the Definitive Map. After this date, any historic rights of way not recorded on the definitive map would, with certain exceptions be extinguished. Subsequently, measures to simplify administration associated with Rights of Way procedures were included in the Deregulation Act 2015. Although Defra announced in February 2022 that it had abolished the 2026 cut-off date this decision was subsequently reversed and the cut-off date will be implemented, although extended to 1st January 2031. See also Theme 5. **Delivers against statement of action objective 2.6.**

Theme Three: Well Protected Environment

Description of theme:

We will protect the biodiversity and archaeology of the access network, improve understanding of Norfolk's landscape, archaeology and the natural and historic built environment that can be accessed from the network and manage the impact of visitors on protected sites.

Challenge:

Population growth and increased visitor numbers to Norfolk's landscapes could have a detrimental impact on special habitats and species. The challenge is to minimise this threat by managing access to the most sensitive sites and promoting it where and when it will have least impact, but not direct people totally away from sensitive sites.

Target by 2029:

- Reduce visitor pressure which is affecting 10 protected natural sites and 5 historic sites which can be reached from the access network by 2029.
- Improve visitor experience at the same sites through well-designed access infrastructure (e.g. path improvements) and signage.
- Create and promote 5 new opportunities for visitors to experience the natural and historic environment away from protected nature conservation sites or outside peak visitor months by 2029.
- Reach 1,000 people to improve their understanding of the natural and historic environment that can be reached from the access network.

Statement of Action Objectives (text shortened):

- 3.1 Protect the historic environment **Status: Ongoing**
- 3.2 Protect the natural environment **Status: Ongoing**
- 3.3 Develop opportunities for sustainable transport **Status: Ongoing**
- 3.4 Improve integration with public transport **Status: Ongoing**
- 3.5 Protect and enhance biodiversity **Status: Ongoing**
- 3.6 Improve resilience of tree features **Status: Ongoing**
- 3.7 Develop shared goals for access in the Broads **Status: Started**
- 3.8 Increase understanding of the natural and historic environment **Status: Ongoing**

Theme Three: Progress with theme target (2019 to 2023)

Visitor pressure reduced at 7 sites protected for nature conservation through interventions on Trails and PRoW to prevent straying off the path and improve visitor interpretation, including: Holkham path improvements, Paston Way signage, Holme, Brancaster, Holkham and Horsey route signposting and coastal action plans through ENDURE and Redwell Marsh SSSI signage and footpath improvements. **Good progress.**

8 new experiences created through the EXPERIENCE project to enable visitors to enjoy the natural and historic environment away from protected sites outside peak visitor months, including new cycling provision on the Bure Valley Path, an observatory at Hunstanton and new artwork installations on 4 Norfolk sites. **Achieved.**

Highlights Sept 22 – Aug 23:

Brancaster boardwalk

Currently in design and seeking planning permission and formal consents for replacing the boardwalk along Brancaster FP5 and upgrading the surface leading up to the boardwalk both ends. Designed with accessibility, installation that will not disturb nature and longevity in mind, using POLYwalk. The boardwalk is part of the Norfolk Coast Path and is a popular well used section of the coast path enjoyed by locals and visitors to the area and therefore NCC are prioritising this in the programme to be delivered as soon as possible once consents and permissions are approved. The boardwalk will remain closed until it is made safe for public use. A public engagement event was held in April in Brancaster to provide the community with update and works streams involved to get the project into delivery phase, further information is available on the National Trail Website. This project is funding through a mixture of funding, including Capital Maintenance Fund and Natural England funding. **Delivers against statements of action objective 3.2.**

Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL)

Thornham Jubilee Meadow Project (£14,000 contribution): enhancement of a 7ha former arable/ grass field, to create an accessible wildflower meadow, with 2.8ha of new species rich wildflower grassland, long grass margins for wildlife, hedgerow enhancements including 200m of new planting, and restoration of a total of 400m of hedgerow. The project supports a safe off-road path parallel to the A149 coast road, linking the village of Thornham and public transport to the Drove Orchards retail area and the connecting path for the Peddars Way & Norfolk Coast Path National Trail. There is also a 1km circular path maintained around the meadow itself for year-round recreation and enjoyment of visitors.

Delivers against statement of action objectives 3.4 and 3.5.

Recreational Avoidance Mitigation Strategy (RAMS) update

From April 2023 a RAMS tariff is a payment of £210.84 per net new residential and tourism accommodation dwelling and is index linked (tourist accommodation is on a ratio of a six bed-space to one dwelling of the tariff and student accommodation on a ratio of 2.5:1). Payments are being collected across all local planning authorities in Norfolk. The tariff applies to all net new residential and tourism-related growth. It will allow councils to fund a package of measures to manage and reduce the impact of people making extra visits to Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) in the county – for example, the Wash, the Broads and the Norfolk coast. **Delivers against statement of action objective 3.5.**

Wash and North Norfolk Marine Partnership (WNNMP) update

Footprint Ecology were commissioned to conduct Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) report and following a period of feedback and revisions (Sep-Nov 2022) the final report was published in Dec 2022. The aspirational zoning maps (with 6 zone types identified) and corresponding management recommendations represent the main outputs and could provide a basis for the strategic management of access around the coast. However, it is important to note that the LAC process requires continued monitoring and adaptive management in response to monitoring data. Pending funding, we will continue the LAC work by commissioning Footprint Ecology to deliver a series of follow-on workshops, to discuss a) assignment and application of monitoring standards b) assignment and application of management recommendations c) boundary/buffer extension(s) and d) additional data requirements. Wild Ken Hill are willing to be a case-study for the LAC work. **Delivers against statement of action objectives 3.2, 3.5 and 3.8.**

Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) are a new mandatory system of spatial strategies which will establish priorities and map opportunities for nature recovery and deliver wider environmental benefits. Confirmation of Norfolk County Council (NCC) as the responsible authority for the preparation of Norfolk's LNRS was confirmed in May 2023. Improving public access to nature where it is possible to do so, without compromising biodiversity or wildlife habitats, is an important co-benefit. Read more information on the NCC website: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/news/2023/07/norfolk-and-suffolk-councils-given-authority-and-funding-to-help-natures-recovery> **Delivers against statement of action objectives 3.2, 3.5 and 3.8.**

NCC Climate Strategy

Adopted by Norfolk County Council's Cabinet in May 2023, it sets out how the council will work not only to reduce its own carbon emissions, but to drive down emissions across the county, protect the unique environment of Norfolk, and to seize the opportunities the move to a green economy represents, securing investment and growth for Norfolk. Regards local access it has the strategic aim: "to improve connectivity between rural areas and services in urban centres, with a focus on active travel and public transport." **Delivers against statements of action objectives 3.2, 3.3 and 3.5.**

Defra Air Quality Grant – E-cargo Bikes for Business

Following successful funding award from Defra, NCC are progressing with procurement of an e-cargo bike library. The service will operate within the Norwich Air Quality management Area and provide zero emission cargo transportation free of charge to businesses that operate in this area. NCC are working towards issuing a tender shortly and aiming to be in a position to award the contract by September 2023. **Delivers against statements of action objectives 3.3 and 3.4.**

Jubilee Trails

One of the five Platinum Jubilee waymarked trails, The Eastern Maritime Way, is a 12-mile dedicated cycling route, linking Great Yarmouth to Lowestoft by starting and finishing at train stations. **Delivers against statements of action objectives 3.3 and 3.4.**

Theme Four: Well Promoted Access Network

Description of theme:

We will promote Norfolk's access network, the outstanding countryside and heritage that can be reached from it, and the benefits of outdoor activity, developing a communications plan to reach key user groups (visitors, walkers, cyclists, horse-riders, motorised vehicle users, disabled users and new users).

Challenge:

The access network is well used by dedicated access groups across the high season summer months. However, there are large sections of the population who do not use the network. Furthermore, the network has capacity for greater use outside the summer season. The challenge is to increase use of the network by people who do not use it and out of peak season usage.

Target by 2029:

- Increase use of the network by people who currently do not use it and at times outside the summer months by 20% by 2029 (from 2010 baseline), targeting areas able to sustain an increase in footfall (no detrimental environmental impact).
- Promoting sustainable travel to the network.
- Baseline and monitoring measured through a combination of people counter data and targeted surveys.

Statement of Action Objectives (text shortened):

- 4.1 Develop a communications plan **Status: Ongoing**
- 4.2 Develop / maintain website **Status: Ongoing**
- 4.3 Develop printed and pdf leaflets **Status: Started**
- 4.4 Develop good media relationships **Status: Ongoing**
- 4.5 Develop / maintain social media **Status: Ongoing**
- 4.6 Develop interpretative panels and organise events **Status: Ongoing**
- 4.7 Develop a photo and video library **Status: Ongoing**
- 4.8 Develop apps and audio visual projects **Status: Achieved**
- 4.9 Encourage schools' use of the access network **Status: Achieved**
- 4.10 Promote the Great Walking Trails **Status: Started**

4.11 Promote access to a range of audiences **Status: Ongoing**

4.12 Develop 'etiquette' for multi-use routes **Status: Ongoing**

Theme Four: Progress with theme target (2019 to 2023)

The information of the Norfolk Trails is kept up to date on the Norfolk County Council website as well as additional information on outdoor recreation provided on the BeNorfolk, Everymove and Travel Norfolk Website. Information is also provided to users through social media and press releases. The Experience project has provided a lot of information through surveys and feedback on events which is been used by the wider Environment Service to improve future projects as well as lessons learnt on accessibility from the Monument Project. With the launch of the Travel Norfolk Website this has improved the ability to provide up to date public transport information to link into the Trails network.

Highlights Sept 22 – Aug 23:

Jubilee trails

The idea of the Jubilee Trails was considered to be hugely positive as it combined many of the elements that have been identified as important in the Jubilee celebrations, including accessibility to the natural world, encouraging exercise and outdoor experience, potential education and well-being benefits and a strong environmental message. The trails officially launched at an event at Gressenhall Museum on 11th May 2023. NCC are supporting the 12month phase 2 of the project to collect user feedback, improve accessibility and enhance interpretation. **Delivers against statement of action objectives 4.2 and 4.11.**

Pathmakers: Walk Norfolk

Created in October 2022 the festival is the first access-friendly walking festival to have taken place in Norfolk and run through the new Pathmakers website. Welcoming all abilities, including people who may not regularly get out-and-about or have challenges that restrict their mobility - 6 out of the 7 target groups originally identified in the project work plan were successfully reached. The 2022 festival was a resounding success :26 guided and 31 self-guided walks across the county, a mix of paid for and free events, the themed walks included Norfolk's first-ever disabled friendly foraging walk. There was a total of 11 access-friendly walks out of 30 total self-guided walks. Lynn News, BBC Radio Norfolk and Future Radio all gave coverage to Walk Norfolk 2022. There were a number of articles and media interviews conducted to discuss and promote Walk Norfolk 2022. A few of the participants who came to events mentioned that they had heard about the festival via the radio interviews, so they did have an impact. Just Village magazine, Village People magazine and North Norfolk magazine all printed articles on the walking festival (together they have a combined circulation of more than 100,000 copies each month) and there were participants at events that mentioned they had come across the festival from these articles. Facebook ads and organic posts on targeted local groups and pages resulted in two walks in particular that went from 0 bookings to being fully booked due to these posts.

Delivers against statement of action objectives 4.1, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5 and 4.11

Norfolk Trails Website (visits and downloads)

The Norfolk Trails webpages on the Norfolk county council website has had over 320,000 views from over 100,000 users. This has resulted in over 11,000 downloads of PDFs of information about the walking and cycling routes. **Delivers against statement of action objectives 4.6 and 4.3.**

EXPERIENCE (Interreg FCE)

Press coverage - several articles highlighting new and underused trails that engage with the deep history and culture along Norfolk's coastline in the popular Norfolk Coast Guardian publication which is distributed at tourist offices and venues around Norfolk.

"Be Norfolk - choose your own Norfolk adventure" Be Norfolk is a new website, inspiring visitors to take a fresh look at Norfolk and uncover immersive, off-the-beaten path adventures unique to them. drawing them away from tourism hotspots, On Be Norfolk you'll find experiences which focus on taste, touch, sound and smell alongside clearly marked activities which we think wheelchair users will enjoy. A feature of the Be Norfolk website is that it allows users to filter activities by cost, improving accessibility to tourism products for all budgets. View through this link: [Be Norfolk - Endless adventures - One destination](#) **Delivers against statement of action objectives 4.1, 4.2, 4.4, 4.7, 4.10 and 4.11.**

EXPERIENCE (Interreg FCE) and MONUMENT (Interreg 2 Seas) joint funded **mentioned in Sept 22 report – still include?**

'Every Move' activity finder is a new platform that promotes accessible health and wellbeing opportunities by connecting people with nature. One of the best things about living in Norfolk is the access to natural beauty all around us from ancient woodlands to stunning beaches. For

residents and visitors, the Every Move platform provides information about walking routes, cycling loops and exercise opportunities in green spaces all around the county. People can find somewhere new to explore and learn a bit about what they will find there before setting off. View through this link: [Home | EveryMove](#) **Delivers against statement of action objectives 4.2 and 4.11.**

Theme Five: An Access Network Underpinned by Excellent Information Management

Description of theme:

We will maintain paper, GIS, and web-based versions of definitive and interactive maps and other access network information and integrate datasets spatially to identify opportunities where PRow/Trails can deliver gains for the economy, health and communities.

Challenge:

Managing accurate spatial information and data about the access network is a legal duty. The challenge is to manage updates and make available and use digital versions of spatial data (GIS) to make links between access and other relevant information (such as health, economy and growth) to create, share and use 'opportunity' maps (to identify opportunities that will deliver a number of benefits), essential for strategies and planning. See also healthy access network and valuable access network themes.

Target by 2029:

- Keep the Definitive Map up to date and the register of claims concerning the 2026 deadline
- Process DMMOs.

Statement of Action Objectives (text shortened):

5.1 Maintain the Definitive Map **Status: Ongoing**

5.2 Maintain interactive maps **Status: Ongoing**

5.3 Use spatial mapping to seek opportunities to improve green infrastructure **Status: Ongoing**

5.4 Use spatial mapping to link access and other data **Status: Ongoing**

5.5 Develop Google Streetmap for Norfolk Trails **Status: Achieved**

5.6 Share counter data **Status: Ongoing**

Theme Five: Progress with theme target (2019 to 2023)

The Definitive Map managed by the Legal Orders and Registers Team at Norfolk County Council is up to date and the register of Definitive Map Modification Order claims (DMMOs) is up to date. **On target.**

There is a backlog in processing claims for paths not recorded on the Definitive Map based on documentary evidence, owing to the extensive and complex process involved and low level of resourcing available to the team. **Not on target.**

Highlights Sept 22 – Aug 23:

Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMO)

NCC Legal Orders Team registers DMMO applications and ensures the NCC online registers are up to date. NCC has a significant backlog of claims to process. The NCC team continues to do everything in its power to progress each case received, but faces a significant increase in workload, still without access to further resources. There are currently (August 2023) **203** registered claims awaiting processing, which when determined, may significantly increase the length of public footpath network in Norfolk. The NLAF's Public Rights of Way subgroup has examined the claims, and the effects they would have if upheld, as follows: varying particulars (widths, gates etc): 13; upgrading footpaths: 28; upgrading bridleways: 6; adding footpaths: 41; adding bridleways: 6, adding restricted byways: 83; adding byways open to all traffic: 17, unclear or not stated: 9. Paper and digital records relating to modification applications, dedication agreements and public path orders are all up to date.

Delivers against statement of action objective 5.1

Counter Data

Due to covid lockdowns it impacted the maintenance regime on the existing data counters. NCC are currently reviewing suppliers, locations and data collection and should be able to provide an update in the next monitoring report. **Delivers against statement of action objective 5.6**

LCWIP - mapping

In May 2022 a cycling and walking survey was conducted to understand Norfolk residents' perceptions and concerns about walking and cycling within the county. In addition, the mapping functionality with the Norfolk County Council public engagement platform was utilised to allow people to draw the routes that they would like to walk and / or cycle. 1,650 residents completed the survey which enabled the Active Travel team to create cycling and walking route heat maps. These maps helped to inform some of the wider connectivity schemes which are included in the emerging Countywide Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan. **Delivers against statement of action objective 5.3**

Greater Norwich Green Infrastructure

The GI Strategy is currently in development; it aims to create a network of green spaces in the Greater Norwich area which delivers on the needs of residents and on nature conservation priorities. By using a bespoke approach to map access, using ANGSt data overlaid with multi-modal transport network, and the most robust information to date, it will ensure that a replicable approach for the whole of Norfolk is created. It will identify areas of deficiency and guarantee the protection of sites that are of special conservation importance by: a) improving residents experiences, through additional provision and improvements of access, creating inclusive green spaces; b) improving nature connectivity through the identification and creation of green corridors and areas of particular importance for biodiversity; c) sharing the information and utilising spatial information to engage and communicate with stakeholders to deliver on our people and nature priorities. Will be published in 2024. **Delivers against statement of action objective 5.4**

Travel Norfolk

This new website allows users to plan multi-modal journeys for work and leisure. Norfolk Trails, National Trails and Norfolk Walks are included in the interactive map. This website was launched in June with a public engagement campaign to start in September. View the website through this link: [Travel Norfolk - Travel Norfolk](#). **Delivers against statement of action objective 5.2**

Theme Six: A Community Led Access Network

Description of theme:

We will increase the involvement of communities in the development of and care for their local access network, working with parish councils, volunteers and other community organisations.

Challenge:

As public funding reduces, the role of communities in helping to manage their local access becomes more important. The challenge is to support and co-ordinate the large number of people willing to help from user groups and community groups.

Target by 2029:

Provide support for 20 community-based user groups (via training) in the management of the network by 2029

Statement of Action Objectives (text shortened):

- 6.1 Support the NLA **Status: Ongoing**
- 6.2 Support user groups manage PRow **Status: Ongoing**
- 6.3 Engage communities in projects that improve / manage access **Status: Ongoing**
- 6.4 Attract funding for local projects **Status: Ongoing**
- 6.5 Work with large scale projects on community access **Status: Started**
- 6.6 Support the development of Pathmakers **Status: Ongoing**

Theme Six: Progress with theme target (2019 to 2023)

NCC with the Norfolk LAF organised 3 in-person parish paths events in 2019 and 2020 to improve local knowledge of Public Rights of Way. 113 parishes and 226 people attended the events. Further online webinars and consultations have increased community engagement through engagement with the Norfolk Association of Local Councils (NALC). A Parish Paths information pack was created and distributed in 2022.

On target.

Highlights Sept 22 – Aug 23:

Natural Norfolk: Greater Norwich Green Infrastructure Consultation

NCC are working with the Greater Norwich Growth Board (GNGB) to better understand residents' current behaviours and their current and future needs for Green Infrastructure and access to greenspaces in their local catchment areas. No reports or surveys have been published yet. **Delivers against statement of action objective 6.3.**

EXPERIENCE (Interreg FCE): Norfolk Residents Survey

Until EXPERIENCE there was no information about how residents viewed the impacts of tourism on their local area. Issuing the Norfolk Residents Survey every summer and winter 2020 -22 has been a unique opportunity to capture valuable insights regarding the impacts of tourism on health and well-being (particularly during COVID-19) and on residents' sense of local pride and community. In the long term, support from residents is crucial for the success of experiential tourism development and endurance as it can influence strategies and plans set by local authorities as well as support funding bids. A total sample size of 4,383 complete responses were collected. Questions included asking residents to rate the popularity of several local attractions; across the six surveys Norfolk's coast and beaches was consistently voted as the top attraction (over half) and when prompted to name any additional attractions in their local area, the Norfolk Broads was consistently the most popular answer. Visiting the countryside, Norfolk's wildlife, walking, and cycling were amongst the most popular things to do in Norfolk. There is very high regard amongst residents for Norfolk's natural assets and recognition of their popular appeal for visitors. Threats to the environment stemming from increased visitor volume e.g., increased, litter, road congestion and its associated pollution, are their biggest concern. Norfolk residents strongly believe they live in a beautiful area and the over half feel that their local area is tranquil, peaceful, and calm. While residents strongly agree that tourism preserves historic buildings and monuments, they do not feel as much is done to protect and enhance the natural environment. **Delivers against statement of action objective 6.3.**

NLAF meetings

Quarterly meetings continue; they were held at County Hall in October 2022, January 2023 and April 2023, and off-site at Worstead in July 2023 when the NLAF also viewed the Norfolk Art Trail installation at Honing Station on the Weavers' Way. The Forum continues to receive regular updates from NCC officers, including detailed reporting on countryside access arrangements which includes an analysis of the volume of faults and queries logged on the Customer Relationship Management (CRM) database concerning Public Rights of Way. The Forum is also updated on work undertaken by Norfolk Trails and the Countryside Access Officers and provided with a summary of key walking and cycling projects by the NCC Member Champion for sustainable transport. The NLAF's Public Rights of Way subgroup met regularly during the reporting period, one month prior to NLAF meetings. The NLAF responded to a significant number of consultations, and wrote to Defra and Natural England about their views on funding permissive access through ELMS. **Delivers against statement of action objectives 6.1.**

LCWIP - public consultation

As part of the engagement, NCC held seven in-person events during May to help promote the online survey where all feedback will be directed and recorded (photos below of the event stands at some of the events). NCC also delivered a NALC webinar 01/06/23. In-person engagement took place at the Royal Norfolk Show on 28 and 29 June. The engagement and online survey ran from 18 May to 13 July 2023. NCC will then review all feedback and produce an updated Countywide LCWIP which will be taken to cabinet. **Delivers against statement of action objectives 6.4 and 6.5.**

Norfolk Rural Access Review (Sustrans)

One of the key aims of this work was to determine what measures stakeholders believe would encourage active travel or make it easier in rural contexts. The engagement element of the project has sought the views of a wide range of stakeholders, through a variety of means, to ensure that key stakeholders in rural Norfolk have had the opportunity to share insights and expertise to inform the development of the network. Total engagements (not unique): 938 through a combination of bespoke website, survey, three events and stakeholder discussions. From analysis of the comments and talking to people at engagement events, all this data seems to suggest that it is the presence of vehicles that make people less inclined to travel and while an off-road path is highly rated, a traffic free route is what people express a preference for. Further engagement should look to engage directly with schools to get the perspective of younger people along with more direct engagement to talk to older people. Supports the LCWIP. **Delivers against statement of action objectives 6.4 and 6.5.**

Pathmakers feedback from Walk Norfolk 2022

A complete management information system (MIS) was created to support Walk Norfolk 2022 that is in place for future years of the festival, made up of Microsoft OneDrive, Ticket tailor, the new Pathmakers website, and the Pathmakers social media accounts. 23% of participants completed feedback forms with roughly 80% very interested in future events, 80%+ very satisfied, 0% unsatisfied and 80% very likely to share

future events with their friends. People most enjoyed gaining new knowledge, the social aspect of the event, and that it was inclusive for all. Based on the feedback received from the feedback forms and verbal feedback whilst out on the walks people are most interested in foraging walks, history and heritage walks, nature walks, art walks and forest bathing walks. The walks which were requested for next year were more art walks, history walks, beach walks, nature walks and foraging walks. **Delivers against statement of action objectives 6.3 and 6.6.**

NALC Webinars

05/10/23 Greenways to Greenspaces session included: an overview of the NAIP, resources and information about PRow and Norfolk Trails, Parish Paths Information Pack, recently completed projects and upcoming maintenance, how Pathmakers delivers against the NAIP, Pathmakers Walking Festival and MONUMENT recent events.

03/03/23 Outdoor for Everyone session included: benefits to accessing outdoors, inequalities in accessing outdoors, NCC multi-departmental approach, insight and learnings from MONUMENT, Active Norfolk vision and approach, Pathmakers Walk Norfolk 2023.

01/06/23 LCWIP session included: an overview of the of the Countywide Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). The presentation covered the purpose of the LCWIP and explained how indicative walking, wheeling and cycling routes had been identified. The presentation also gave an explanation of the plans and information that are included in the engagement. In the webinar explained outlined how to respond, the timeline and next steps.

Delivers against statement of actions objective 6.3 (and 4.11).

Theme Seven: An Access Network That Supports and Delivers Health Outcomes

Description of theme:

We will improve the health and wellbeing of residents and visitors through initiatives which promote and demonstrate the benefits of physical activity to those not currently using the access network or who would benefit from additional physical activity as identified in the Norfolk Public Health Strategy.

Challenge:

In Norfolk, unhealthy lifestyles and obesity are estimated to contribute to 23,000 hospital admissions per year. We also face the challenges of an ageing population as there will be more elderly people in Norfolk in the future. If levels of ill health remain the same in the population, this will increase demand on health and social care services. The challenge is to increase numbers of people using the access network to benefit their health and to make improvements to make access easier

Target by 2029:

- Liaise with partners to create a baseline in 2019 to monitor activity of people in target groups.
- Increase the number of people from target groups who are active outdoors (e.g. walking and cycling) by 2029 (from 2019 baseline) through funded projects such as SAIL and Pushing Ahead.
- Increase the number of people who say they have improved health from being active outdoors (e.g. walking and cycling) by 2029 (from 2019 baseline) through externally funded projects such as SAIL and Pushing Ahead

Statement of Action Objectives (text shortened):

- 7.1 Evaluate the health value of the access network **Status: Ongoing**
- 7.2 Increase the use of the access network for health **Status: Ongoing**
- 7.3 Develop active travel **Status: Ongoing**
- 7.4 Develop routes for health and to reduce carbon **Status: Ongoing**

Theme Seven: Progress with theme target (2019 to 2023)

Previous reports have demonstrated significant increases in footfall on Norfolk Trails, with significant health benefits accrued. ON TARGET

Highlights Sept 22 – Aug 23:

MONUMENT (Interreg 2 Seas)

The MOre NUrturing and More Empowerment Nested in Technology (MONUMENT) Project was devised to support informal carers of people living with dementia by offering structured professional support and developing and testing technological solutions with carers. The project was funded by the European Union via the European Regional Development Fund's Interreg 2 Seas Programme, with match-funding provided by NCC. A wide range of outdoor and indoor peer-support activities were provided by Norfolk's pilot project; some were more adventurous such as sailing, canoeing and bushcraft and others involved short walks in nature and guided walks around parts of Norwich. This imaginative mix of events catered for a range of interests and needs. Although aimed primarily at carers, many people living with dementia also attended and enjoyed the events. Through supported leisure activities, informal activities eg clubs and training there was a total of 579 engagements with carers, people living with dementia and professionals. In partnership with the NCC Assistive Technology team, carer-friendly technological solutions trialled: a) GPS Footprint tracker which includes as SOS button; b) tramper vehicles (multi terrain trike) for use at Gressenhall to help promote independence and outdoor activity. In addition, advice on accessibility with carers in mind was made to the Active Norfolk Every Move Activity Finder website. **Delivers against statement of action objective 7.2**

LCWIP – design principles

An LCWIP supports the Government's ambition for 50% of all journeys in towns and cities to be walked or cycled by 2030. To help more people choose walking or cycling we want to create a modern, well connected transport network in Norfolk that gives people more alternatives to travelling by car. Networks need to be safe, comfortable, direct, more accessible, coherent, attractive and better connected - design principles are taken from the Department of Transport "Cycle Infrastructure Design" guidelines (Local Transport Note 1/20). Each proposed network consists of priority routes which could connect people with places of employment, training, education, central services, public transport and greenspaces, both now and in the future. An LCWIP enables priority active travel network improvements to be identified and prioritised

and supports applications for government funding to help develop and deliver new schemes. **Delivers against statement of action objectives 7.3 and 7.4**

Cycle hubs

EXPERIENCE project partners NCC and Cycling UK worked together to develop 6 Cycle Hubs across Norfolk, involving 32 accredited cycle friendly places. The Cycle Hubs combine quality, varied cycle routes with Cycle Friendly Places to eat, relax and sleep. These destinations will provide everything a cyclist needs during their trip, and so will boost visitor numbers, increase length of stay, and increase spend in local businesses. The cycling hubs align with NCC strategic priorities of increasing active travel and improving the Green Infrastructure Network across the county. The pilot Cycle Hub in Hoveton/Wroxham is only 8 miles from Norwich and 20 miles from both Cromer and Great Yarmouth, well situated for arrival by bike or train, which promotes a sustainable travel option. **Delivers against statement of action objectives 7.3 and 7.4**

Travel Norfolk brand update/engagement

Travel Norfolk website allows residents and tourists to plan their journeys in real time and is designed to make using multiple modes of transport easier and quicker. Maps also contain places of interest and facilities, including information from The British Toilet Map. The health, wellbeing, environmental and financial benefits of active travel are communicated.

Norfolk is the first Good Journey County; Good Journey is an independent organisation operating across the UK which encourages sustainable travel options by giving people incentives, such as discounts or free cups of coffee, if they visit participating attractions and get there by bike, on foot or using public transport. As part of this scheme, 25 attractions across Norfolk offering discounts for car-free visitors and there are 8 car-free adventures, to take you off the beaten track by train, bus, bike and foot. Soft launched in June and public launch in September. View the website through this link: [Travel Norfolk - Travel Norfolk](#) **Delivers against statement of action objectives 7.2 and 7.3.**

Theme Eight: A Valuable Access Network

Description of theme:

We will maximise the economic benefits to Norfolk that are generated through the access network by working with businesses, tourism agencies and Destination Management Organisations (DMOs) etc .

Challenge:

The Access network is of increasing value to the visitor economy with the environment and walking key attractions and reasons for people coming to Norfolk. However, currently, most visitors come for a day or less and their visitor spend is limited. The challenge is to work with businesses, tourism agencies and local government to maximise visitor spend, ensuring that local businesses are well informed about the potential of the access network. This target must be considered in conjunction with Theme 3 (a well protected access network) to ensure that increased visitor footfall is managed sustainably.

Target by 2029:

- Increase the number of visitors by 20% in a sustainable way, targeting locations and times of year to maximize the potential to local businesses. It is envisaged that this could generate an extra visitor spend of £2m.
- Evaluation through appropriate studies, e.g. Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment ([MENE](#))

Statement of Action Objectives (text shortened):

- 8.1 Develop links between business and Norfolk Trails **Status: Ongoing**
- 8.2 Increase numbers of visitors using Norfolk Trails by 20% by 2029 **Status: Ongoing**
- 8.3 Improve understanding of access network users **Status: Ongoing**
- 8.4 Develop visit itineraries **Status: Ongoing**
- 8.5 Work with the Broads Authority on boat moorings on PRoW **Status: Not Started**

Theme Eight: Progress with theme target (2019 to 2023)

The EXPERIENCE (Interreg FCE) project has delivered 4 new artworks on the Norfolk Art Trail route which will encourage visitors at all times of year, not just the summer months. Norfolk Trails website offers many themed itineraries and estimates that just under 500,000 trips were taken on Norfolk Trails over the year.

Highlights Sept 22 – Aug 23:

EXPERIENCE (Interreg FCE)

A single actor working alone will not attract off-season visitors, therefore developing a cross-sector network in Norfolk was essential to increase confidence to operate between October to March. NCC created a database of cross-sector organisations across Norfolk to establish a network which was a key innovative aspect of the EXPERIENCE project, uniting traditional tourism stakeholders (Destination Management Organisations, larger/established tourism businesses, local authorities) and “less traditional” tourism actors (wood carver, yoga teacher, glassmaker, artists, etc.), that have authentic local appeal. We now have a network database of 2,400 stakeholders and actors which are active and relevant for experiential tourism development. This database did not exist before and has been fundamental step for stakeholder engagement and project legacy.

NCC engaged hundreds of local traditional and atypical actors and provided them with tailored training and support to develop tourism products aimed at the growing experiential and sustainable travel markets. Uniting actors into networks inspired the creation of over 100 off-season, experiential themed itineraries, formed from over 350 regional activities. Autumn and winter events supported by EXPERIENCE attracted over 174k visits, generating an estimated £12.1 million in local spend.

Across Norfolk, overnight visitor spending increased by 10% from 2020 to 2022 and by 2021, the region regained two thirds of its pre-pandemic visitor numbers, moreover with increased visitor spending. EXPERIENCE has contributed to faster economic recovery in Norfolk, compared with similar areas not running the pilot project, and defines a novel, sustainable framework for growth from the tourism sector. **Delivers against statement of action objective 8.1.**

Be Norfolk Website The marketing output of EXPERIENCE involved creating new website Be Norfolk, inspiring visitors to take a fresh look at Norfolk and uncover immersive, off-the-beaten path adventures unique to them. The 104 itineraries encourage visitors to “choose your own

Norfolk adventure”; the site and the activities have been made as accessible and inclusive as possible. We took a bottom-up approach to developing this content, working with small businesses, artists, storytellers, residents, artisans, and adventurers to uncover local stories and produce and hidden natural and cultural assets. Available to view on www.benorfolk.co/uk/beinspired. **Delivers against statement of action objectives 8.1 and 8.4**

Bure Valley Path (BVP) between Aylsham and Wroxham & Hoveton was a key delivery milestone for Norfolk, defining the path as a Gateway to The Broads and welcoming visitors to the largest protected wetland in the UK. Placemaking infrastructure included the installation of heritage gates, gateway arches, new station signs and bespoke mile markers. BVP Business Impact Survey III showed that 75% of businesses feel that the upgrade to the BVP will positively affect their business. **Delivers against statement of action objective 8.1 and 8.2.**

Norfolk Way Art Trail. Commissioned a series of site -specific, multi-sensory, publicly accessible, permanent outdoor artworks to create a new contemporary art trail to span across Norfolk’s existing network of long-distance walking trails. Four artworks are now installed – view more details on [Home page | The Norfolk Way Art Trail](#). **Delivers against statement of action objective 8.2**

Cycle Friendly Places

Through the one-to-one support from the Interreg EXPERIENCE project, 32 Norfolk businesses secured Cycling Friendly accreditation from Cycling UK free of charge. This accreditation provides some free cycling equipment, including a pump, tools, a puncture repair kit and a first aid kit. In addition, there is free publicity via Cycling UK’s 71,000+ membership base and their Cycle Magazine with a readership of 86,000.

Delivers against statement of action objectives 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3.

Rebellion Way

Cycling UK, as one of the EXPERIENCE (Interreg FCE) key partners developed the 232 mile (373km) circular cycle route around Norfolk, “Exploring the stories, ancient sites, stunning vistas and thriving wildlife of this unique area enriches every mile” - inspired by Boudicca and Kett’s rebellion. NCC offered advice and support on developing the route with local knowledge and insight and stakeholder support. The launch event took place on Thursday 13 October 2022 at The Maids Head Hotel in Norwich with an optional short bike ride to showcase the route, speakers, plus networking and refreshments to discuss the new route around Norfolk. The event highlighted the positive impact of cycling on local business and launch Cycling UK's brilliant new route. The route is broken into five sections and encourages multiple overnight stays and cycle tourists to the county - a Department for Transport study (Rajé, F. & Saffrey, A. The Value of Cycling) found that cycle tourists spend around 9% more per trip than the average visitor, with the average cycling spend being £81 per trip. Touring cyclists are limited in how much they can carry, so they shop locally and frequently. **Delivers against statement of action objective 8.4.**

Report title:	Pathmakers report
Date of meeting:	4 th October 2023

Summary

Pathmakers recent highlights and successes including the Walk Norfolk 23 festival are presented to Norfolk Local Access Forum members

1.	Proposal
1.1.	<p>The advertising for the WalkNorfolk 23 festival opened on 1 September and the festival itself is to be opened by Lady Dannatt on 1 October. There will be 41 walks over the month. There is something for everyone. Many of the walks are fully subscribed already. We hope that we will see some members of NLAF during the month.</p> <p>Inevitably, WalkNorfolk 23 has taken up most of our available time. We will again be working with UEA Department of Environment this academic year with some student projects. A small group of trustees is looking at sponsorship funding. The HLF funding that we have received has enabled us to look at and develop our social media presence. We are aware that there are a number of organisations active in our field and we are anxious to work with them rather than duplicate each other's efforts.</p>
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.	<p>Pathmakers is a charity which has been established by the Norfolk Local Access Forum.</p> <p>https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-details/?subid=0&regid=1161475</p> <p>Up to five trustees are appointed by the Norfolk Local Access Forum for a term of up to 3 years. Other trustees are appointed directly by Pathmakers.</p> <p>Pathmakers is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation</p> <p>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</p>

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

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



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Norfolk Local Access Forum

Item No:

Report Title: Potential and Future Funding for Access

Date of Meeting: 4th October 2023

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

Responsible Director: Steve Miller, Director of Culture & Heritage

Is this a Key Decision? No

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

Executive Summary / Introduction from Cabinet Member

Overview of funding bids in concept/development stage and update on successful applications. Overview to cover relevant areas of PRow, Norfolk Trails, and Highways Teams.

Recommendations:

1. To note potential and current funding opportunities and sources for access related projects.

1. Background and Purpose

- 1.1 To ensure the NLAF is fully briefed on all current and potential future funding opportunities and projects in development.

2. Proposal

Placemaking Team (Norfolk/National Trails)

- 2.1 Funding was made available within the Environment Service to appoint a new, additional post of National Trail Leader. After interview, Helen Terry was the successful candidate and started in post on 3 July 2023. Elizabeth Robinson has recently joined the team as a Data Officer and will initially be tasked with

updating the Trails people counter network. Recruitment is also underway for an Assistant National Trail Officer.

2.2 The Placemaking Team (Katy Owen) and Greenways Team (Matthew Haywood) are working together to develop a joint funding bid to NCC, refreshing the way that the walking and cycling network is funded, i.e. securing a more sustainable approach to maintenance, improvement and promotion of the network, linked to a mileage calculation and minimum route standard.

2.3 The Placemaking Team (Katy Owen) and Greenways Team (Matthew Haywood) have also been working together to gain funding for a strategically important project along the Norfolk Coast Path - *“Closer to Nature: Creating all abilities green infrastructure within the Norfolk Coast AONB and Norfolk Coast Path National Trail at Brancaster”*.

Due to the scale of the project, we are seeking funding from a mix of sources, including Natural England underspend, AONB Access for All, Rural England Prosperity Fund, Capital Maintenance Fund (2023-24), Borough Council of King’s Lynn and West Norfolk CIL funding and Farming in Protected Landscapes.

For the first time, this project will provide high quality access for all to the coast at Brancaster, without harming rare species and fragile habitats. This project will allow people of all ages and abilities to enjoy the wildlife and scenery of the Norfolk Coast Path and Norfolk Coast AONB. A new, fully accessible 2 km boardwalk will provide inclusive access to this very popular part of the coast for local communities and visitors, whilst protecting the fragile saltmarsh environment. Designed with equity of access at its heart, the boardwalk will provide space for wheelchairs and pushchairs to pass each other, and for family members both young and old to walk together in safety.

Passing places and rest stops will create space for users to pause and catch their breath without needing to step off the route (which would damage the fragile saltmarsh habitat). Viewpoints will allow users to feel immersed in the spectacular landscape and sea views without disturbing nature.

The Norfolk Coast is a heavily protected landscape. However, we believe public access and environmental protection can go hand in hand. With careful design choices and investment in sustainable materials, green infrastructure can enhance and protect the fragile areas it passes through, whilst providing opportunities for people to feel a much-needed sense of connection to the world around them. We have worked with experts in the field and industry leaders to bring the latest technology and design innovation to the Norfolk coast.

With the support of Natural England, National Trust, and Norfolk Wildlife Trust, we have developed a minimally invasive construction process which does not require heavy machinery on site, or lengthy build times. Our modular design is put together elsewhere and arrives ready for installation. Made in the UK from

recycled plastic bottles, our chosen material does not shed microplastics, and is resistant to both fire and the harsh marine environment.

3. Impact of the Proposal

- 3.1 Greater awareness of potential and current funding opportunities and successful applications for grants.
- 3.2 To equip the teams to be able to proactively enhance the routes as well as fulfilling our statutory maintenance duties.
- 3.3 Delivering projects that have equity of access at their core – enhancing the opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to access nature, using materials that have greater longevity and require less maintenance going forwards.

4. Evidence and Reasons for Decision

- 4.1 N/A

5. Alternative Options

- 5.1 N/A

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 Improved resourcing for access-related projects and diversification of funding streams.

7. Resource Implications

- 7.1 **Staff:** Opportunities to increase core funded and fixed-term staff resource, at all levels (Team Leader, Project/Trails Officers, Assistant Officers). Increase resilience of staff resource and offer increased professional development opportunities for colleagues.
- 7.2 **Property:** Increased all abilities, inclusive access to nature and culture through high quality walking, cycling and horse-riding routes.

7.3 IT: Improved all abilities, inclusive access to online resources linked to walking, cycling and horse-riding routes. Improved establishment, monitoring and reporting systems for Officer.

8. Other Implications

8.1 Legal Implications: Improved capacity to meet statutory access obligations.

8.2 Human Rights Implications: Increased equity of access to nature and culture.

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): Increased sustainability of business model for development, maintenance, and improvement of access in Norfolk, identification of 'invest to save' opportunities and added value.

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 potential and current funding opportunities and sources for access related projects

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: Katy Owen

Telephone no.: 01603 222773

Email: katy.owen@norfolk.gov.uk



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Norfolk Local Access Forum

Item No:

Report Title: Countryside Access Arrangements update

Date of Meeting: October 2023

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

Responsible Director: Steve Miller, Director of Culture & Heritage

Is this a Key Decision? No

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.

Recommendations:

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. They are supported by the wider Highways Area team staff. In addition, the Norfolk Trails team sits within the Environment Service at County Hall and carries out strategic and developmental aspects of developing the countryside access network.

2. 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.
- Minor updates continue to be made to CRM to enhance operation and feedback elements.
- The provision of additional information appears to have led to a decrease in follow up requests.
- 2.3 A new report has been prepared to display the relevant PROW/Trails information via PowerBI – **Appendix 1 (a) 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 4th September 2023 had 1,500 open issues for Public Rights of Way (an increase from 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.
- 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 Councils have recently reported increases in staff numbers and maintenance budgets. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the increased use of local networks continues with people having formed new habits of getting outdoor exercise.
- 2.6 At the current time there are no additional financial resources earmarked for PROW maintenance. 3 x PROW Technicians 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 reasonably steady from the last quarter. As of the 4th September 2023, the Norfolk Trails Team had 186 open CRM issues (up 16)
PROW had 158 open CRM issues, (down 3)
- 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 2023. 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:

- 87 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 2023, 4 Section 130's (obstructions) or s56 (out of repair) notices have been received by NCC.

2.10 It should be noted that processing any legal notices is time consuming for NCC staff. 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, 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.
- A long-standing flooding issue at Dickleburgh Moor is now resolved through the installation of a culvert.
- 2023 cutting: It is hoped to complete 2 cuts on the selected PROW routes again for 2023, the final year of the current contract period. Trails routes receive 3 cuts. Retendering will take place in the Autumn of 2023 subject to funding. Significant cost increases are anticipated if the same paths are to be cut from 2024 onwards.
- Cutting has commenced across the County from mid-May. The second cut was commenced in July and is now largely complete.
- There have been fewer issues with contractors quality control this season but they have been at full stretch, the weather has resulted in vigorous surface growth.
- 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 2023 update: No further progress has been made. Several longstanding obstruction cases remain ongoing. A number of encroachment cases are under investigation.
- Not all 'enforcement' relies on more formal action. Most landowners respond to reinstatement notices and there have been some recent successes with landowners removing obstructions: e.g. Billingford, gate and fence removed; and reinstating crossings (culvert at Methwold) Longstanding obstructions at Wiggerhall have now been reported as removed (subject to inspection for compliance)

- 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. Funds are currently earmarked for a surface improvement scheme near Methwold High School due for completion by the end of September, and a surfacing scheme at Swanton Abbot, subject to availability of remaining funds. Contractor prices have risen significantly but the overall budget for such works has remained static.
- County Councillors have “Member Fund” to allocate to local projects each year, increased to £11k each for 2023/24 and this can be spent on small scale PROW projects of maintenance. To date, uptake on tackling PROW issues has been limited.

Norfolk Trails

Reedham BR10

Ligger bridge and pedestrian gate installation



Marriotts Way Scrape - Swannington

1km scrape of the Marriotts Way to remove surface mud and improve access. The Marriotts Way has an aggregate surface layer throughout but some sections have reduced access due to build up of mud and leaf litter. A scrape is a cost effective way of improving access for large sections



Marriotts Way – Blackwater Lane steps repair

Repair of the bridge steps to improve the access route for all users of the Marriott's Way



People Counters

Due to covid, the people counter network was not maintained as our team were unable to go out and carry out essential work to check/ look after the counters. As a result there is a

substantial back log of issues plus a number are now out dated and require replacement. As a result, we are now reviewing the network, how many counters are required and where and looking at options for counter types as well as funding.

England Coast Path Stretch 4

- Audits have been completed and conversations have begun with landowners including the Crown Estate
- Consents are underway for the Environment Agency (both Norfolk and Lincolnshire departments) with discussions taking place currently on the Environment Agency structures currently in situ.
- We are looking at interpretation, both to inform the public of their responsibilities in a protected landscape but also with information on the route and locations
- The planned launch is still set for 2023, with establishment taking place across the next 3 month period.

2.13 Greenways Team (Green Infrastructure delivery) April 2022-March 2023

Jubilee Trail Dereham Greenway

Jubilee Committee Funded. Resurfacing of Public Right of Way footpaths; Dereham FP19 and Dereham FP20 (between Mill Lane and Gressenhall Road) 1,230 metres length at 2800mm width with Breedon Gravel. Removal of pedestrian kissing gate and field gate and installation of new large box kissing gate as per landowner request at Gressenhall Road entrance to path.

Construction phase now completed and route open to the public Permissive cycling agreed with landowners. Wildflower seeded, appropriate to site, along whole length.

Platinum Jubilee Waymarking now in place and Information panels installed at Dereham and Gressenhall Workhouse



Before



After



Before



After



Before



After



Before



After

The Wendling Way – Dereham to Gressenhall



- A 3-mile trail linking Dereham town centre to the Gressenhall Environment Hub for visitors on foot and bike
- Passing through the developing Wendling Beck Environment Project – a regenerative landscape-scale environmental scheme – and opening up this section for a wider range of trail users
- The trail is also part of the wider Gressenhall Access to Nature project - aiming to increase footfall to:
 - Gressenhall Museum
 - Its Environment Hub
 - The soon-to-be developed accessible, dementia-friendly paths in and around Union Farm
 - The trail includes approximately 1.2km of route surfacing improvements mind-way through the route – landowners have granted permissive cycling access
- This is phase 1 of the route – further developments are in planning with local landowners to open up even more of this area for access
- The route links Dereham to the rest of Norfolk via the wider network of Norfolk Trails



Jubilee Trail Dersingham to Ingoldisthorpe Greenway

Jubilee Committee Funded. Resurfacing of Public Right of Way Dersingham Footpath 16 and Ingoldisthorpe Footpath 7 along the line of the dismantled railway (between Station Road, Dersingham and The Drift, Ingoldisthorpe). Resurface 1,817metres length at 2800mm width with Breedon gravel.

Installation of three heritage railway gates, fencing and chicanes. Construction now completed and open to the public. Route and permissive cycling access. Wildflower seeded, appropriate to site, along whole length. Platinum Jubilee Waymarking now in place.

Replanting and ecological enhancements programmed post construction phase for winter 2023.





Before



After



Before



After





Sandy Lane North - Before



Sandy Lane North - After



Sandy Lane South -Before



Sandy Lane South – After





Station Road - Before

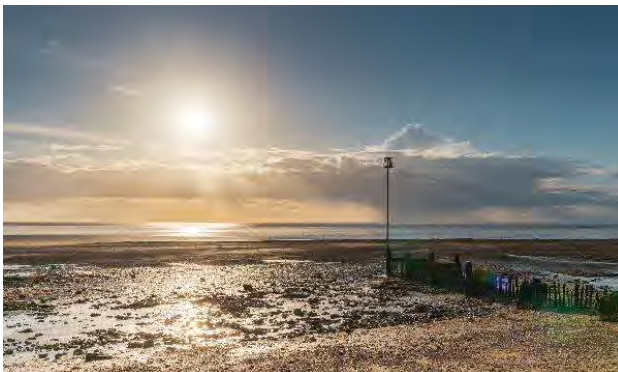


Station Road - After

Jubilee Trail - The Elizabeth Way - Heacham to King's Lynn



- A **16-mile walking route**, linking Heacham to King's Lynn
- An ever-changing landscape of **coast and countryside**
- This route connects two locations across one of the most picturesque areas of Norfolk – changing geology means habitats change with it
- **Passing through a major nature restoration project at Ken Hill** - rewilding, regenerative farming, and traditional conservation practices
- Follows parts of the **former railway line** from Hunstanton to King's Lynn – enhancement of the old line between Dersingham and Ingoldisthorpe providing almost **2km of new, accessible Greenway Delivery and permissive cycling access**
- A walk rich in regal history, leading you through pine plantations to Sandringham Park and on to Castle Rising
- Finishes at The Walks – a historic park which is the only surviving 18th century town walk in Norfolk



Jubilee Trail – The West Acre Way – Gayton to West Acre



- A new **7-mile walking trail** linking Gayton to West Acre
- **Brand new countryside access** - permissive paths across the Westacre Estate to link in with the existing public footpath network
- Running through the heart of the Nar Valley Wilderness Belt, a large-scale environmental rewilding project being carried out by the Westacre Estate
- Increasing biodiversity and re-introducing lost species
- Dense close canopy woodland, reinstatement of approx. 250 ponds, rewilding a 10km stretch of the River Nar and creation of additional wetland areas in Walton Wood.
- An additional '**Jubilee Loop**' offers a shorter route around Walton Common
- Further permissive paths across the Estate under development



Jubilee Trail – The Chet River Circular – Loddon & Chedgrave



- **A 2-mile circular walking route** starting at the stunning Loddon Staithe
- Heads out along the village's footpaths, and along the course of the River Chet
- A short walk providing a different offering to the other Jubilee Trails, with something for everyone, especially families
- The route will eventually form part of a longer Wherryman's circular taking in the new Hardley Flood improvements
- Local demand for waymarked routes, with South Norfolk Council funding the signage



Jubilee Trail – The Eastern Maritime Way – Gt. Yarmouth to Lowestoft



- A **12-mile dedicated cycling route**, linking Great Yarmouth to Lowestoft
- Starts at Great Yarmouth railway station before taking in many of the east coast's hidden treasures
- Start point recently developed by the NCC Highways Team and Network Rail into the new 'Wherry Gardens'
- The final stop is Lowestoft and the opportunity to stand in the UK's most easterly location at Ness Point, before finishing the ride at Lowestoft Station
- Regeneration in Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft offer the opportunity to upgrade the route in the future to incorporate more of the area's heritage



Hopton-on-Sea



Lowestoft



Gt. Yarmouth Station

Brancaster FP5 Boardwalk replacement (Autumn/Summer 2023)

Mixed funding, including Capital Maintenance Fund.

Currently in design and seeking planning permission and formal consents for replacing the boardwalk along Brancaster FP5 and upgrading the surface leading up to the boardwalk both ends.

The boardwalk is part of the Norfolk Coast Path and is a popular well used section of the coast path enjoyed by locals and visitors to the area and therefore we are prioritising this in the programme to be delivered as soon as possible once consents and permissions approved. The boardwalk will remain closed until it is made safe for public use.

Public engagement event held in April in Brancaster to provide the community with update and works streams involved to get the project into delivery phase. An information pack has been produced and some slide excerpts are below;

This location is a protected landscape because it is a...

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

RAMSAR (Wetlands of International Importance)

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Special Protection Area (SPA)

Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM)

Registered Common (CL124)

Public Right of Way (PROW)

Flood Plain



Key organisations we work with:

SHADCRA - Scott Head and District Common Right Holders



Landowner Agreement



SSSI Assent to carry out work in a protected landscape



Planning Permission



Flood Risk Assessment Permit (FRAP)



Consent to carry out work in a Scheduled Ancient Monument



Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) & Highways

Section 1

Section 2

Section 3

Section 4

Section 5

Section 3 - Design

Once we understood the limitations of the site, we were able to begin looking at different boardwalk options and planning the design. The design has to take into consideration:

- **Access for all:** it's important that the new boardwalk design considers The Equality Act 2010. Norfolk County Council is required to make reasonable adjustments to make sure that all people with or without disabilities can benefit from the proposed new boardwalk, wherever it is possible to do so.
- **Impact on wildlife:** we have a legal duty to determine whether or not the chosen design could negatively impact the landscapes and wildlife. Our preliminary discussions with key organisations have informed this.
- **Longevity and sustainability:** the lifespan of the boardwalk in a coastal landscape
- **Installation:** the machinery and techniques we are / are not allowed to use in a protected area
- **Aesthetics:** making sure the boardwalk is in keeping with the surrounding environment



Analysis of Design Options

Analysing the design options helped us consider the positives and negatives of each idea, and understand how suitable each one would be for the area's unique landscape.

A **bespoke design and materials boardwalk** was chosen for several reasons:

- **Increased lifespan** – New, more sustainable materials are now available which can hugely increase the lifespan and durability of a boardwalk in a coastal environment.
- **Simple Installation** – The boardwalk can be installed without damaging or disturbing the surrounding landscape.
- **Accessibility** – A bespoke design offers features that will give better access for a wider range of audiences.
- **Aesthetics** – The use of innovative materials remains attractive and in keeping with the location.

Once the design option approach was agreed, we invited companies to submit applications to conduct the works. These were assessed against criteria including longevity, environmental impact, appearance and value for money.

The contract was awarded to **Plura Innovations** and their specialist product **POLYwalk™**, which is made from glass reinforced plastic (GRP).



Key Features











About POLYwalk™

POLYwalk™ is ideal for natural environments including wetlands and forests. It provides a safe non-slip walkway that is superior to traditional wooden boardwalks. The lightweight substructure make it easy to install on site and installation is quick and simple. The finished boardwalk will provide many years of maintenance free use.

Deck planks are 20cm wide, with a hardwearing and non-slip surface. Planks come in wood-effect finishes and a range of colours.



The design – emphasis on accessibility

-  1400mm boardwalk width to accommodate both wheelchairs and pushchairs.
-  Passing places at recommended width, length and distancing for wheelchairs to pass
-  High contrast bumper strip to improve accessibility for people living with dementia.
-  Viewing points and rest spots – providing better access to nature and relaxation for all abilities.
-  Strategically positioned hand rails for safety, where there are water courses or higher drops.
-  Non-slip surface – extra grip compared to traditional wooden boardwalks.
-  Addition of the National Trust's accessible wide-berth kissing gates.
-  Public footpath – not for cycling / equestrian or motorised vehicles.



Design Materials – An example plank in situ

Bumper strip, non-slip, extra grip.



Appearance once 'walked on'.



Contrasting wood-effect handrail.



The aggregate path resurfacing will be local Carr stone which has been used widely on previous resurfacing schemes along the Norfolk Coast Path at Brancaster FP9 and Thornham FP3 as well as on many on the Environment Agency floodbanks.

Expecting delivery to be Autumn 2023 pending consents and permissions.

3. Clarification of Timescales re issue reporting

- 3.1 The NLAF 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.
- 2.
- 3.

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



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Norfolk Local Access Forum

Item No:

Report Title: Norfolk Countywide Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)

Date of Meeting: 4th October 2023

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

Responsible Director: Name and Job Title 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

NCC are working in partnership with local authorities to create a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for Norfolk. The purpose of the Countywide LCWIP is to help identify and prioritise infrastructure schemes which will enhance current levels of cycling and walking and wheeling (active travel) over the short, medium and long-term.

A period of public engagement on the draft LCWIP was conducted earlier in the year and the results will be shared with the Norfolk Local Access Forum.

Recommendations:

1. To note the progress on production of the Norfolk Countywide LCWIP.

1. Background and Purpose

- 1.1 The Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for Norfolk will include potential active travel networks and schemes for 20 towns in Norfolk. The aim is to enable people to choose walking, cycling or wheeling (using a

wheelchair or mobility aid) as an alternative to travelling by car for short journeys.

- 1.2 The LCWIP for Norfolk also includes proposals to increase connectivity between towns and rural communities. This will enable people in urban areas to access greenspace and link people in rural communities to their local central services, places of education, employment and training.

2. Proposal

- 2.1 To provide an update to the Local Access Forum on progress by the NCC Walking and Cycling team on the LCWIP for Norfolk.

3. Impact of the Proposal

- 3.1 The update keeps the Norfolk Local Access Forum abreast of developments to create the Norfolk Countywide LCWIP, which will lead to increased levels of cycling, walking and wheeling across the county and help to create a modern, well-connected transport network which provides more alternatives to travelling by car.

4. Evidence and Reasons for Decision

4.1 Countywide Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan Engagement

The Countywide LCWIP builds on plans already created for King's Lynn, Greater Norwich and Great Yarmouth. To produce the Countywide LCWIP, Norfolk County Council and the district councils have worked together to identify potential active travel network improvements within 20 towns and market towns across the county.

The plan also includes schemes which could increase connectivity between towns and rural communities, giving people access to green space and linking people in rural communities with central services, places of education and employment.

A period of public engagement on the plan ran from May 2023 for 8 weeks and received over 1,000 responses. NCC are currently reviewing the feedback received to update the proposed active travel network area maps and the associated scheme lists, and preliminary results will be presented to the NLAFF at the current meeting.

The NCC Active Travel Team will also produce status updates on the existing LCWIPs for King's Lynn, Greater Norwich and Great Yarmouth showing which schemes have been delivered so far.

NCC intends that the Countywide LCWIP will be adopted in April 2024 to align with the updated Walking, Wheeling and Cycling Strategy.

5. Alternative Options

5.1 n/a

6. Financial Implications

6.1 None as a result of this report

7. Resource Implications

7.1 **Staff:** None as a result of this report

7.2 **Property:** None as a result of this report

7.3 **IT:** None as a result of this report

8. Other Implications

8.1 **Legal Implications:** None as a result of this report

8.2 **Human Rights Implications:** None as a result of this report

8.3 **Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) (this must be included):**
Not required as a result of this report.

8.4 **Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA):** None as a result of this report

8.5 **Health and Safety implications (where appropriate):** None as a result of this report

8.6 **Sustainability implications (where appropriate):** None as a result of this report

8.7 **Any Other Implications:** None as a result of this report

9. Risk Implications / Assessment

9.1 None as a result of this report

10. Select Committee Comments

10.1 n/a

11. Recommendations

1. To note the progress on production of the Norfolk Countywide LCWIP

12. Background Papers

13. Draft report for engagement: [Countywide Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan Summary Report \(citizenspace.com\)](#)

Officer Contact

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

Officer name: Ed Parnaby

Telephone no.:

Email: Edward.parnaby@norfolk.gov.uk



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Norfolk Local Access Forum

Item No:

Report Title: NCC Member for Sustainable Travel update October 2023

Date of Meeting: 4th October 2023

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

Responsible Director: Steve Miller, Director of Culture & Heritage

Is this a Key Decision? No

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

Executive Summary / Introduction from Cabinet Member

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

Recommendations:

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

1. Background and Purpose

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

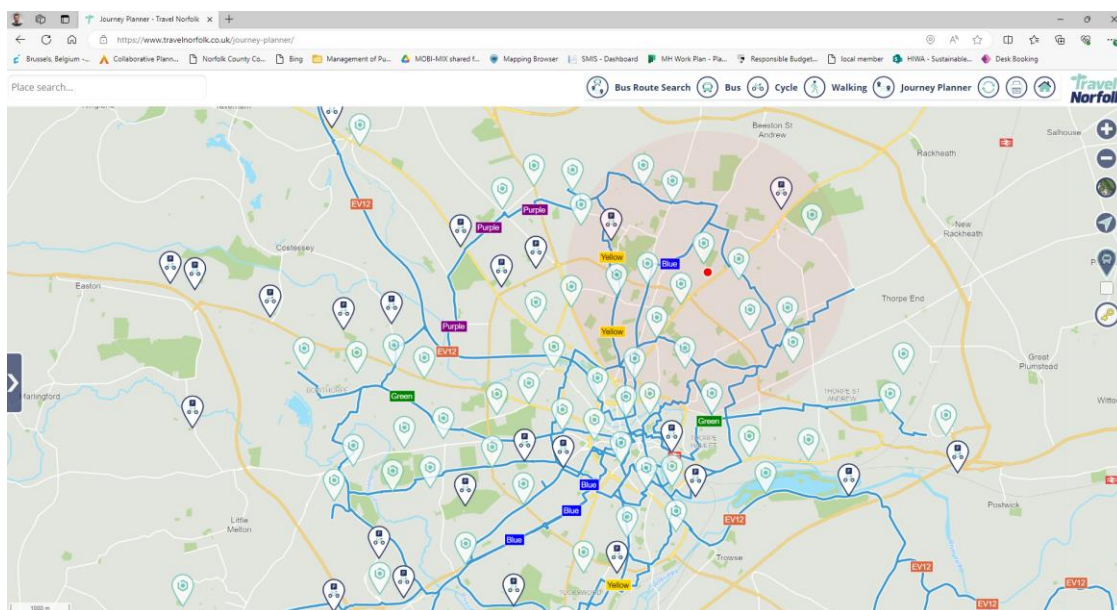
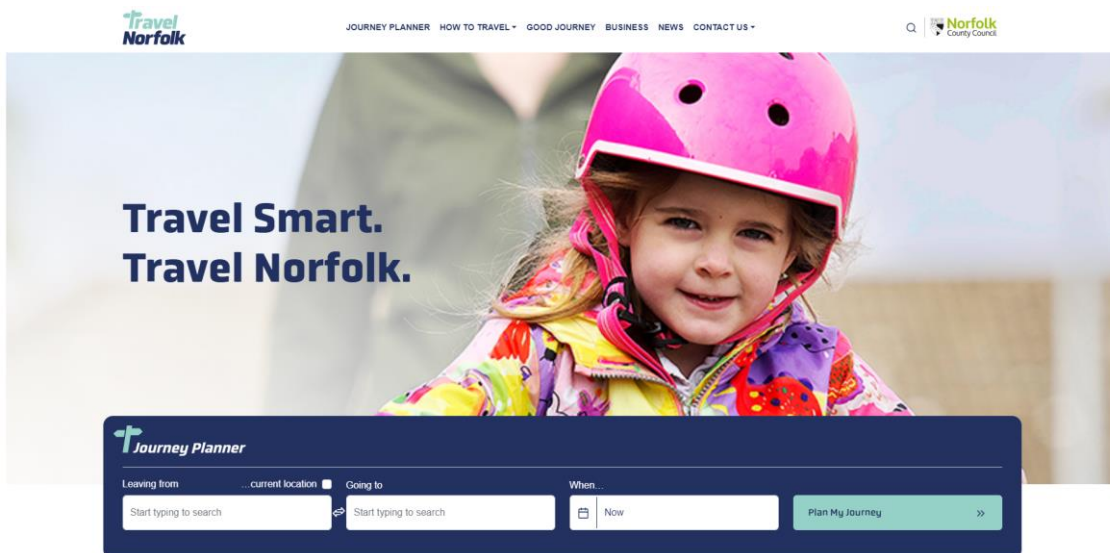
2. Proposal

- 2.1 Below is an update on key walking and cycling projects to be delivered in 202/24 programme period

2.2 Active Travel England- Capability fund

Delivery continues against the Capability Fund, Active Travel Programme. Key delivery includes

- The Holiday Activity Fund, funding 35 school cycling activities to over 300 pupils over the summer holidays.
- Workplace engagement- Sustrans have been contracted and 9 businesses have been engaged with.
- Travel Norfolk Website launched providing sustainable travel planning information and journey planning. The journey planning element includes the Norfolk Trails Network and Circular walks and provides the option to add in additional information like bus stops with live bus times with data automatically from the transport providers.



2.4 Good Journey-

Norfolk County Council has teamed up with Good Journey to provide discounts at attractions across the county if they choose to access them sustainably. Alongside this additional itineraries are available on the Travel Norfolk website for car-free trips out.



good journey visit attractions go on adventures find out more attractions join us

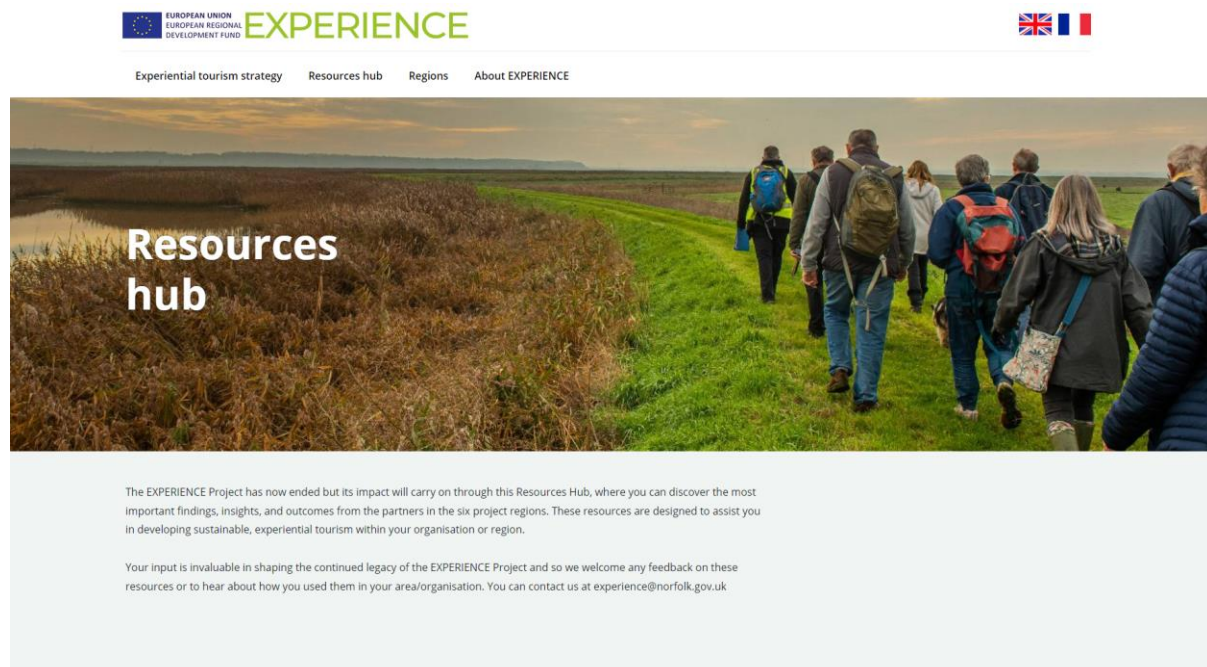
Norfolk – Good Journey County

Welcome to Norfolk, the UK's first Good Journey County...

Famously flat Norfolk makes the ideal county for exploring by bike and foot. The coast path even has handy finger posts pointing to Coasthopper bus stops along the way. Walkers can enjoy £2 bus fares, a linear stroll, and a pint at the end, with no need to worry about driving.

2.5 Experience Project Resource Hub

Although the Interreg funded Experience Project has finished delivery a resource hub has been created collated best practice from the project. This includes a library of presentations and manuals, case studies and video resources. This can be found online on <https://www.tourismexperience.org/resources-hub/>



EUROPEAN UNION EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND EXPERIENCE

Experiential tourism strategy Resources hub Regions About EXPERIENCE

Resources hub

The EXPERIENCE Project has now ended but its impact will carry on through this Resources Hub, where you can discover the most important findings, insights, and outcomes from the partners in the six project regions. These resources are designed to assist you in developing sustainable, experiential tourism within your organisation or region.

Your input is invaluable in shaping the continued legacy of the EXPERIENCE Project and so we welcome any feedback on these resources or to hear about how you used them in your area/organisation. You can contact us at experience@norfolk.gov.uk

3. Impact of the Proposal

3.1 n/a

4. Evidence and Reasons for Decision

4.1 n/a

5. Alternative Options

5.1 n/a

6. Financial Implications

6.1 The following funding has been secured to ensure delivery of these projects

- £319,871 of funding from Active Travel England to deliver the capability fund

7. Resource Implications

7.1 Staff:

n/a

7.2 Property:

n/a

7.3 IT:

n/a

8. Other Implications

8.1 Legal Implications:

n/a

8.2 Human Rights Implications:

n/a

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

n/a

8.4 Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA):

n/a

8.5 Health and Safety implications (where appropriate):

n/a

8.6 Sustainability implications (where appropriate):

n/a

8.7 Any Other Implications:

n/a

9. Risk Implications / Assessment

n/a

10. Select Committee Comments

n/a

11. Recommendations

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

12. Background Papers

n/a

Officer Contact

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

Officer name: Matt Hayward

Telephone no.: 01603 223315

Email: matthew.hayward2@norfolk.gov.uk



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Norfolk Local Access Forum

Item No:

Report Title: Major Infrastructure Projects and Planning

Date of Meeting: 4th October 2023

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

Responsible Director: Steve Miller, Director of Culture & Heritage

Is this a Key Decision? No

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

Executive Summary / Introduction from Cabinet Member

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

Recommendations:

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

1. Background and Purpose

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

2. Proposal

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

3. Impact of the Proposal

- 3.1 See background and proposals

4. Evidence and Reasons for Decision

4.1 See background and proposals

5. Alternative Options

5.1 See background and proposals

6. Financial Implications

6.1 None as a result of this report

7. Resource Implications

7.1 Staff:

N/A

7.2 Property:

N/A

7.3 IT:

N/A

8. Other Implications

8.1 Legal Implications:

N/A

8.2 Human Rights Implications:

N/A

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

N/A

8.4 Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA):

N/A

8.5 Health and Safety implications (where appropriate):

N/A

8.6 Sustainability implications (where appropriate):

N/A

8.7 Any Other Implications:

N/A

9. Risk Implications / Assessment

9.1 N/A

10. Select Committee Comments

10.1 N/A

11. Recommendations

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

12. Background Papers

12.1 N/A

Officer Contact

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

Officer name: Matt Hayward

Telephone no.: 01603 223315

Email: matthew.hayward2@norfolk.gov.uk



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Appendix 1

Summary of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) and other Major Strategic Projects- September 2023

Summary of NSIP Proposals and other Major Projects		
	Proposal (Applicant)	Status / Note
	(A) Offshore Projects	
1.1	<p>Hornsea Project Three – Offshore (2.4 GW) (supplying up to 2 million household with electricity) Wind farm and ancillary onshore grid connection (Orsted);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landfall Weybourne; • Booster Station at Little Barningham (see update below as may no longer be needed); • Grid connection at Norwich Main <p>Applicant: Orsted (Danish) For further information: Hornsea Three Offshore Wind Farm Ørsted (hornseaproject3.co.uk)</p> <p>Hornsea Project Three Offshore Wind Farm National Infrastructure Planning (planninginspectorate.gov.uk)</p>	<p>The Secretary of State granted consent for this project on 31/12/20.</p> <p>The decision takes on board the County Council’s comments made in respect of the need for a Highway Intervention Scheme (at Cawston) to be agreed between the undertaker and the Highway Authority (NCC). A new Planning Requirement / Condition inserted into the DCO (Requirement 18).</p> <p>Applicant expressed preference to use HVDC technology – which means they do not require a booster station onshore or offshore; and requires fewer cables to transfer the same amount of electricity.</p> <p>Currently in main works phase, works will continue into 2024 with the main logistics compound at Oulton Airfield.</p> <p>Hornsea 3 community Benefit Fund is taking shape with a panel set up with applications open very soon</p> <p>For more information please see attached newsletter on Appendix 2</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; 	<p>The Secretary of State (BEIS) has re-determined the Norfolk Vanguard proposal and awarded a Development Consent Order (DCO) on 11 February 2022.</p> <p>The Previous decision by the Secretary of State to grant the above DCO was quashed by the High Court on 18 February 2021.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grid Connection at Necton <p>Applicant: Vattenfall (Swedish)</p> <p>For further information:</p> <p>https://group.vattenfall.com/uk/what-we-do/our-projects/vattenfallinnorfolk/norfolk-vanguard</p> <p>Norfolk Vanguard National Infrastructure Planning (planninginspectorate.gov.uk)</p>	<p>“With consent now granted work will begin to engage with the supply chain to prepare for construction, which is expected to begin in 2023.</p> <p>Planning Performance Agreement (PPA) –signed on 7 February 2023.</p> <p>Community Drop is session were held in September with a visit to Dereham on Tuesday 12th September</p> <p>An interactive map is now available on this link</p> <p>Additional details are available on the Vattenfall website Norfolk Zone Community Benefit Fund - Vattenfall</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:</p> <p>https://group.vattenfall.com/uk/what-we-do/our-projects/vattenfallinnorfolk/norfolk-boreas</p> <p>Norfolk Boreas National Infrastructure Planning (planninginspectorate.gov.uk)</p>	<p>A decision on the application for a Development Consent Order for Norfolk Boreas was taken on 10 December 2021 and has now been issued.</p> <p>.With consent now granted work will begin to engage with the supply chain to prepare for construction, which is expected to begin in 2023.</p> <p>Planning Performance Agreement (PPA) –signed on 7 February 2023.</p> <p>Due to challenging conditions Vattenfall has stopped the development programme for Norfolk Boreas.</p> <p>Additional updates are available on the Vattenfall website (Vattenfall's Norfolk Offshore Wind Zone - Vattenfall)</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 	<p>Timetable:</p> <p>The notification of Preliminary Meeting (Rule 6 letter) has been sent</p>

	<p>Norwegian company Equinor. Total capacity (new) 720 MW (0.72 GW);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landfall tbc (Weybourne or Bacton); • Grid Connection – Norwich Main; • HVAC technology – no need for Booster station (too small output) <p>Applicant : Equinor (Norwegian)</p> <p>For further information:</p> <p>https://www.equinor.com/en/how-and-why/impact-assessments/dudgeon-and-sheringham-extension-projects.html</p> <p>Sheringham and Dudgeon Extension Projects National Infrastructure Planning (planninginspectorate.gov.uk)</p>	<p>The letter also includes the draft Examination Timetable and Initial Assessment of Principal Issues.</p> <p>The Examining Authority has made minor revisions in the Rule 6 letter and accompanying annexes to reflect the changes in the list of ‘Other Persons’ invited to the Preliminary Meeting and to clarify the deadline for the receipt of additional application documents from the Applicant.</p> <p>The Examining Authority has issued letters to Mulbarton Parish Council (and Non-Statutory Stakeholders</p> <p>The Deadline for the Planning Inspectorate to submit recommendations is 17/10/23</p>
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	(B) Onshore Projects	
	(a) Highway Projects Trunk Roads (National Highways)	
2.1.1	<p>(a) 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>For further information:</p> <p>A47 Blofield to North Burlingham - National Highways</p> <p>A47 Blofield to North Burlingham National</p>	<p>Planning consent has been granted to proceed with the works to the A47 between Blofield and North Burlingham.</p> <p><u>Update on the A47 Norwich schemes from National Highways website-</u></p> <p>We have received notification that an appeal on the court’s decision to reject the claims in the judicial review of our three Norwich schemes has been submitted.</p> <p>What does this mean?</p>

	<p>Infrastructure Planning (planninginspectorate.gov.uk)</p> <p>2.6 KM of dual carriageway</p>	<p>The Court of Appeal must now decide whether to grant the claimant permission to appeal. National Highways will be taking all necessary steps to challenge the application.</p> <p>Next steps</p> <p>To avoid any further delays, we can continue to carry out early works, such as archaeology, compound set up and utility diversions, on the schemes while we await the court’s decision.</p> <p>We stand by our plan to deliver these important schemes and remain confident they can deliver significant improvements to both safety and congestion on the A47, as well as providing a significant boost to the regional economy</p>
2.2.1	<p>(b) 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>For further information:</p> <p>A47 Thickthorn junction - National Highways</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>The project will help relieve congestion at Thickthorn junction by providing two new free-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> <p>We’ll also remove the existing footbridge over the A47 and provide a new footbridge for walkers, cyclists and horse riders.</p> <p>Start of works June 2023 - delayed;</p> <p>Open to Traffic 2024/2025.</p> <p>Timetable subject to legal challenge</p> <p>(See above A47 Update from National Highways on the legal challenge)</p>
2.3.1	<p>(c) A47 North Tuddenham to Easton Dualling Scheme</p>	<p>Development Consent Order (DCO) granted on the 12th of August for a scheme that will</p> <p>The scheme will:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start of works Jan-March 22-23 • End Date 2024 / 2025 • Cost £100 - £250 million <p>For further information: A47 North Tuddenham to Easton improvement - National Highways</p> <p>9km New dual carriageway</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>Start of works Jan-March 2023 – involving vegetation removal; End Date 2024 / 2025 Cost £100 - £250 million Timetable subject to legal challenge</p> <p>(See above A47 Update from National Highways on the legal challenge)</p>
2.4	<p>(d) 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>For further information: A47 Vauxhall roundabout, Great Yarmouth junction improvements - National Highways</p>	<p>The Great Yarmouth Third River Crossing, linking the A47 at Harfrey's Roundabout to the port is currently under construction, and will help reduce congestion and improve access to the A47. However, increased traffic in the future is still likely to constrain long-term economic growth in Great Yarmouth.</p> <p>Traffic studies show that improving A47 Great Yarmouth junctions at the Vauxhall Roundabout and the Harfrey's Roundabout would make journeys quicker, safer and more reliable, allow for increased future traffic and help grow the local economy.</p> <p>No new additional update from National Highways in September 2023</p>
2.5	<p>The Medworth Project – Waste to Energy Wisbech (Over 50 MW)</p> <p>Grid connection will be in Norfolk to Walpole sub-</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. • Application was received by the Planning Inspectorate on Thursday 7 July 2022 and accepted for examination

	<p>station via an over-head power line 132 kv.</p> <p>Key issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Health; • Highways • Drainage • Landscape • Ecology <p>For further information:</p> <p>https://www.mvv-medworthchp.co.uk/about-the-project</p> <p>AND</p> <p>https://www.mvv-medworthchp.co.uk/news/Medworth_Energy_from_Waste_Combined_Heat_and_Power_Facility_National_Infrastructure_Planning_planninginspectorate.gov.uk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details of the Preliminary Meeting TBC • Targeted start construction 2024; and complete by 2026. <p>Examination Opened on 21 February 2023 with two Open Floor Hearings (OFH) on Wednesday 22 February and Thursday 23 February.</p> <p>September 23 update</p> <p>The deadline for the Planning Inspectorate to submit the recommendation has been confirmed as 21/11/2023</p>
2.6	<p>Norwich to Tilbury (East Anglia Green)</p> <p>www.nationalgrid.com/uk/electricity-transmission/eastangliagreen</p> <p>East Anglia Green Energy Enablement (GREEN) Project National Infrastructure Planning (planninginspectorate.gov.uk)</p>	<p>The East Anglia Green Energy Enablement (GREEN) project is a proposal to build a new high voltage network reinforcement between Norwich, Bramford and Tilbury.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soft launch” of the project on 26 January 2022; • Non Statutory Consultation on the Preferred Route Corridor starts on 21/4/22 and runs to 16 June 2022 (8 weeks) – Non-technical. • Statutory Consultation (S42) – April-June 2023; • Statutory Consultation Submission DCO – Dec -2024; • Examination and Decision 2025-2026 • Construction starts 2027 • Fully Operational from 2031 <p>September 23 Update</p> <p>The Application is expected to be submitted in Q4 2023</p>

		<p>Name updated to Norwich to Tilbury, further consultation and information is available online on the project website</p> <p>Norwich to Tilbury National Grid ET</p>
2.7	<p>Larkshall Mill Aggregate Manufacturing and Carbon Capture Facility</p> <p>Larkshall Mill Aggregate Manufacturing and Carbon Capture Facility National Infrastructure Planning (planninginspectorate.gov.uk)</p> <p>O.C.O Technology Leaders in carbon capture (oco.co.uk)</p>	<p>Facility for the recovery of hazardous wastes in the manufacture of limestone aggregate for the use in the construction industry, which utilises and permanently captures carbon dioxide. Including the erection of silos, CO2 tanks, screening plant building and sand store with associated works. This DCO application is sperate to the application being considered by Norfolk County Council at the same site for an aggregate manufacturing and carbon capture facility that can process up to 30,000 tonnes per year</p> <p>The application has been withdrawn by the applicant</p>
2.8	<p>Third River Crossing – Great Yarmouth</p> <p>https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/major-projects-and-improvement-plans/great-yarmouth/third-river-crossing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DCO granted on 24 September 2020 by the Secretary of State; • Start of works on site January 2021; • NCC submitted the Full Business Case to DfT received approval in December 2020, enabling the planned start of works early in January 2021. All pre-commencement Requirements within the DCO were completed. <p>September 23 update- construction in progress and awaiting on opening date for the new crossing.</p>
2.9	<p>Norwich Western Link (NWL)</p> <p>Project to create a new 3.8 mile dual carriageway road connecting the western end of Broadland Northway to the A47 trunk road.</p> <p>Not an NSIP</p>	<p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design for statutory consultation and planning application will be based on contractor developed details following conclusion of procurement process. Cabinet agreed the appointment of the contractor in June 2021;

	<p>About the Norwich Western Link - Norfolk County Council</p>	<p>September 23 Update</p> <p>An update was taken to cabinet (available on this link) and provides an update on the progress of the project. Approval is currently being awaiting from central government of the project's Outline Business Case. This has resulted a reduction of levels of activity on the project until a decision is made, following this a further report will be brought to Cabinet.</p>
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Community
Newsletter



**Hornsea 3
Offshore Wind Farm**

Welcome to the latest community newsletter for Hornsea 3

Welcome to the latest community newsletter for Hornsea 3. It's a very exciting time for our project as our onshore construction works are well underway. We have commenced with our ground-breaking works and successfully completed one of our temporary satellite compounds. You can find out more about our project updates on page 3.

We once again had the pleasure of meeting many of you at the Royal Norfolk Show. We'll also be at the Aylsham Show on Monday 28th August. There will be activities for all ages, and the project team will be on hand to answer any of your queries. We look forward to seeing you there!



Luke Bridgman
Project Director, Hornsea 3

Where are the Hornsea offshore wind farm projects?

Hornsea 3 will be located in the North Sea, approximately 121km off the Norfolk coast and 160km off the Yorkshire coast. The project has been granted development consent from the UK Government.

Hornsea 1 is located 120km from the Yorkshire coast and has been operational since 2019.

Hornsea 2 is adjacent to Hornsea 1 and will be situated 89km from the coast and is now commercially operational.

Hornsea 3 was awarded a contract for difference (CfD) in July 2022.

With a capacity of around 2,85 gigawatts (GW), Hornsea 3 will be capable of producing enough low-cost, clean, renewable electricity to power over 3 million UK homes.



Once Hornsea 3 is operational, Ørsted's Hornsea zone – comprising Hornsea 1, 2 and 3 – will have a total capacity of over 5GW. This will be the world's largest offshore wind zone, producing low-cost, clean, renewable electricity for UK homes.

Hornsea 4 was awarded planning permission July 2023.

Project updates

We reached a significant milestone in April 2023, with the project officially entering its Main Works Phase. Since then, work has progressed in preparation of our onshore cable installation.

Ground breaking

Construction has begun as part of our Main Works Phase. We are working from the north of the onshore cable route down to the south. We have completed a handful of our access points, haul roads and drainage, whilst there is still more to be done, we are happy with the progress we are making!

Artificial Nesting Structure

Hornsea 3 is delighted to share the completion of our industry-first nearshore Artificial Nesting Structures (ANS) for Kittiwake, off the coast of Minsmere and Lowestoft. These three bespoke structures have been specifically designed to house Kittiwake, a vulnerable species of seabird, as part of innovative plans to compensate for potential impacts of the Hornsea 3 windfarm on the species.

Despite a lack of suitable natural nesting sites (i.e. cliffs) in Suffolk, Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa Tridactyla*) have colonised the area and populations are expanding, highlighting its ecological suitability. This makes East Suffolk one of the most likely places for artificial structures to be colonised quickly and for the compensation measures to have the highest chance of success.

The structures are located approximately 1km offshore - with one close to the Minsmere Nature Reserve and the other two located near South Beach, Lowestoft. These nearshore locations place the structures close to existing, thriving Kittiwake colonies, whilst minimising disturbance to local residents and business owners.

A team of architects, engineers and ecologists were commissioned to design the structures in collaboration with local stakeholders and an Offshore Ornithology Engagement Group, which includes Natural England, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) as core members.

Each structure has the capacity to accommodate around 500 breeding pairs and will be monitored across the lifetime of the ANS. Hornsea 3 is the first offshore wind project to require ecological compensation making these innovative ANS an industry-first.



Horizontal Directional Drilling

To minimise disturbance to the local community and to reduce the need for diversions or road closures, we are using a trenchless cable laying method called Horizontal Directional Drilling. Horizontal Directional Drilling has begun and we have commenced from the north of the cable route and will work towards the south. Works will continue into 2024.

Satellite Compounds

In the last edition, we told you about the successful opening of the temporary main logistics compound at Oulton Airfield. We also require temporary secondary satellite compounds, which are smaller in scale and will be located near High Kelling and on Watton Road. Construction of the Northern satellite Compound (near High Kelling) was successfully completed on the 16th of July. Look out for updates in the next newsletter as we progress with works on the Southern satellite compound.

Energy Balancing Infrastructure (EBI)

Planning permission was granted in January 2023 for Ørsted to develop Energy Balancing Infrastructure (EBI) on land to the east of Main Road (B1113) and south of the A47, Swardston. Since then, Ørsted has begun the process of engaging with battery suppliers and are looking to secure a supplier by the end of 2023.

Hornsea 3 Community Benefit Fund

The Hornsea 3 Community Benefit Fund is taking shape. The local advisory panel has now been established to ensure the funds are awarded to the most deserving applications. The Panel comprises of representatives from the Local Councils, the Norfolk Wildlife Trust, The Norfolk Community Foundation, English Nature, Community Action Norfolk and Community Action Suffolk. We have also now finalised the criteria and expect the Fund will open to applications very soon. To keep up to date with Hornsea 3 Community Benefit Fund, please visit <https://grantscape.org.uk/fund/hornsea-3-community-fund>

Events

We had a fantastic time at the Southern North Sea Conference and the Royal Norfolk Show. We attended the Royal Norfolk Show in collaboration with the East Wind Offshore Wind Cluster, in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math village where we met with students, residents, and landowners. We were joined by 3DW who provided a virtual reality experience of Hornsea 3, for users to visualise what a wind farm looks like up close.

We will also be attending the Aylsham Show on Monday 28th August. There will be activities for all ages, and the project team will be on hand to answer any of your queries. We look forward to seeing you there, please stop by and visit our stand!





Day in the life – Ryan Woods, Quality, Health, Safety and Environment advisor



At Ørsted, we are on a journey to create a world that runs entirely on green energy. Every one of our employees plays a vital role in working towards this vision.

We want to highlight some of the people carrying out key roles within our organisation so that you can get to know members of the project team helping to deliver Hornsea 3. In this edition, we are exploring the work that our Quality, Health, Safety and Environment (QHSE) advisor, Ryan Woods undertakes:

Hi, my name is Ryan Woods, and I am the Ørsted QHSE advisor for the Hornsea 3 onshore cable route. Back at my home, my wife & I have the privilege of parenting three wonderful children. As you can imagine this provides so much joy to the both of us, and ultimately takes up most of our out-of-work time and efforts, through football team coaching (I am no Pep)! dancing, gymnastics and much more (we wouldn't change this for the world)!

From the moment I left school, I was fortunate to progress into a carpentry and joinery apprenticeship. This set me on my way into a successful career path within the construction industry that has provided me with continuous work for over 27 years and counting.

I made the transition from construction management to QHSE over 14 years ago. Before I started with Ørsted over 6 months ago, I worked on Hornsea 1 & Hornsea 2 for a cable supply contractor. This enabled me to understand and appreciate the values embedded in all Ørsted projects. In my role as a contract partner, we felt included and valued by the Ørsted delivery team, and it was clear that QHSE excellence is the primary consideration and objective for the project.

As exciting as it is to be part of a project that will deliver the world's largest windfarm, and provide green energy for generations to come, the reality is that this will come with QHSE challenges that the project will have to work diligently to overcome.

One of the most important elements of my role as QHSE advisor on Hornsea 3, is demonstrating strong leadership. I aim to deliver this every day by:

- Putting the Health Safety and wellbeing of project personnel and project stakeholders at the front of my actions
- Enhancing every opportunity to create a positive, effective psychological safe working environment
- Developing shared goals, to ensure everyone on the project contributes to establishing a safe project that everyone leaves for home in the way they arrived
- Maximizing opportunities to support and improve whenever possible, through incentives and social value programmes
- Collaborating with our principal contractor Volkerfitzpatrick
- Trying to have fun and make everlasting friendships

As a project we understand that our acts and omissions, not only impact the immediate project, but they will also impact local stakeholders and communities. As mitigation the Hornsea 3 team have developed robust QHSE systems and implement strategic plans to minimise disruption as much as we physically can do.

We also realise that local stakeholders and community can provide us with an opportunity to understand our challenges better through social engagement. As a project we embed social value in everything we possibly can, through employment, consultation, collaboration with charity and other organisations.

Our QHSE team realise the impacts this can bring to the project culture.

- We raise traffic safety awareness through messaging from local schools and community messaging
- We create QHSE forums for community engagement initiatives to be developed

In summary, my day-to-day duty is challenging, but at the same time exiting and satisfying through the opportunities the Hornsea 3 project brings.

Engaging with local communities

We have a range of communication tools which allow you to follow the progress of the project, or to contact us with your questions. These include:

Hornsea 3 Project Website

We've updated our Hornsea 3 website which now includes a dedicated community engagement space. Here you can find links to our engagement activities on Hornsea 3 and information on our final stage of the Hornsea 3 Community Fund consultation events. We have also published the Hornsea 3 Community Information Events Summary Report and the Hornsea 3 Community Fund Consultation Summary Report available on our website www.hornseaproject3.co.uk.

Communication Support Team

A Community Support Team is on hand to respond to any enquiries via direct email correspondence, and a dedicated freephone information line. The phoneline is manned between the hours of 9am and 5:30pm, however you can leave a voicemail outside of these times and a member of the project team will get back to you.

Email: community@hornsea3.co.uk
Telephone: **0800 158 2354**

Quarterly Newsletters

Community newsletters will provide regular updates on the progress leading up to and during construction, including information on forthcoming activities, updates on community funding and insights into how we work. Look out for our next newsletter in November, which will be made available online on our website. You can sign up to receive a digital copy directly to your inbox by emailing: community@hornsea3.co.uk

Collaborative Working

Our collaboration with Equinor, Galliford Try and Vattenfall is an important part of delivering Hornsea 3. All developers are committed to working together in the development of offshore wind projects to ensure clear and effective communications are delivered to the local communities and stakeholders we are working with. This means that we work closely together to ensure the community is updated in a timely and comprehensive way about forthcoming works and that we address any concerns raised by residents and parish councils as soon as they arise.

Due to the close proximity with the timing and location of Vattenfall's project, we have a joint communications engagement plan, which sets out how our two organisations will work together to keep local communities updated with developments on both projects.

Outreach

Ørsted is passionate about supporting skills, education and the future of the offshore wind industry in the UK. We are proud of our partnerships with schools in the local area, talking to students about Hornsea 3 and the importance of renewable energy. We have also provided careers advice and ran mock interviews. We will continue to support local schools, aiming to provide practical and technical skills that students will need to succeed in the local workplace.

Our underlying ambition with our outreach to schools and education institutes is twofold. Firstly, to introduce them to our exciting industry and the plethora of careers opportunities within it; secondly, to provide them with the opportunity to gain insights into our objectives as an organisation and an industry, hopefully inspiring them to share our ambition to create a world that runs entirely on green energy!

Contact us

If you'd like to get in touch or follow the latest updates regarding Hornsea 3 and the wider Ørsted UK team, please visit our website or follow us on social media.



community@hornsea3.co.uk



0800 158 2354



www.hornseaproject3.co.uk



@ØrstedUK #HornseaProject3

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