

# Norfolk Local Access Forum

Date: **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

Time: **10:00**

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](mailto:nlaf@norfolk.gov.uk)**

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**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](mailto:nlaf@norfolk.gov.uk)

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

## A g e n d a

**1 To receive apologies and details of any substitute members attending**

**2 Chair's Announcements**

**3 Minutes**

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023

**4 Members to Declare any Interests**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **6 Public Question Time**

Fifteen minutes for questions from members of the public of which due notice has been given. Please note that all questions must be received by the Secretary [nlaf@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:nlaf@norfolk.gov.uk) by **5pm Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024**. For guidance on submitting a public question, please visit

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/councillors-meetings-decisions-and-elections/committees-agendas-and-recent-decisions/ask-a-question-to-a-committee>

## **7 Local Member Issues/Questions**

Fifteen minutes for local member to raise issues of concern of which due notice has been given. Please note that all questions must be received by the Secretary [nlaf@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:nlaf@norfolk.gov.uk) by **5pm Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024**.

## **8 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: 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024



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# Norfolk Local Access Forum (Forum member report)

<b>Report title:</b>	Forward Plan (NLAF agenda)
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> January 2024

## Summary

A plan for agenda items for future NLAF meetings has been prepared. Further suggestions very welcome.

### Recommendation

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

<b>1.</b>	<b>Proposal</b>
1.1.	<p><u>Standing agenda items are generally as follows:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chairman's announcement (not a report)</li> <li>Feedback from conferences and events attended by NLAF members (not a report)</li> <li>Meetings forward plan (NLAF member report)</li> <li>Sub groups' meetings (NLAF member report)</li> <li>Pathmakers update (NLAF member report)</li> <li>Countryside Access arrangements (NCC report)</li> <li>NCC Member Champion for Sustainable Transport (NCC report, not brought to every meeting)</li> <li>Major infrastructure projects update (NCC report)</li> <li>Future funding for access (NCC report, not brought to every meeting)</li> </ul>
1.2.	<p><u>April 2024 (next meeting). Items to consider</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water based activities</li> <li>NCC Cycling and Walking Strategy</li> </ul>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1.	To agree agenda items for future meetings from the above list or from other suggestions
<b>3.</b>	<b>Evidence</b>
3.1.	See proposal

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

<b>NLAF member name :</b>	<b>Martin Sullivan and Ken Hawkins</b>
<b>Email addresses :</b>	<a href="mailto:nlaf@norfolk.gov.uk">nlaf@norfolk.gov.uk</a>
<b>Phone number</b>	<b>Via 01603 222810</b>

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# Norfolk Local Access Forum (Forum member report)

<b>Report title:</b>	NLAF task group feedback
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> January 2024

## Summary

**Ideas from a task group meeting (all NLAF members invited) which explored options to encourage greater participation in NLAF meetings will be discussed and actions agreed.**

<b>1.</b>	<b>Proposal</b>
1.1.	<p>Encouraging greater discussion and participation in NLAF meetings was explored by a task group (all NLAF members invited) held in person on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023.</p> <p>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 are reported into this NLAF meeting - see Appendix 1 for minutes.</p>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1.	To discuss and agree actions to be implemented
<b>3.</b>	<b>Evidence</b>
3.1.	<p>The LAF does not have unfettered freedom to do whatever it wants.</p> <p>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 <a href="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">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</a> which places some supportive limits on what we can do and how we do it.</p>

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

<b>NLAF member name :</b>	<b>Martin Sullivan</b> <b>Ken Hawkins</b>
<b>Email address :</b>	<b><a href="mailto:nlaf@norfolk.gov.uk">nlaf@norfolk.gov.uk</a></b>

# Norfolk Local Access Forum Taskgroup

## MINUTES

<b>Date of meeting:</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 1.30 to 3.30pm County Hall Cranworth Room</b>
<b>Present:</b>	<p>NLAF: Martin Sullivan, Ken Hawkins, Simon Fowler, Rob Lodge, Birgit Griem, Kevin Grieve, Fraser Bowe, Ruth Goodall, Anne Killett, Rebecca Durant</p> <p>NCC: Matt Hayward (Green Infrastructure), Helen Terry (National Trails/ Norfolk Trails), Su Waldron</p> <p>No-one from Highways team was available</p>

	<b>Item</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
1.	<b>Welcome and introductions, apologies</b>	
	<p>Apologies were received from Katy Owen, Jason Moore (NCC); Elizabeth Meath-Baker and Cllr Maxine Webb (NLAF)</p> <p>MS welcomed all and outlined the purpose of the meeting which was (a) to find ways of encouraging greater engagement and involvement of all NLAF members and (b) to establish productive links between the NLAF and lead councillors.</p> <p>It was agreed that the meeting would take the format of a free-flowing discussion around the table.</p>	
2.	<b>Discussion : encouraging greater engagement and involvement of all NLAF members</b>	
2.1	<p>Points made :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NLAF members were very keen to support the Chair and Vice Chair who they recognised put in a huge amount of work to the Forum. This was echoed by NCC officers.</li> <li>- NCC officers were keen to stress how much the Council valued NLAF members' time and involvement, and there is plenty of scope for NLAF to feed into NCC activities (and put forward points that don't necessarily concur)</li> <li>- NLAF members are appointed through a rigorous recruitment process, and to specific interest areas. However, it was felt that it would be helpful to have a refresher some time after appointment to enable members to better understand how they might contribute from their particular remit.</li> <li>- Some members were nervous about making contributions during meetings, fearing they lacked sufficient expertise to comment, although their time with Forum had enabled them</li> </ul>	Refresher on role for NLAF members some time after appointment



	<p>to increase their knowledge on access to the countryside considerably. It was emphasised that all members came with considerable knowledge and experience in their field and NLAF's work would be much the better for having it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Some members felt it was difficult to disagree with a perceived majority view in meetings – for example, this had arisen during the visit to the Weavers' Way at Honing, where some members thought the track looked better (more natural) before the surface was improved than afterwards</li> <li>- The style of presenting some reports during meetings led to some members feeling that they were being persuaded of something rather than their own views being welcomed in open discussion</li> <li>- Was the NLAF too passive? Not saying clearly enough what it wants to see done to improve access?</li> <li>- Presentations from relevant organisations (such as the Police rural crime unit) were much appreciated by NLAF members as it helped contextualise their role</li> <li>- NLAF has a role as a 'critical friend' of NCC.</li> <li>- NCC is budget-poor with just £14,000 assigned by Natural England to improving the coast path infrastructure for example (although Norfolk Trails Team is separate as is Highways which manage the Countryside Access Officers)</li> <li>- Some NLAF members found the online Norfolk Access Improvement Plan – Norfolk's blueprint for improving countryside access <a href="http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/naip">www.norfolk.gov.uk/naip</a> difficult to access and would welcome a paper copy. SW to locate and supply copies for all the NLAF at the January 2024 meeting</li> <li>-</li> </ul>	SW – supply printed copies of the NAIP to NLAF
2.2	<b>Ideas emerging</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consider themed meetings, with focus on a particular topic</li> <li>- Repeat NLAF induction so that members feel confident about their role and the NCC teams involved etc. Current induction pack for NLAF members is on SharePoint here <a href="#">PACK</a>. Consider updating, or producing a 'handbook' for NLAF members</li> <li>- An NCC organogram would be useful to enable the NLAF to get a feel for all the various teams/ officers at NCC working in countryside access</li> <li>- Reinvigorate interaction with parish councils over greater local involvement with local PRoW (follow up from parish seminars) <a href="https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/partnerships/local-access-forum/projects">https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/partnerships/local-access-forum/projects</a>. Pack created for the NLAF seminars with parishes (available on the NLAF SharePoint) could potentially be uploaded to the Pathmakers website). <a href="#">Parish Paths Information Pack GENERIC.pdf</a> (see also Attachment 1)</li> <li>-</li> </ul>	<p>SW: provide NCC staff structure diagram</p> <p>Include NLAF induction refresh at the January 2024 NLAF meeting</p>
3.	<b>Discussion: Establishing productive links between the NLAF and lead councillors</b>	
3.1	Points made:	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Important to ensure the NLAf's recommendations regarding access are reported into NCC Committee (the political structure of the Council). This is now possible via a report brought annually to the Infrastructure and Development Committee on progress with the NAIP.</li> <li>- Important to ensure that information flows the other way: i.e. that the above Committee reports back to the NLAf directly on the proposals and recommendations it makes to NCC. The NLAf's appointed Councillor (Cllr Webb) had helpfully raised this point with the Committee.</li> <li>- Raise profile of NLAf with NCC Councillors</li> <li>- The NLAf has just one appointed NCC Councillor at the moment, Cllr Maxine Webb, who has a good attendance record and has been very helpful to the group. The Leader of the Council appoints NCC Councillors to the NLAf – SW to establish who the NLAf's 2<sup>nd</sup> appointed Councillor is</li> <li>- All Norfolk County Councillors should be aware of the NAIP – it is an NCC core document that the Council (and others) are delivering against to improve access to the countryside. MH said that current and future iterations of reporting on the NAIP include how specific projects deliver NAIP objectives.</li> <li>- The Chair and Vice Chair had ensured there are good interactions between the NLAf and the Broads Local Access Forum, with plenty of exchange</li> <li>- How should Forum members put forward ideas for improving access? One member had a specific request which involved creating permissive access – in this instance, NLAf members themselves might be able to help, and there is information with the Parish Paths seminars information pack here <a href="#">Parish Paths Information Pack GENERIC.pdf</a> which includes with advice on creating permissive agreements and funding, including NCC member funds for community projects. Ideas could potentially be taken forward by the Vision and Ideas subgroup / Pathmakers.</li> <li>- NCC officers would ensure the NLAf was sighted of all projects in the pipeline, as well as those underway</li> <li>-</li> </ul>	<p>SW to follow up with Dem Services on 2<sup>nd</sup> appointed NCC Councillor</p> <p>SW to follow up on information flow to NLAf from I&amp;D</p> <p>SW ensure Parish Paths information pack is available to current NLAf members</p>
3.2	<p><b>Ideas emerging</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NLAf Chairs and Pathmakers Chair to meet with NCC Portfolio holder for the environment, Cllr Eric Vardy to ensure its role and remit are better understood: the NLAf is a valuable asset to NCC, representing wide views on improving access to the countryside – and should demonstrate its value to NCC</li> <li>- NCC to provide updates on upcoming projects and ideas regarding countryside access (as well as projects underway)</li> <li>- Put forward individual NLAf member ideas for improving countryside access to SW in the first instance (to establish where NCC can help)</li> <li>- Consider the idea of champions to simplify and promote specific aspects of what the NLAf is seeking to achieve</li> <li>-</li> </ul>	<p>SW set up meeting with MS, KH, SF, RL, Cllr Vardy</p>

4.	<p><b>AOB and next meeting date</b></p> <p>A recent publication produced by the New Economics Foundation and The Ramblers to be circulated: <i>Who has a public right of way? An analysis of provision and inequity in England and Wales</i> (Attachment 2)</p> <p>Next full NLAf meeting date set for 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024 in person at 10am at County Hall (Edwards Room / Margaret English Room)</p>	
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### Attachments

- 1 Parish Paths Information Pack
- 2 Who has a public right of way (New Economics Foundation and The Ramblers) September 2023



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# Norfolk Local Access Forum

Item No:

**Report Title: Norfolk's Local Nature Recovery Strategy**

**Date of Meeting: 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

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

**Responsible Director: Steve Miller, Director Culture & Heritage, Community and Environmental Services**

**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**

Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) are a new, England-wide system of statutory spatial strategies that will establish priorities and map proposals for specific actions to drive nature's recovery and provide wider environmental benefits. Norfolk County Council has been appointed as responsible authority to produce Norfolk's LNRS and a presentation will be given to the Norfolk Local Access Forum on the timetable and steps involved to enable the Forum to engage with the process where appropriate.

## **Recommendations:**

- 1. To note work underway to produce Norfolk's Local Nature Recovery Strategy.**
- 2. We are working in partnership with Suffolk County Council to produce a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for each county.**
- 3. Note the timescale to publish the Local Nature Recovery Strategy by Spring 2025.**

## **1. Background and Purpose**

- 1.1** LNRSs are a new, England-wide system of statutory spatial strategies that will establish priorities and map proposals for specific actions to drive nature's recovery and provide wider environmental benefits. The core purpose of LNRSs is to help reverse the decline of nature and biodiversity in England. To

do this, a key feature of the strategies is they will identify areas that are already of importance for nature, along with areas that could become of particular importance and where the recovery or enhancement of biodiversity could make a particular contribution to other environmental benefits. In other words, LNRSs will identify where we should take action for nature's recovery as well as where nature-based solutions can help address wider environmental problems. They will be created collaboratively with stakeholders enabling collective effort to be focussed where it will have the most benefits. LNRS will contribute to the Nature Recovery Network (NRN), a national network of wildlife-rich places enacted by the Environment Act 2021. <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/part/6/crossheading/local-nature-recovery-strategies/enacted>. Norfolk County Council (NCC) has been appointed as responsible authority to lead development and delivery of the Norfolk LNRS.

- 1.2 LNRSs are expected to include the wider environmental benefits of nature recovery and will be developed with a broad and diverse stakeholder base with community engagement playing an important part.
- 1.3 Norfolk's Public Rights of Way network often has areas of natural habitat adjacent (to footpaths etc.) which are often the remnants of habitat which previously surrounded them but have disappeared through land use changes (like highway verges). By their very nature, these habitat fragments link up providing opportunities to improve connectivity of habitats for species such as pollinators.
- 1.4 Opportunities to create access to nature to communities through the creation of new access routes, will facilitate greater participation and enjoyment for people to the benefits for nature recovery. Permissive paths may play an important role in connecting communities with their green spaces.
- 1.5 The NLAF has pressed for more information on opportunities to fund permissive access agreements through ELMS and similar schemes as it is an aspiration in the Norfolk Access Improvement Plan (NAIP), Norfolk's Rights of Way Improvement Plan [www.norfolk.gov.uk/naip](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/naip) (Statement of Actions 2.7 page 81).

## **2. Proposal**

- 2.1 The Norfolk Local Access Forum is asked to note the presentation and to consider ways in which it can support Norfolk County Council to deliver the LNRS.
- 2.2 We are working in partnership with Suffolk County Council by virtue of shared designated areas of natural environment and landscape such as the Broads,

Breckland and Coast, as well as shared stakeholders, to produce the Local Nature Recovery Strategies by Spring 2025.

### **3. Impact of the Proposal**

- 3.1 The presentation will provide greater understanding of the LNRS process and timetabling for the Norfolk Local Access Forum, a statutory advisory forum providing advice on countryside access improvements.
- 3.2 The LNRS will have a positive impact on the biodiversity of Norfolk.

### **4. Evidence and Reasons for Decision**

- 4.1 Please see Section 3.1

### **5. Alternative Options**

- 5.1 No other alternatives are proposed.

### **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1 There are no financial implications, Defra has provided the County Council with New Burdens money to produce the LNRS.

### **7. Resource Implications**

- 7.1 **Staff:** Within the Environment Service we have already recruited a team to deliver the Local Nature Recovery Strategy including a shared Local Nature Recovery Strategy Manager with Suffolk County Council.

- 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):**

None 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 work underway to produce Norfolk's Local Nature Recovery Strategy.**
- 2. We are working in partnership with Suffolk County Council to produce a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for each county.**
- 3. Note the timescale to publish the Local Nature Recovery Strategy by Spring 2025.**

### **12. Background Papers**

12.1 None

#### **Officer Contact**

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

**Officer name:** Wendy Brooks, Head of Environment

**Telephone no.** 01603 223853

**Email:** [wendy.brooks@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:wendy.brooks@norfolk.gov.uk)



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# Norfolk Local Access Forum

## (Forum member report)

<b>Report title:</b>	NLAF Subgroups' report (PRoW, NAIP, Vision and Ideas)
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> January 2024

### Summary

Meetings of the NLAF's subgroups since the previous full NLAF meeting are reported.

The PRoW subgroup met on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023 (see Appendix 1 for minutes).

The Vision and Ideas subgroup met twice on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023 and 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 (see Appendix 2 and Appendix 3 for minutes)

The NAIP subgroup did not meet over the reporting period.

<b>1.</b>	<b>Proposal</b>
1.1.	See Summary
<b>2.</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1.	To note the minutes from the PRoW subgroup and agree any follow up NLAF actions recommended. To note the minutes from the Vision and Ideas subgroup and agree any follow up action required.
<b>3.</b>	<b>Evidence</b>
3.1.	Please see Appendices.

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

<b>NLAF member name :</b>	Martin Sullivan Ken Hawkins Rob Lodge
<b>Email address :</b>	<a href="mailto:nlaf@norfolk.gov.uk">nlaf@norfolk.gov.uk</a>

## APPENDIX 1 (Subgroups' report)

### NORFOLK LOCAL ACCESS FORUM : Public Rights of Way Subgroup Minutes

**Date:** Monday 11 December 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](https://norfolkcounty.sharepoint.com/sites/Norfolk_Local_Access_Forum/SitePages/Home.aspx)

<b>Present</b>	
Ken Hawkins (Chair)	Norfolk Local Access Forum
Keith Bacon	Broads Local Access Forum
Paul Baker	Norfolk Local Access Forum
Chris Cane	Norfolk Local Access Forum
Simon Fowler	Norfolk Local Access Forum
Ian Mitchell	The Ramblers
Martin Sullivan	Norfolk Local Access Forum
<b>In attendance</b>	
David Mills	Countryside Access Officer
Katy Owen	Protected Landscapes
Helen Terry	National Trails Team Leader
Grace Courtney-Tucker	Assistant Project Officer, NCC Environment

	action
<b>1 Introductions and apologies for absence</b> All attending (online or in person) were welcomed and thanked for attending. Apologies were received from Ruth Goodall and Birgit Griem from NLAf, and Jason Moore and Su Waldron (NCC staff).	
<b>2 Minutes of the meeting on 11 September 2023</b> The minutes were approved.	
<b>3 NLAf meeting on 4 October 2023</b> The minutes of the NLAf meeting had been circulated and were noted.	
<b>4 Matters arising from the minutes</b> <p>4.1 <u>4.1 Norfolk Record Office opening hours</u>: Gary Tuson, County Archivist, had reported that the opening hours had been reviewed and "the pilot of Friday opening was successful, so this will continue from now on. Apart from that, no extension of opening hours is planned for the time being."</p> <p>4.2 <u>4.2 East of England Coast Path</u>: It was reported that an initial meeting had been held with Suffolk, Essex and Thurrock Councils and Natural England (NE). This had raised more questions than NE could answer: Helen and Katy were meeting with Andrew Jamieson soon to discuss NCC's involvement. The main output was that more follow up meetings would be needed. Katy congratulated Helen for securing funding for the Coast Path - £50k and £10k from Ramble Worldwide Outdoor Trust (formerly Ramblers Holidays Charitable Trust).</p> <p>4.3 <u>4.3 The Great Chalk Way</u>: There was no change to report.</p> <p>4.4 <u>4.7 Brancaster boardwalk</u>: The planning application had been approved and the project was now fully funded. Work was in hand, due for completion at the end of March. [Detailed update information is available in two large (9MB) files available on request.]</p>	

4.5	6.2.5 <u>Report statistics</u> : The meeting planned for 28 September had been cancelled and a new date was still being sought.	
5	<b>Partnership and Community Working</b> <u>Issues from represented organisations</u> : Ian Mitchell (The Ramblers) reported on the latest position regarding the DMMOs for Thompson FP1 (a new inspector had been assigned) and the restricted byway at Newton by Castle Acre (outcome expected 2024).	
6	<b>Countryside Access Arrangements report</b> 6.1 <u>General update</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 An incomplete report had been erroneously circulated before the meeting. A number of questions was asked about 2.11 in the report.</li> <li>2 It was noted that the retendering of cutting contracts was still in progress and new costs were not yet known.</li> <li>3 David said that it was not possible to give a number of the “[s]everal longstanding obstruction cases [which] remain ongoing”.</li> <li>4 A comment was made that the report indicated that reinstatement notices continued to be needed and issued, which seemed to suggest either that the same paths were being repeatedly impacted, or that where landowners changed practice after being advised, new issues were arising (or some combination of both); in either case, it was suggested that the current process of enforcement/compliance was not fully effective. David noted that NCC’s approach was to secure support from landowners to get the best outcomes, though it was also noted that when paths were unavailable for extended periods, this prevented people from exercising their rights to use them.</li> <li>5 It was noted that “NCC has recently been rated as No1 (against comparable authorities) in the National Highways and Transportation Survey for customer satisfaction regarding public rights of way.” This appeared to represent a significant improvement from previous years, though previously there had been a number of measures relating to public rights of way in the survey; David was asked to provide all the results for this section so that they could be fully understood.</li> <li>6 The completed report is issued with these minutes.</li> </ol> 6.2 <u>Specific issues</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 <i>Legal challenges regarding longstanding obstruction at Upwell</i>: It was reported that there was no change on this issue, first reported to the subgroup in September 2021.</li> <li>2 <i>King Charles III England Coast Path</i>: It was noted that NCC was still working to establish the Hunstanton to Sutton Bridge section; the funding for establishment had been secured from Natural England (NE) and the new target date was 6 March 2024. NE wanted a low key launch to respect perceived sensitivities from the royal estate. It was in any case hoped that a full launch could be arranged when the Weybourne to Hunstanton section was finally determined.</li> <li>3 <i>Bridleway/restricted byway crossings of major roads</i>: A question was asked if there was a programme of review of all locations where a bridleway or restricted byway crossed a major road. Katy said there was not a list as such, but staff were aware of the crossings and awarded them red/amber/green ratings; decisions on action involved considering whether to prioritise those needing less work to improve them or those that presented larger challenges. In either case, funding and the willingness of Highway Authorities to make changes were major constraints. Helen noted that actions could be taken to alleviate some problems, including seeking signage along the Peddars’ Way and discussions with Forestry Commission to explore</li> </ol>	David

<p>access through its land to connect rights of way to other existing safer crossings. Katy added that there were choices whether to take a Trail by Trail approach or one based on the ratings.</p> <p>4 <i>Adverse impact of private rights on the exercise of public rights:</i> Ken asked if there were there provisions to deal with locations where use of vehicular private rights caused difficulties for those exercising lower public rights (eg by rutting and churning). David replied that there was some recourse when paths were affected during new developments, but historical situations were difficult to manage, where linking damage to private usage was difficult and rights users often expected NCC to remedy damage.</p> <p>6.3 <u>Major Infrastructure Projects and Planning Applications</u></p> <p>1 <i>Norwich to Tilbury (formerly known as East Anglia GREEN):</i> It was noted that the Ramblers had made available a list of public rights of way thought to be affected for anyone wishing to research this further.</p> <p>2 <i>Norwich Western Link Project Update:</i> The details presented to the NCC Cabinet were noted. It was <b>agreed</b> to recommend that NLAFF waits until the formal planning application is submitted in 2024, when, depending on the date of submission and the timescale for comment, a process for detailed review and preparation of comments could be determined.</p> <p>3 <i>NSIPs update:</i> An update from Alice Craske, Project Manager, was gratefully received. It was thought that there were not any issues currently requiring comment by NLAFF.</p>	Ken
<p><b>7 Definitive Map Modification Orders</b></p> <p>It was <b>agreed</b> to ascertain if NCC has a Statement of Priorities for dealing with DMMO applications.</p> <p>[David has since drawn attention to the content of the NAIP:  <i>The County Council deals with applications for Orders on a first come, first served basis, However, should the need arise in a specific case or due to an increase in applications, especially as the 2026 cut-off deadline draws closer, a system of prioritisation may be introduced.</i>  <i>At present, priority may be given if:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>A route is threatened by developers;</i></li> <li>• <i>Processing a case will significantly progress a specific target within the NAIP;</i></li> <li>• <i>Where the evidence is based largely on users who may not be available to give that evidence if a long time elapses;</i></li> <li>• <i>Where there is an overriding operational need to do so.]</i></li> </ul>	
<p><b>8 Who has a public right of way?</b></p> <p>The Executive Summary of this report by the New Economics Foundation for The Ramblers was received, together with a link to the full document. It was noted that the report had been considered briefly by NLAFF's Vision and Ideas Subgroup and was to be considered further in 2024, so would not be examined in detail by this subgroup. It did however spark a discussion about the need for, and the steps already in hand to work towards, improving equity of access. Katy confirmed that this was a key part of their work and noted that several of the teams within NCC were (for example) looking at how to target groups that currently did not use Protected Landscapes. She referred to two sources of information - a training resource to start to understand the perspectives of others on outdoor access (and how to help): <a href="#">Welcome   Allyship In The Outdoors (allyship-thenorthface.netlify.app)</a>; and a new website, to which it was hoped to welcome the National Trail soon (eventually followed by Norfolk</p>	

	Trails): <a href="https://norfolkcoast.org/">https://norfolkcoast.org/</a> . Simon offered the support of Pathmakers should it be helpful in seeking funding.	
<b>9</b>	<b>Date of next meetings</b> The next Subgroup meetings are planned for Mondays 11 March, 10 June, 16 September and 9 December, all from 14:00 to 16:00, as hybrid meetings.	<b>all</b>

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

## Norfolk Local Access Forum Vision and Ideas Subgroup

### MINUTES

<b>Subgroup</b>	<b>Vision and Ideas</b>
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 12 noon, County Hall Cranworth Room</b>
<b>Invitees</b>	NLAF: Rob Lodge (Chair), Martin Sullivan, Ken Hawkins, Birgit Griem, Kevin Grieve NCC: Katy Owen, Helen Terry, Jason Moore, Matt Hayward, Su Waldron

**Please see NLAF SharePoint for V and I documents**

	<b>Item</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
1.	<b>Welcome and introductions, apologies</b>	
	RL welcome all. Apologies were received from Katy Owen and Jason Moore	
2.	<b>Previous key discussions with Economic and Well being considerations, particularly with a PROW and National Trails focus</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SW to circulate Terms of Reference for the subgroup (Attachment 1)</li> <li>- RL was thanked for summarising previous papers and notes from discussions of the group</li> </ul>	SW: circulate Terms of Reference
3.	<b>Ongoing and future NCC's work related to NLAF, with inputs from both NCC colleagues and the V and I subgroup</b>	
	<p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- KH had circulated a recent document (September 2023) published by the New Economics Foundation: <i>Who has a Public Right of Way? An analysis of provision and inequity in England and Wales</i> <a href="https://neweconomics.org/2023/09/who-has-a-public-right-of-way">https://neweconomics.org/2023/09/who-has-a-public-right-of-way</a> and this was referenced to shape discussions at the meeting (Attachment 2).</li> <li>- The document evidences inequities in the provision of public rights of way which impact on communities and interactions with nature. Maps in this document illustrate that Norwich has poor provision of PROW registered on the definitive map, and there is a risk that unregistered paths will be lost to development. It was believed that there had been some exception / legal reason why Norwich and Great Yarmouth PROW were not included on the definitive map when it was drawn up. Norwich is in the bottom 10 local authorities for 4 indicators of PROW provision (table 6 of report)</li> <li>- Elsewhere across Norfolk, although the county is very rural, the 'heat' map of access provision showed there were still gaps in</li> </ul>	

	<p>access provision for local communities. Additionally, there were links between deprivation and lack of access.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MH said the Norfolk-wide Local Cycling and Walking Investment Plan (LCWIP) that is currently being developed by NCC Green Infrastructure Team would help identify infrastructure and opportunities to improve access for market towns across Norfolk <a href="https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/policies-and-strategies/roads-and-travel-policies/local-cycling-and-walking-infrastructure-plans">https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/policies-and-strategies/roads-and-travel-policies/local-cycling-and-walking-infrastructure-plans</a>. Linkes with the Walking and Wheeling Strategy and includes a 10 year plan to develop the routes. Funding would then be required to realise the plans, e.g. CIL, Dft Active Travel funds etc. LCWIP expected to be taken to the NCC Infrastructure and Development Committee in March 2024</li> <li>- MH also referenced work presented to the NLA in October 2022 by the NCC Natural Norfolk mapping team, on refining the Natural England Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGST) methodology for the Greater Norwich Area, to better show access points to the existing green infrastructure (green spaces, paths etc.). <a href="#">Greater Norwich Green Infrastructure Strategy and Access</a></li> </ul>	
4.	<p><b>Future Focus of the group's work including possible timelines from all participants at the meeting</b></p> <p><b>Opportunities to explore/ take forward</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Build on the successes of the Norfolk Walking Festival organised by Pathmakers with funding from NCC and the Heritage Fund <a href="https://pathmakers.org.uk/walknorfolk-2/">https://pathmakers.org.uk/walknorfolk-2/</a></li> <li>- Increase visibility of NLA's work and the benefits of countryside access, targeting communications to make best use of resources. Consider focussing on Norfolk's aging population and attracting young people and families providing inspiration and reassurance</li> <li>- EXPERIENCE project has a toolkit for reaching audiences across a wide spectrum that could be relevant. <a href="https://www.tourismexperience.org/resources-hub/best-practice-guide">https://www.tourismexperience.org/resources-hub/best-practice-guide</a></li> <li>- Promoting safer cycling routes to encourage take up of cycling in rural areas: MH cited the Quiet Lanes initiative, mentioned in a report to the NLA by David Burt of Sustrans (April 2023) <a href="#">Travelling in rural Norfolk (arcgis.com)</a>.</li> <li>- Are the Norwich/ Great Yarmouth cycle maps easy to follow?</li> <li>- Explore the potential for bikebuses for school children <a href="https://bicibus.eu/en/drive-a-bicibus/">https://bicibus.eu/en/drive-a-bicibus/</a> and <a href="https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2023/oct/04/bicibus-how-barcelona-got-kids-cycling-safely-to-school">https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2023/oct/04/bicibus-how-barcelona-got-kids-cycling-safely-to-school</a></li> <li>- Explore the potential to support community-led approaches such as training for community PRow champions. Explore whether engagement at a parish level (parish councils) represents the best way forward or are there alternative approaches that the NLA could explore to encourage greater uptake of access to PRow? or for targeting specific messaging e.g. to specific user groups</li> <li>- Promote Walk Leader training available on Active Norfolk website <a href="https://www.activenorfolk.org/public/building-activity-in-our-">https://www.activenorfolk.org/public/building-activity-in-our-</a></li> </ul>	

	<a href="#">communities/walk-leader-training</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Investigate/ consider input to NCC-developed programme of webinars arranged with Norfolk Association of Local Councils (NALC) information</li> <li>- Consider inviting Sarah Spooner from UEA to help present historical aspects of PRow at a webinar</li> <li>- Investigate use of Go Jauntly <a href="https://www.gojauntly.com/">https://www.gojauntly.com/</a> to curate walks (Pathmakers has experience of using this)</li> </ul>	
5.	<b>AOB and next meeting date</b> No AOB Next meeting date set for 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2024 in person at 10am at County Hall (Margaret English Room)	

### Attachments

1 Terms of Reference all NLAF subgroups

2 Report: Who has a Public Right of Way? An analysis of provision and inequity in England and Wales

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

<b>NLAF member name :</b>	<b>Rob Lodge (Chair)</b>
<b>Email address :</b>	<b><a href="mailto:nlaf@norfolk.gov.uk">nlaf@norfolk.gov.uk</a></b>



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# Norfolk Local Access Forum

## Vision and Ideas Subgroup

## MINUTES

<b>Subgroup</b>	<b>Vision and Ideas</b>
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> January 2024</b>
<b>Invitees</b>	NLAF: Rob Lodge (Chair), Martin Sullivan, Ken Hawkins, Birgit Griem, Kevin Grieve NCC: Katy Owen, Helen Terry, Jason Moorse, Su Waldron

Please see NLAF SharePoint for V and I documents [here](#)

	Item	ACTION
	<b>Welcome and introductions, apologies</b>	
	RL welcome all present: MS, KH, BG, KG, KO, HT, JM, SW	
1.	<b>Minutes from 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023 V and I meeting, and the Task Group (same day)</b>	
	<p>Minutes were reviewed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Re point 3 KH highlighted the backlog of claims to register unrecorded paths: increasing numbers of applications with years of backlog for the Norfolk Legal Orders Team (similar situation elsewhere) – situation not improving despite extension of cut off date for claims</li> <li>- Re point 4 (opportunities for V&amp;I to explore) the group asked for further information on demographics etc. of those attending the Pathmakers Walking Festival to better understand the potential for complementary activities. The group felt that provision of telephone booking system for future Festivals could be beneficial</li> <li>- BG thought that green lanes could be better promoted. MS had blogged about the opportunity they represent <a href="https://pathmakers.org.uk/green-lanes-a-little-used-access-to-the-countryside/">https://pathmakers.org.uk/green-lanes-a-little-used-access-to-the-countryside/</a>. JM thought there could be the opportunity to waymark them in Norfolk. On the Interactive Map they are shown as Unsurfaced County Roads (UCRs). Link here <a href="https://maps.norfolk.gov.uk/highways/">https://maps.norfolk.gov.uk/highways/</a></li> <li>- Minutes agreed as a true record</li> </ul>	<p>MS to send information on Pathmakers Walking Festival (demographics, range of walks/ days of the week etc.)</p> <p>JM to investigate opportunities to waymark UCRs</p>
2.	<b>Terms of Reference ( V and I)</b>	
	- All agreed the TOR were fit for purpose	
3.	<b>Discussion of 1 and 2</b>	
	<p><u>Discussion points arising</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- HT/KO are working on a management plan for the National Trail in Norfolk which will be ready in the autumn of 2024. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Will investigate how to attract different audiences and will draw on people counter data (data counter network</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	KO to provide update on progress with



	<p>spreadsheet to KG / KO etc. and to ensure all in the meeting had access to the latest NAIP monitoring report prepared with Matt Hayward's team which had been brought to the NLAFF NAIP subgroup and NLAFF in October.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- **Lisa Marrison and Alana Baker were tasked by Matt before he left NCC to work on a NAIP midpoint review, for internal purposes at this stage to spot gaps against targets/objectives so it can inform future programmes of work and make sure we are on track for 2029**.</li> </ul> <p><u>NCC / NLAFF time resource</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- KO asked for officer time and input to NLAFF meetings/ subgroups to be re-thought, to make best use of time and resources e.g., officers could potentially attend for part of the meetings rather than throughout. KO felt that the reports produced by NCC were not delivering what NLAFF really wants - they are 'show and tell' rather than anything substantial (see point 4)</li> <li>- BG felt that there were a considerable number of meetings</li> </ul>	
4.	<b>Way forward / timeline / links with other subgroups</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- RL suggested that the V and I and PRow s/gs could meet on the same day, with each meeting lasting 90 minutes. This was agreed. If appropriate/ wanted, some subgroup meetings could be conducted online.</li> <li>- RL suggested that for subgroup meetings, the NLAFF members could meet for the first 1 hour independently before NCC officers joined.</li> <li>- A review of reports brought by NCC (including Countryside Access Arrangements; Major Infrastructure Projects and Planning; Member Champion for Sustainable Transport update etc.;) to main NLAFF meetings could be beneficial to ensure they cover information that the NLAFF requires: the next V and I meeting could tackle this.</li> <li>- Looking at communicating messages would be good.</li> </ul>	Review NCC reports brought to NLAFF meetings at the next V and I s/g
5.	<b>Future agenda items</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review content of NCC reports brought to NLAFF meetings at the next V and I s/g</li> <li>- Progress update on the National Trail Management Plan and budgets at the next V and I meeting</li> </ul>	
5.	<p><b>AOB and next meeting date</b></p> <p>Thanks to all for attending, and Rob for chairing.</p> <p>Date of 2024 meetings: 11<sup>th</sup> March, 10<sup>th</sup> June, 16<sup>th</sup> September, 9<sup>th</sup> December. Likely to be back to back with PRow s/g meetings in the afternoon, details tbc.</p>	

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

<b>NLAF member name :</b>	Rob Lodge (Chair)
<b>Email address :</b>	<a href="mailto:nlaf@norfolk.gov.uk">nlaf@norfolk.gov.uk</a>



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# Norfolk Local Access Forum (Forum member report)

<b>Report title:</b>	Broads Local Access Forum (BLAF) update
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> January 2024

## Summary

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

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

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

<b>Report author</b>	<b>Martin Sullivan (Chair of the NLAF)</b> <b>Keith Bacon (Chair of the BLAF)</b>
<b>Email address :</b>	<a href="mailto:nlaf@norfolk.gov.uk">nlaf@norfolk.gov.uk</a> <a href="mailto:blaf@broads-authority.gov.uk">blaf@broads-authority.gov.uk</a>



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# Norfolk Local Access Forum (Forum member report)

<b>Report title:</b>	Pathmakers report
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> January 2024

## Summary

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

<b>1.</b>	<b>Proposal</b>
1.1.	<p>WalkNorfolk 23 was judged to be a success. We ran 33 guided walks and 31 self guided walks. A total of 994 miles was walked by a total of 361 participants, many of whom walked more than once. We work with partners and the general public. Many of the partner walks are fully subscribed. 75% of the spaces on the walks open to the general public were sold. 27% of participants completed a feedback form, and 86% of those said that they intend to come on future walks. We are now working on WalkNorfolk 24, and we are fully funded for this event.</p> <p>We are working with OneAgency on our marketing and publicity and intend to appoint a digital manager on a part time consultancy basis. Again, we have funds to do this.</p> <p>We are once again running a couple of projects with UEA to provide some research for future development.</p>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1.	To note work ongoing by Pathmakers to improve access to the Norfolk countryside for people of all abilities and backgrounds
<b>3.</b>	<b>Evidence</b>
3.1.	<p>Pathmakers is a charity which has been established by the Norfolk Local Access Forum.</p> <p><a href="https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-details/?subid=0&amp;regid=1161475">https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-details/?subid=0&amp;regid=1161475</a></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. <a href="http://www.pathmakers.org.uk">www.pathmakers.org.uk</a></p>

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

<b>NLAF member name :</b>	<b>Simon Fowler</b>
<b>Email address :</b>	<b><a href="mailto:nlaf@norfolk.gov.uk">nlaf@norfolk.gov.uk</a></b>



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# Norfolk Local Access Forum (Forum member report)

<b>Report title:</b>	Defra LAF SharePoint
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	January 24 <sup>th</sup> 2024

## Summary

Natural England is developing a dedicated community SharePoint site for Local Access Forums across England to provide a place for communication across LAFs and for Natural England to share information with them.

An update will be given by Natural England on progress to develop the SharePoint site and to show the NLAF around the site.

<b>1.</b>	<b>Proposal</b>
1.1.	See summary
<b>2.</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1.	To note the update to develop a LAF SharePoint site
<b>3.</b>	<b>Evidence</b>
3.1.	

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

**NLAF member name :** Martin Sullivan  
**Email address :** [nlaf@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:nlaf@norfolk.gov.uk)

# Norfolk Local Access Forum

**Item No:**

**Report Title: Countryside Access Arrangements update**

**Date of Meeting: January 2024**

**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. In addition, the Norfolk Trails team sits within the Environment Service at County Hall and carries out strategic and developmental aspects of developing the countryside access network.

## 2. Proposal

- 2.1 The information in **Appendix 1** summarises the performance information available for the complete months since the last report.
- 2.2 The CRM defect reporting system went live in March 2018. Defect notes are being made visible to the public in the automatic update emails sent when third party defects have been inspected & more status options available on tablets under the 'No Defect' category, as previously reported.

Use of the NCC system is the most efficient way of reporting issues, other systems require additional administration which puts additional strain on limited staff resources.

Minor updates continue to be made to CRM to enhance operation and feedback elements.

- 2.3 A new report has been prepared to display the relevant PROW/Trails information via PowerBI **Appendix 1 (a) Stats for the last 3 months and Appendix 1 (b) Stats for the last 2 years.**
- 2.4 In summary, the Mayrise system of logged requests for service on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023 had 1,493 open issues for Public Rights of Way (remaining comparable with the last quarter figures). The fact that overall numbers remain high reflects that PROW issues are often complicated matters to resolve. Most enquiries received continue to be regarding damaged or missing signs, non-reinstatement, obstructions, overgrown surface, overgrown hedges/ trees and surface condition. Vigorous vegetation growth has led to an increase in enquiries about surface maintenance.
- 2.5 The original rise in cases is primarily attributed to the impact of Covid 19. While the country went into lockdown Central Government advice was that local outdoor exercise was promoted for wellbeing and there was evidence of significant increases in walking, running and cycling on village/local path networks across the Country. There were also isolated cases of landowners using Covid as an excuse to close some paths. Naturally, additional use has led to an increase in complaints about the condition of the local path network. There remain considerable backlogs to work through. This has been recognised within the ROW profession nationally and some LAs are now re-evaluating the importance of adequately maintaining local path networks and several Eastern Region Highway Authorities have recently reported increases in staff numbers and maintenance budgets in order to manage the demand. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the increased use of local networks continues with people having formed new habits of getting outdoor exercise. There is no shortage of evidence relating to the importance of how local path networks contribute to health and wellbeing.
- 2.6 At the current time there are no additional financial resources earmarked for PROW maintenance. 3 x PROW Technicians have commenced their roles in

mid-September 2021, one each in support of Countryside Access Officer for the three highway areas in an attempt to tackle some of the backlog of open issues. The contracts have now been extended to March 2025.

- 2.7 Overall, the number of unresolved public enquiries through the CRM system is remaining reasonably steady from the last quarter. As of the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023, the Norfolk Trails Team had 188 open CRM issues (up 2)  
PROW had 152 open CRM issues, (down 6)
- 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:
- 119 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 but it may remain subject to some seasonal flooding.
  - 2023 cutting: Two cuts were completed on the selected PROW routes in 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.

- 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. It seems to be apparent in recent years (perhaps related to climate change?) that 3 cuts is the minimum required to keep paths open all season.
- 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. December 2023 update: No further progress has been made. Several longstanding obstruction cases remain ongoing. A growing number of encroachment cases are under investigation.
- PROW staff recently attended an "enforcement" course run by the Institute of Public Rights of Way (IPROW). As a result, the CAO's will be compiling some procedures for PROW to complement NCC's overarching enforcement protocols drawn up by Trading Standards and others, to ensure a consistent approach across the Council.
- Not all 'enforcement' relies on more formal action. It might be more appropriately be termed as "compliance". Most landowners respond to reinstatement notices and there continues to be dialogue with most landowners leading to small scale improvements that are nevertheless essential to the integrity of the network, e.g. long standing obstructions at Wighenhall have recently been removed. A landowner has installed a culvert at Clenchwarton allowing the path to be reinstated on the correct alignment. A Parish Charity at Grimston has re-opened a short section of Definitive path with NCC installing a ligger bridge to complete the works.
- 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 allocated for a surface improvement scheme near Methwold High School and a surfacing scheme at Swanton Abbot, both now completed. Prices for the work have risen significantly but the overall budget for such works has remained static. Discussions are ongoing with a Parish Council regarding a scheme in South area for 2024.
- County Councillors have "Member Fund" to allocate to local Highway projects each year, increased to £11k each for 2023/24 and this can be spent on small scale PROW projects of maintenance or improvement. To date, uptake on tackling PROW issues has been limited.
- NCC has recently been rated as No1 (against comparable authorities) in the National Highways and Transportation Survey for customer satisfaction regarding public rights of way.

## 2.12 **Norfolk and National Trails**

Since 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023 the Norfolk and National Trails teams have had:

- 178 issues reported in total (13 issues/week).
- 33 issues inspected and confirmed.

- 61 issues dealt with (or duplications, either way they are 'resolved' on Mayrise).
- 84 currently waiting for inspection.

Issues are aligned with those reported in section 2.4. Updates on work taking place over the last quarter are outlined below.

## **Recruitment**

In January we will be welcoming an Assistant National Trail Officer, to support the small Peddars Way and Norfolk Coast Path National Trail team – initially in the development of Stretch 4 of the Norfolk Coast Path and the delivery of Brancaster boardwalk, as well as the day-to-day monitoring and maintenance of the National Trail. In addition, we have appointed an Assistant Trails Maintenance Officer into the Norfolk Trails team to provide valuable assistance to Martin Caplin in maintaining the promoted Norfolk Trails network. This recruitment represents a significant increase in staffing levels, bringing the number of National Trail officers to four and Norfolk Trail officers to two.

### **(a) Peddars Way – Broken bridge/ flooding at West Harling**

As part of our routine inspections of boardwalks across the National Trail, we found a broken bridge on the Peddars Way. Beyond the boardwalk is significant flooding which happens every year. We have a wet/winter diversion already in place for when flooding although this is quite a lengthy detour from the Peddars Way. Routine inspections of the Norfolk Coast Path boardwalks are due to take place soon.





**What have we done?** We have closed the bridge and informed the local caravan park as well as the landowners (caravan park), as well as updating the website.

**Challenges** We are unable to fix the bridge in the current conditions and will require budget to replace the structure in the future.

**NAIP theme – THEME 1: Well Managed Access Network**

1.2 Manage path surfaces and vegetation: Maintain surfaces in a fit state for public use. Remove obstructions.

**(b) Nr. Peddars Way - Stow Bedon, Breckland District, Pingo Car Park**



**What have we done?** We have worked with the Parish Council and local member to push back the vegetation and open up the parking area, to improve user experience, enable more parking spaces and improve visibility. We have created a new entrance which mitigated against cars pulling out on a corner with limited view. The route will be added to the Vegetation Management

Framework to keep on top of future growth. The car park surface has been reprofiled to make it level and prevent excessive puddling.

**Challenges:** Other priorities prevented this from progressing as swiftly as desired. Finding funds was challenging but this was funded by the local member's discretionary fund.

**NAIP theme – THEME 1: Well Managed Access Network**

1.2 Manage path surfaces and vegetation: Maintain surfaces in a fit state for public use. Remove obstructions.

**(c) Swaffham FP45, footpath extension**

**What have we done?** Section 106 funding (£18,000) has been used to resurface a short section of the footpath that lay outside the land owner by the developer to the start of Swaffham FP45. The resurfacing work connected the footway of Norwich Road to the new estate and the main walked route in the town centre. Public Right of Way signage will be added to each end of the route to complete the works.







## **NAIP theme – THEME 2: Well Connected Access Network**

### **2.1 - Improve connectivity of the access network through the planning system**

#### **(d) Hemsby erosion – Norfolk Coast Path**

Following recent erosion at Hemsby, a large proportion of Hemsby FP2 has been lost and is now inaccessible. This footpath formed the National Trail alternative route for when the beach was under high tide. As a result, the Norfolk Coast Path is inaccessible at Hemsby at high tide. The high waters also erode the ramp at Hemsby gap and create a high step which prevents access (see below).



**What have we done?** A formal closure including barriers and a TTRO (Temporary Traffic Regulation Order) is now in place. We have updated the website and informed local authorities. We are also installing signs on site to notify users of the route that the alternative route is closed and to plan their

route according to the tide times (for which we have given them information sources and access points) to ensure they do not get cut off by the tide.

**Challenges** This issue now leaves the Norfolk Coast Path cut off at high tide. As there is no possible diversion, are liaising with Natural England to begin discussions on finding a solution. Any possible alternative would need agreement with landowners and for Natural England to process a formal variation report to alter the official line of the alternative route. Natural England are unlikely to be able to submit a report of this nature before March 2024.

Also, whilst the alternative route is a highway in this instance, we receive no additional funding for this being part of the England Coast Path, or any other alternative routes/mitigation measures put in by Natural England.

### **NAIP theme – THEME 1: Well Managed Access Network**

1.9 Manage Norfolk Trails and the National Trail in Norfolk (Peddars Way and Norfolk Coast Path)

#### **(e) Happisburgh cliff erosion**

We are monitoring the cliff erosion at Happisburgh. If the cliff collapses further, this will sever the National Trail.



#### **(f) King Charles III England Coast Path**

##### 'Stretch 4' – Hunstanton to Sutton Bridge

The establishment of the KCIII ECP is ongoing. We have quotes for all the works to take place and the grant application has just been approved by Natural England. The necessary consents, some of which have only just been received, combined with other work taking priority had initially delayed the establishment of the route. However, we are working towards an opening date of 6 March 2024.



The first works have taken place already, creating a sloped surface at the Royal Estate in Wolferton.

We are also looking to install creative and engaging interpretation for recreational mitigation at sensitive sites along the route. A designer has been appointed and we will have initial designs soon for the interpretation. We have had confirmation of funding from the Ramblers and the Rural England Prosperity Fund at the end of November for the addition of a sculptural, interpretive art installation to celebrate the completion of the Norfolk Coast Path.

Wolferton Pump lower flood bank before:



Wolferton Pump lower flood bank after:



### 'Stretch 3' – Weybourne to Hunstanton

As part of establishment of the England Coast Path, members of the public and organisations are able to submit objections/ representations to the route if they

disagree with the alignment or have any requests for the route e.g. surfacing requirements.

Once objections and representations are submitted, a planning inspector meets representatives of Norfolk County Council, Natural England and any objectors to discuss the issue. Following this they submit a report to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. These meetings took place in October.

We are now waiting for the Secretary of State to rule on each objection which will allow for Stretch 3 to be progressed towards being opened.

**NAIP theme: THEME 1: Well Managed Access Network**

1.9 Manage Norfolk Trails and the National Trail in Norfolk (Peddars Way and Norfolk Coast Path) and establish new stretches of the England Coast Path in Norfolk (*establishment is a 'Priority action' within the NAIP*)

**2.13 Greenways Team (Green Infrastructure delivery) Sep 2023 – Dec 2023**

**Brancaster FP5 Boardwalk replacement**

Working alongside the AONB team, the National Trail Team and the Specialist Advice Service Team along with NCC appointed contractors to deliver significant access improvements along Brancaster Footpath 5. This project will enable more people of all ages and abilities to enjoy the wildlife and scenery of the Norfolk Coast Path and Norfolk Coast AONB by providing a new 1.7km boardwalk that will provide inclusive access to this very popular part of the coast for local communities and visitors, whilst protecting the fragile saltmarsh environment.

Planning permission approved 27 September 2023 (Borough Council King's Lynn and West Norfolk Planning Reference 23/01326/FM).

Works started 23 October on construction of the new boardwalk. Expecting first half of new boardwalk to be installed along the eastern section by Christmas 2023 (862m). Remaining 838m along western section to be installed between January and March 2024 along with passing places, viewing platforms, bump strips and seating.

New aggregate (Carrstone) path will be laid at east and west end of the boardwalk to create stable level access onto and off the boardwalk. This has been programmed to start and completed in March 2024. The boardwalk will remain closed until construction on both the boardwalk and aggregate path have been completed it is made safe for public use. Completion of works estimated for end of March 2024, weather permitting.

This project is supported via a range of funding sources (total value £1.3m). NCC Capital Maintenance Fund (CMF) has been used as seed corn to draw down significant funding from BCKLWN CIL, FiPL, AONB access funding and Natural England capital underspend.

Below photographs show construction progress to date;



Condition of original timber boardwalk to be replaced.



*Removal of current timber boardwalk*



*Installing new GRP substructure*





*New GRP decking planks (bump strips to sides and passing places still to be installed)*



*Construction (all hand/power tools only)    Removal of timber boardwalk (all by hand. No machinery to assist removal)*



*Before. Original timber boardwalk*



*Newly constructed section*

A second public engagement event was held in November 2023 in Brancaster to provide the community with update on programme and delivery. An updated information pack was produced and some slide excerpts are below.





## Project summary

### Helping everyone get closer to nature...

**For the first time, we will provide high quality access for all to the coast at Brancaster.**

This project will enable more 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 coastal views without disturbing nature.

## Project summary

### ...without harming rare species and fragile habitats

**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.

## Project Plan

**Stage 1:**  
Understanding the project location and stakeholder needs.

**Stage 3:**  
Design and tender process. Consents, permissions and funding to proceed.

**Stage 5: Mid-March 2023 target**  
Final checks, launch of new boardwalk and reopening of the route / benefits to community

**Stage 1**

**Stage 2**

**Stage 3**

**Stage 4**

**Stage 5**

Sep 22 – May 23

Jan – May 23

Mar – Oct 23

Oct – Dec 23

Jan – Mar 23

**Stage 2:**  
Preliminary scoping and key parameters to inform project design.

**Stage 4: IN PROGRESS**  
Site preparation, delivery and installation of boardwalk.



**NATIONAL TRAIL**  
Norfolk Coast  
Protected Landscape

**Project Impact:**

**Community benefits**

**A long-lasting, high-quality open space and leisure offering**

Providing an accessible, clean, pleasant and safe public space for the community which supports people's health and wellbeing.

**Equity of access**

This project will significantly improve the accessibility of this section of the Norfolk Coast Path, currently only accessible for non-disabled, confident walkers.

**Health and wellbeing benefits**

**A long-lasting, high-quality open space and leisure offering**

The project will create a welcoming and achievable route through nature which will increase the appeal of the outdoors and encourage a wider range of people to enjoy it.

**NATIONAL TRAIL**  
Norfolk Coast  
Protected Landscape

**Project Impact:**

**Limiting future disruption to people and place**

With a 10-year life span at best for wooden structures, increasingly this will mean that routes have to be closed for long periods at short notice, to keep the general public safe.

A key benefit of this project is the choice of material and the longevity of the boardwalk structure. Expected to last for up to 80 years (8 times longer than traditional materials), use of GRP will significantly reduce maintenance and replacement costs when compared to a like for like wooden structure.

**Stronger connections between people & place**

**Take a nature break**

Busy lives, old age and illness are some of things which prevent people from taking a break in nature. There are also perceptions that the outdoors can be scary and might not be safe for everyone. This project will ensure more people of all ages and abilities are able (and feel comfortable and confident) to enjoy the world around them.

## 2.14 Wherryman's Way CIL

### (a) Hardley Flood

The Wherryman's Way at Hardley Flood is currently closed to the public due to broken bridges and unstable, uneven banks.

Norfolk County Council have secured CIL funding to complete phase 1 works along Hardley Flood (from Chedgrave Common to the bird hide - see image below). This year has concentrated on a number of ecological surveys of the site (to inform design) and feasibility study of the 4 bridges on site.



There are a number of protected species which will require licences to carry out works as well as mitigation measures to be implemented as part of the construction methodology. We are working in partnership with the Broads Authority who have already provided dredged material from the River Chet to build up the banks. This has been left to dry out during 2023 and reprofiling works to reshape and reinstate the public right of way has been programmed for May 2024.

Norfolk County Council will be submitting a Planning Application for phase 1 works December 2023. Work includes repairs and reinforcement to two bridges to prevent either bridge collapse or slips, trips and falls. The addition of new/improved ramp access in order to apply the principles of least restrictive access will make it easier for more residents and tourists to use the bridges.

This programme of work has been devised to start the reopening of these footpaths with minimal disturbance of protected species in phase 1, which will give access to the view of Hardley Flood and the Parish Council owned bird hide.

Bridge works will be programmed to run alongside the Broads Authority reprofiling. We expect all phase 1 works to be completed by July-August 2024.

There is an ambition to fully reopen access along Hardley Flood Public Rights of Way (PROW) with phase 2, however this is subject to additional funding and taking advice and guidance on the complex ecology needs situated between the other two bridges on the Hardley Flood site. These two bridges require a full replacement as the current structures are not safe.

#### **(b) Bramerton FP5**

Norfolk County Council have secured CIL funding to complete riverbanks stabilisation works along Bramerton FP5. We are working in partnership with the Broads Authority to deliver this project. The Broads Authority have procured a contractor for design and build gabion and rockroll to re-einforce the river banks and provide dredged material to build up the public right of way.



Norfolk County Council will be submitting a planning application to the Broads Authority in December 2023.

We expect all works to be completed by July-August 2024.

## 2.15 **Access for All CIL**

### **(a) Marriott's Way Costessey Lane**

Project is in design. CIL funding secured for resurfacing 170metres and widening to 3metres of existing path from the A-Frame bridge to Costessey Lane, and installation of new steps and handrails. The works will improve current surface conditions and drainage as well as improved safety features including sight clearance for better visibility for all users (pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders)





*Improve surface condition*



*Widen path and improve sight lines for users*

### **(b) Saxlingham Nethergate BR6**

This public right of way forms part of the Boudicca Way long distance trail from Norwich to Diss. The bridle way frequently floods is impassable after heavy rainfall. This scheme will deliver drainage improvements and resurfacing along 130 metres to allow the route to be accessible all year round.



*BR6 in most extreme condition with significant sections under water*

### **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.

## **12. Background Papers**

12.1 none other than the Appendices

### **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](mailto:jason.moorse@norfolk.gov.uk)

[katy.owen@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:katy.owen@norfolk.gov.uk)



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



# APPENDIX 1(a) CRM 3 month report (Countryside Access Arrangements Report)

## PROW and Trail Defect Report

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

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

## Volume of PROW/Trail defects by type

DescriptionOffault	C	N	S	W	Total
PROW - Overgrown hedge/tree	3	37	36	15	91
PROW - Damaged or missing sign		39	34	7	80
PROW - Overgrown surface -e.g. grass/weeds		35	34	10	79
PROW - Obstruction -e.g. building works, fences, ditches, locked gate		30	17	7	54
PROW - Surface condition	1	27	7	8	43
PROW - Tree dangerous/fallen	2	26	8	5	41
PROW - Crops/ploughing affecting footpath		25	9	1	35
Trail - Overgrown hedge/tree	2	11	11	5	29
PROW - Gate/Barrier		14	9	3	26
Trail - Damaged or missing sign		14	9	1	24
Trail - Surface condition	2	15	5	2	24
Trail - Tree dangerous/fallen	4	11	8	1	24
PROW - Bridge		8	10	2	20
Trail - Overgrown surface -e.g. grass/weeds	2	9	8		19
PROW - Flooded Path		9	6	1	16
Trail - Gate/Barrier		8	6		14
PROW - Misleading sign		10		1	11
Trail- Obstruction -e.g. building works, fences, ditches, locked gate		4	6		10
Trail - Illegal / Vehicle Use		5	3	1	9
Trail - Flooded Path		2	4	1	7
PROW - Animal(s)		5			5
PROW - Illegal / Vehicle Use		1	2	2	5
PROW - Steps damaged/other		2	2	1	5
PROW - Stile damaged/too/high/other		3	2		5
Trail - Steps damaged/other		5			5
Trail - Crops/ploughing affecting footpath			2	1	3
Trail- Stile damaged/too/high/other		2	1		3
Trail - Bridge			2		2
Trail - Misleading sign		1	1		2
Trail - Animal(s)			1		1
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>692</b>

## Report Date Range

Last

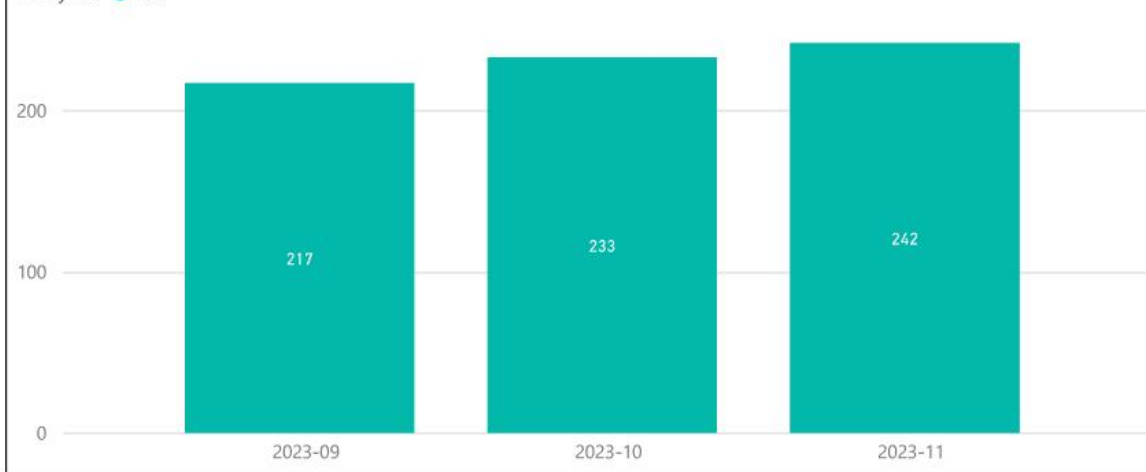
3

Months

02/09/2023 - 01/12/2023

## PROW and Trail defects received by month

InMayrise True



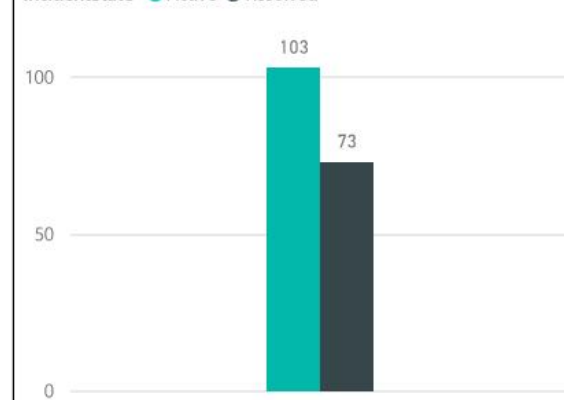
## PROW Defects by Status (in Mayrise)

IncidentState Active Resolved



## Trails Defects by Status

IncidentState Active Resolved



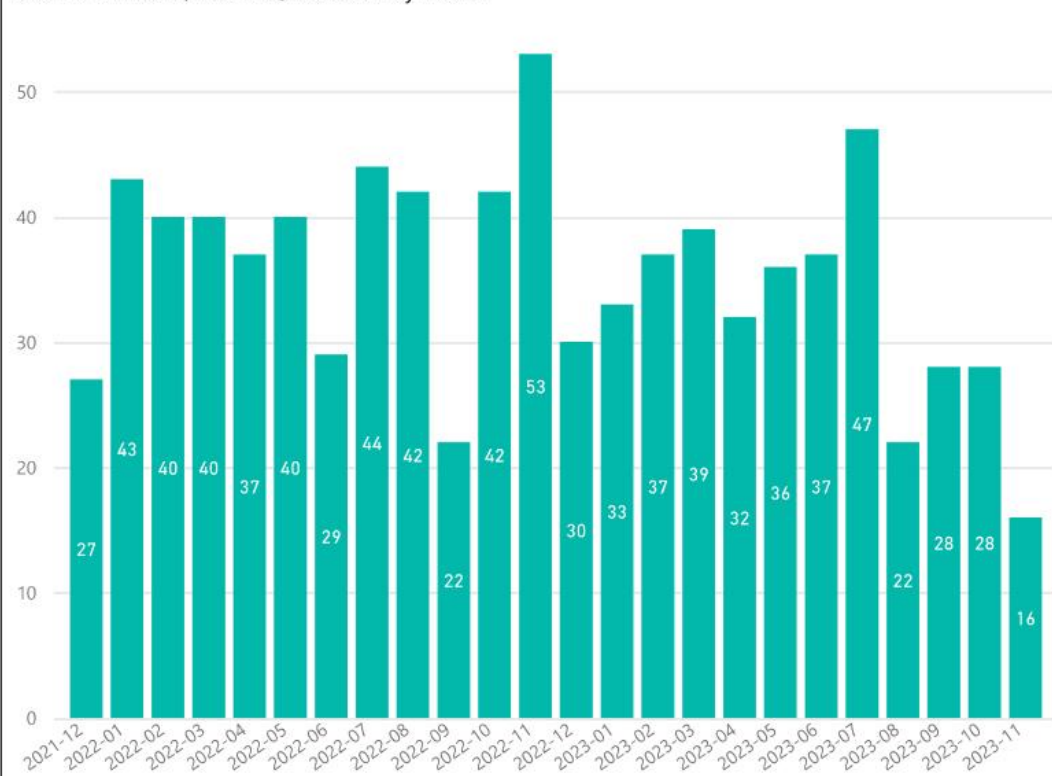
## Public Right of Way and Trail FAQ Report

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

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

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

Volume of PROW/Trail FAQs received by month



## Report Date Range

Last

2

Years

02/12/2021 - 01/12/2023

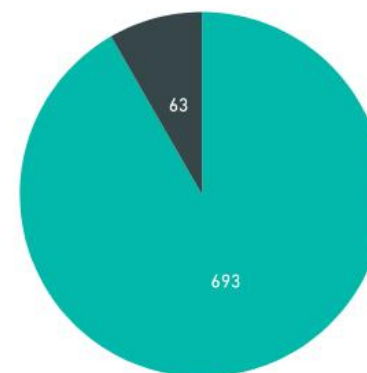
## Volume of PROW/Trail FAQs by question

Question	Count of CaseNumber
I would like to make a town and village green application	1
Section 130 notice received	3
I've seen unauthorised cycling, driving or riding on a Public Right of Way or Trail. What can be done?	9
I would like information about a Norfolk Trail	24
I have an enquiry about PROW or Trail grass cutting	33
I have an enquiry about the definitive map	33
I have an enquiry concerning common land	34
	38
<b>Total</b>	<b>844</b>

## PROW/Trail FAQs received by Status

IncidentState

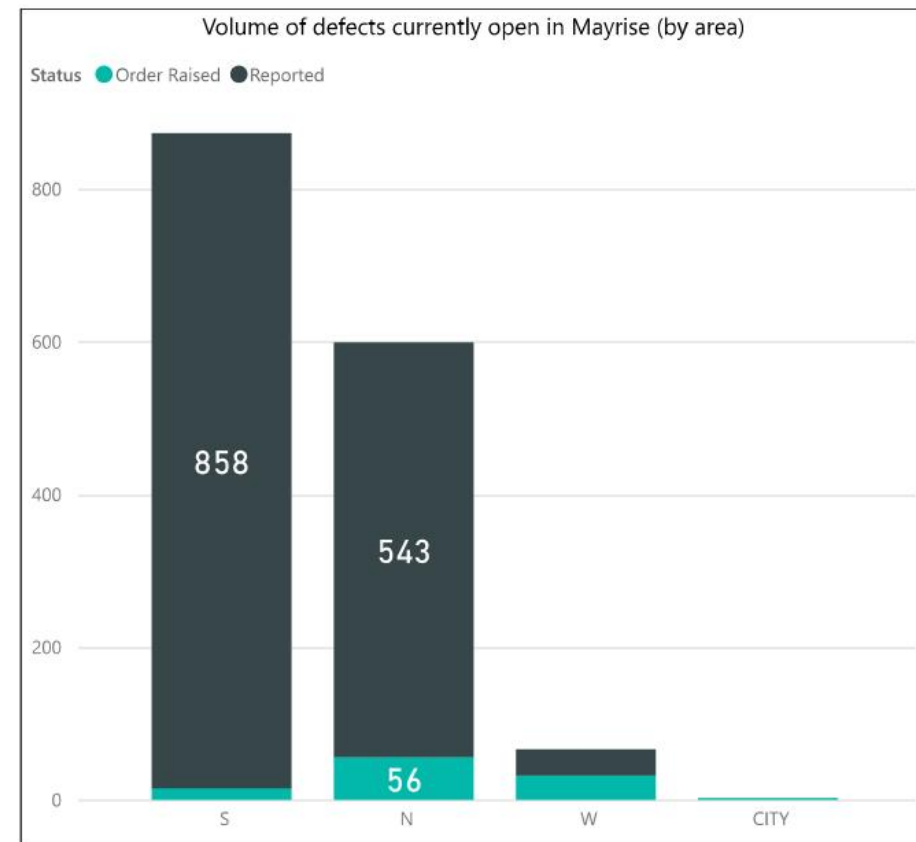
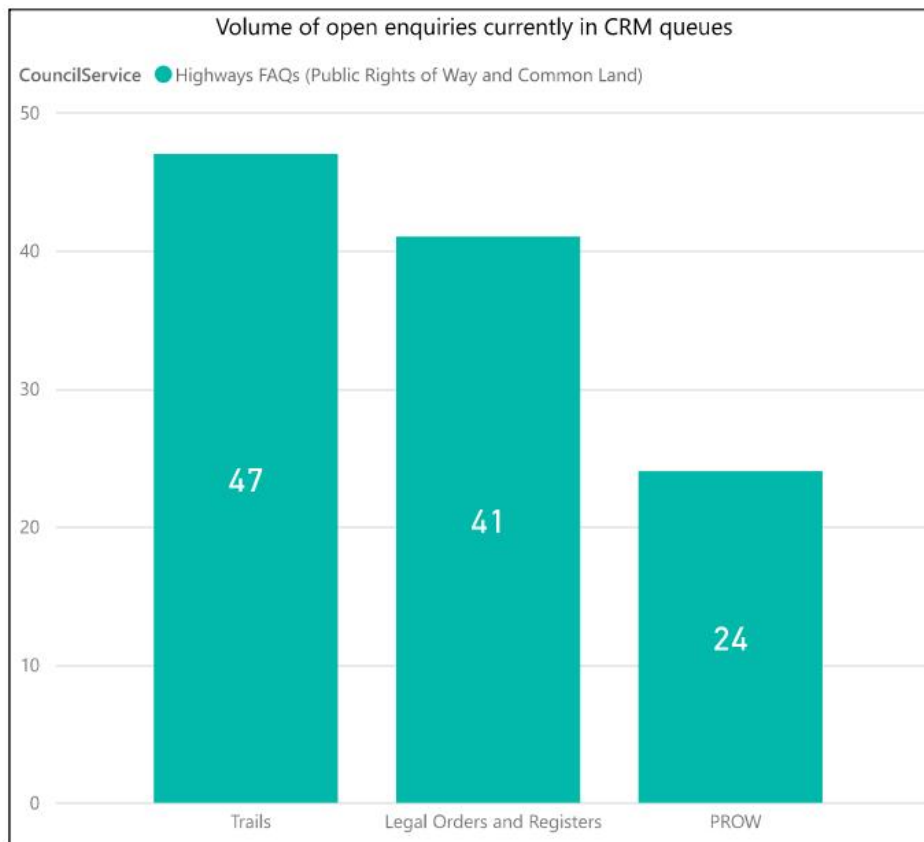
Resolved Active



## Active Enquiries

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

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



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

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

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



Select time period

CREATEDATE

Last

3

Months

02/09/2023 - 01/12/2023

Average of Reported to Inspected Days

LEVEL2	Average of NCC_PL_Days_Reported-Inspected
PROW	7.92
TRLS	8.04
Total	7.95

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



Average of report to Repair Days

LEVEL2	Average of NCCReportRepairDays
PROW	20.88
TRLS	28.45
Total	22.51

## APPENDIX 1(b) CRM 2 year report (Countryside Access Arrangements Report)

### PROW and Trail Defect Report

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

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

### Volume of PROW/Trail defects by type

Description	OffFault	C	N	S	W	Total	
PROW - Overgrown surface -e.g. grass/weeds		4	517	335	104	960	
PROW - Damaged or missing sign			376	388	78	842	
PROW - Overgrown hedge/tree		8	279	252	97	636	
PROW - Obstruction -e.g. building works, fences, ditches, locked gate			200	185	75	460	
PROW - Crops/ploughing affecting footpath			203	164	26	393	
PROW - Surface condition		2	170	91	41	304	
Trail - Overgrown hedge/tree		19	113	96	38	266	
PROW - Tree dangerous/fallen		4	118	95	34	251	
Trail - Overgrown surface -e.g. grass/weeds		4	135	97	10	246	
Trail - Surface condition		10	117	72	21	220	
Trail - Damaged or missing sign			82	73	11	166	
PROW - Bridge			42	102	15	159	
PROW - Gate/Barrier			69	53	23	145	
Trail - Tree dangerous/fallen		11	81	33	6	131	
PROW - Misleading sign			64	44	6	114	
Trail- Obstruction -e.g. building works, fences, ditches, locked gate		2	41	47	7	97	
PROW - Stile damaged/too/high/other			37	38	4	79	
Trail - Gate/Barrier		7	25	29	7	68	
PROW - Flooded Path			26	29	3	58	
Trail - Illegal / Vehicle Use		5	31	18	4	58	
PROW - Illegal / Vehicle Use			17	21	12	50	
		1	25	16	4	46	
PROW - Animal(s)			19	16	8	43	
Trail - Bridge		3	9	22	4	38	
Trail - Steps damaged/other		1	28	3	2	34	
Trail - Crops/ploughing affecting footpath			11	21	1	33	
PROW - Steps damaged/other			15	14	3	32	
Trail - Misleading sign	1		14	10	7	32	
Trail - Flooded Path		1	9	10	2	22	
Trail - Animal(s)			10	6	3	19	
Total		1	83	2887	2385	656	6012

### Report Date Range

Last

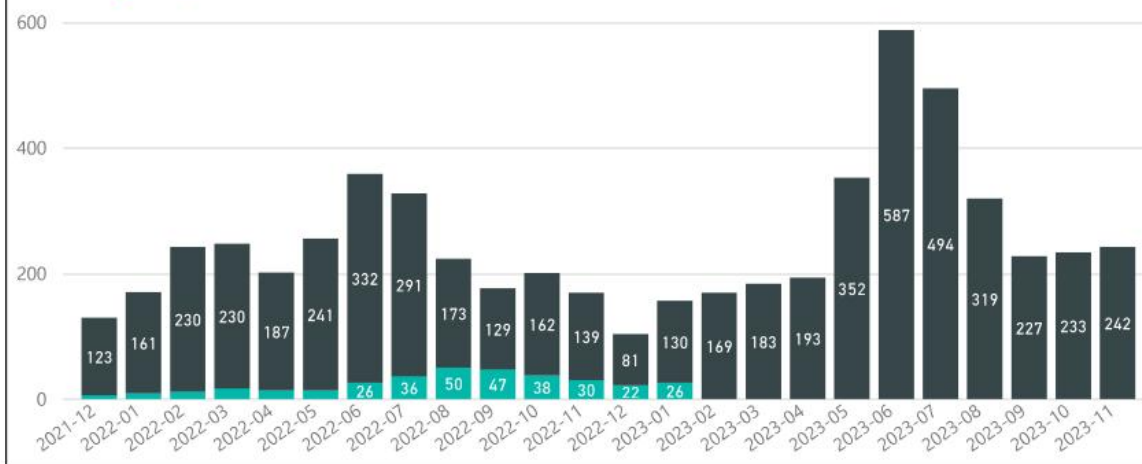
2

Years

02/12/2021 - 01/12/2023

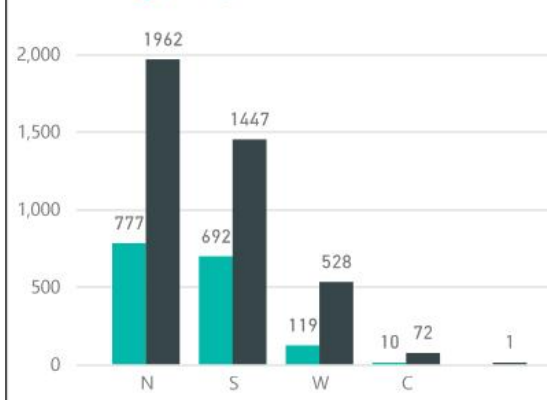
### PROW and Trail defects received by month

InMayrise ● False ● True



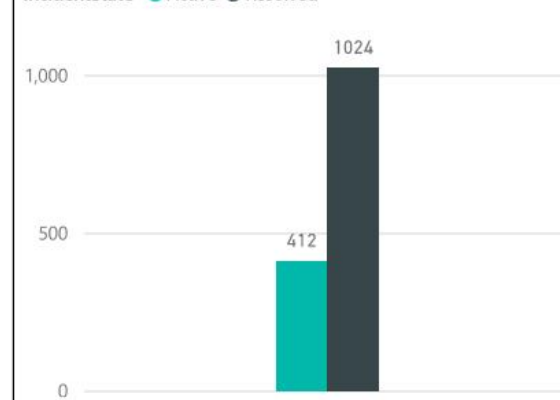
### PROW Defects by Status (in Mayrise)

IncidentState ● Active ● Resolved



### Trails Defects by Status

IncidentState ● Active ● Resolved





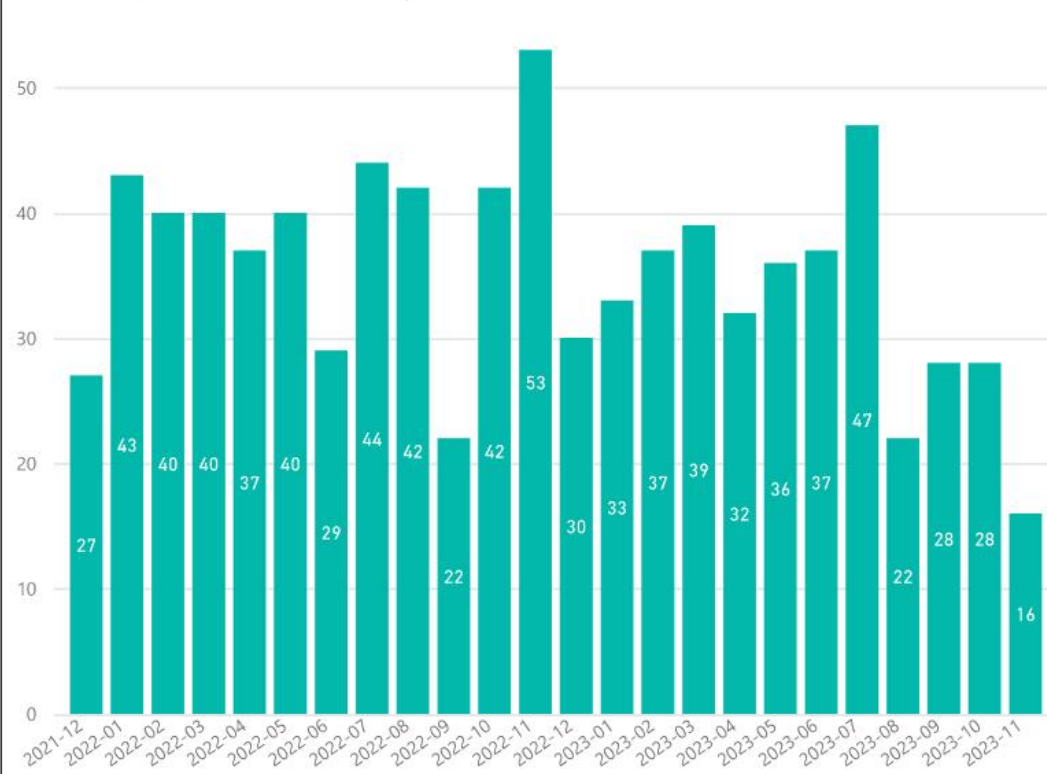
## Public Right of Way and Trail FAQ Report

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

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

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

Volume of PROW/Trail FAQs received by month



## Report Date Range

Last

2

Years

02/12/2021 - 01/12/2023

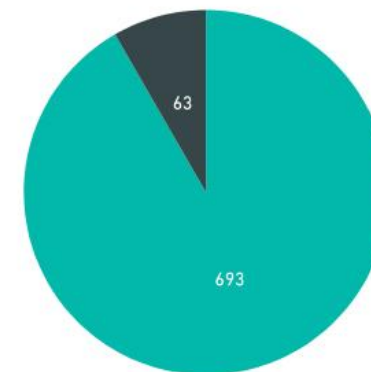
## Volume of PROW/Trail FAQs by question

Question	Count of CaseNumber
I would like to make a town and village green application	1
Section 130 notice received	3
I've seen unauthorised cycling, driving or riding on a Public Right of Way or Trail. What can be done?	9
I would like information about a Norfolk Trail	24
I have an enquiry about PROW or Trail grass cutting	33
I have an enquiry about the definitive map	33
I have an enquiry concerning common land	34
	38
<b>Total</b>	<b>844</b>

## PROW/Trail FAQs received by Status

IncidentState

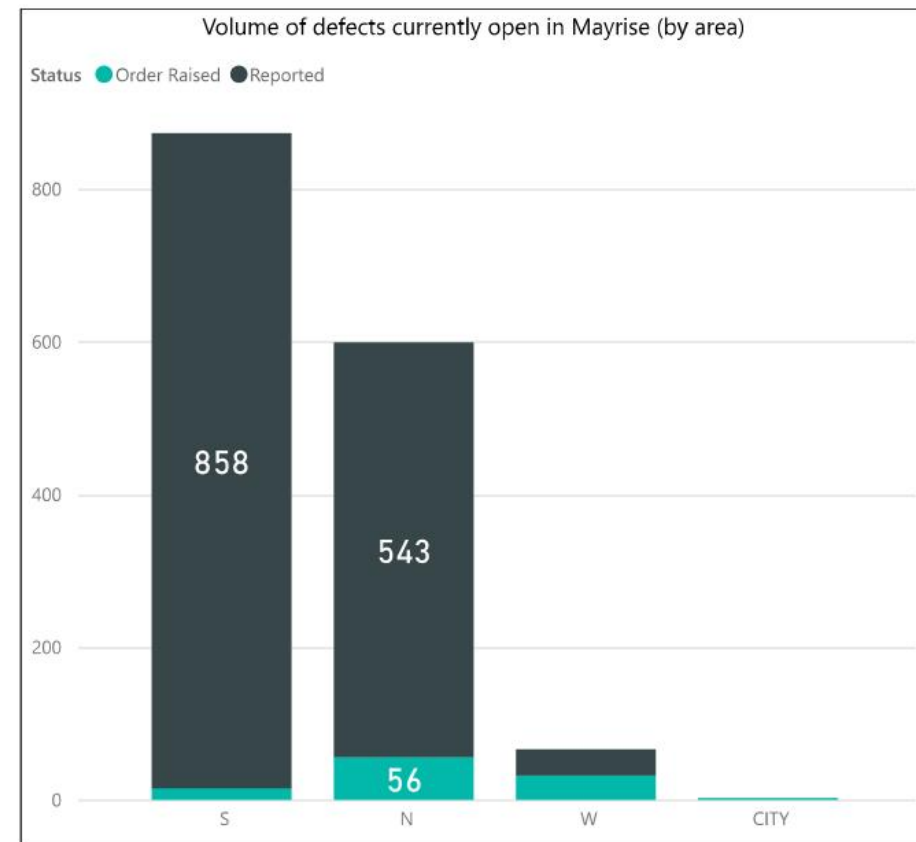
Resolved Active



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# Norfolk Local Access Forum

**Item No:**

**Report Title: Major Infrastructure Projects and Planning**

**Date of Meeting: 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

**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 FAQs here

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

4.2 The Local Access Forums Regulations

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

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

## **5. Alternative Options**

5.1 none

## **6. Financial Implications**

6.1 None as a result of this report

## **7. Resource Implications**

**7.1 Staff:**

N/A

**7.2 Property:**

N/A

**7.3 IT:**

N/A

## **8. Other Implications**

**8.1 Legal Implications:**

N/A

**8.2 Human Rights Implications:**

N/A

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

N/A

**8.4 Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA):**

N/A

**8.5 Health and Safety implications (where appropriate):**

N/A

**8.6 Sustainability implications (where appropriate):**

N/A

**8.7 Any Other Implications:**

N/A

**9. Risk Implications / Assessment**

9.1 N/A

**10. Select Committee Comments**

10.1 N/A

**11. Recommendations**

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

**12. Background Papers**

12.1 N/A

**Officer Contact**

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

**Officer name: NCC CES Environment Team**

**Telephone no.**

**Email: [environment@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:environment@norfolk.gov.uk)**



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

## Appendix 1 (Major Infrastructure Projects and Planning report)

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

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

Summary of NSIP Proposals and other Major Projects		
	Proposal (Applicant)	Status / Note
<b>1. Offshore Projects</b>		
1.1	<b>Hornsea Project Three – Offshore (2.4 GW) (supplying up to 2 million household with electricity)</b> Wind farm and ancillary onshore grid connection (Orsted); <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landfall Weybourne;</li> <li>Booster Station at Little Barningham (see update below as may no longer be needed);</li> <li>Grid connection at Norwich Main</li> </ul>	<p>Applicant: Orsted (Danish)</p> <p>For further information: <a href="https://hornseaproject3.co.uk/">https://hornseaproject3.co.uk/</a>  <a href="https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/hornsea-project-three-offshore-wind-farm/">https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/hornsea-project-three-offshore-wind-farm/</a></p> <p>Onshore works have commenced. There have been several “flooding issues” associated with works in North Norfolk and at the Norwich Main Substation site. These are currently being investigated by LLFA; EA; Highway Authority and the relevant Planning Authorities</p> <p>Hornsea 3 community Benefit Fund will be available soon (2023/24), in the meantime applications to the East Coast Community Fund by communities affected by the cabling route are encouraged:  <a href="https://grantscape.org.uk/fund/eastcoastcommunityfund/">https://grantscape.org.uk/fund/eastcoastcommunityfund/</a></p>
1.2	<b>Norfolk Vanguard - Offshore Wind Farm and ancillary onshore grid connection (Vattenfall) (1.8 GW) (supplying up to 1.3 million household with electricity)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landfall at Happisburgh;</li> <li>Grid Connection at Necton</li> </ul>	<p>Applicant: Vattenfall (Swedish)</p> <p>For further information: <a href="https://group.vattenfall.com/uk/what-we-do/our-projects/vattenfallinnorfolk/norfolk-vanguard">https://group.vattenfall.com/uk/what-we-do/our-projects/vattenfallinnorfolk/norfolk-vanguard</a>  <a href="https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/norfolk-vanguard/">https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/norfolk-vanguard/</a></p> <p>The Secretary of State (BEIS) has re-determined the Norfolk Vanguard proposal and awarded a Development Consent Order (DCO) on 11 February 2022.</p>

		<p>Construction has started September 2023, with ducting to be installed from March 2024 (Necton to River Wensum).</p> <p>Community Benefit Fund expected  <a href="https://group.vattenfall.com/uk/what-we-do/our-projects/vattenfallinnorfolk/norfolk-zone-community-benefit-fund">https://group.vattenfall.com/uk/what-we-do/our-projects/vattenfallinnorfolk/norfolk-zone-community-benefit-fund</a></p> <p>In December 2023 Vattenfall announced they were selling both Norfolk Vanguard and Norfolk Boreas to RWE and that the Norfolk Boreas Project would be re-instated.</p>
1.3	<p><b>Norfolk Boreas (1.8 GW)</b>  Offshore Wind Farm and ancillary onshore grid connection (Vattenfall)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landfall at Happisburgh;</li> <li>• Grid Connection at Necton</li> </ul>	<p>Applicant: Vattenfall (Swedish)</p> <p>For further information:  <a href="https://group.vattenfall.com/uk/what-we-do/our-projects/vattenfallinnorfolk/norfolk-boreas">https://group.vattenfall.com/uk/what-we-do/our-projects/vattenfallinnorfolk/norfolk-boreas</a>  <a href="https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/norfolk-boreas/">https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/norfolk-boreas/</a></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>Construction had been expected to begin in 2023.</p>
1.4	<p><b>Extension to Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon Wind Farms (Single NSIP)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extension to existing windfarms owned by Norwegian company Equinor. Total capacity (new) 720 MW (0.72 GW);</li> <li>• Landfall tbc (Weybourne or Bacton);</li> <li>• Grid Connection – Norwich Main;</li> <li>• HVAC technology – no need for Booster station (too small output)</li> </ul>	<p>Applicant : Equinor (Norwegian)</p> <p>For further information:  <a href="https://www.equinor.com/en/how-and-why/impact-assessments/dudgeon-and-sheringham-extension-projects.html">https://www.equinor.com/en/how-and-why/impact-assessments/dudgeon-and-sheringham-extension-projects.html</a>  <a href="https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/sheringham-and-dudgeon-extension-projects">https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/sheringham-and-dudgeon-extension-projects</a></p> <p>Secretary of State's decision has been delayed and is now expected on 17 April 2024</p>

2. Onshore Projects		
Highway Projects		
2.1	<p><b>A47 Blofield to North Burlingham Dualling Scheme</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Start date January – March 2022-23;</b></li> <li>• <b>End date 2024-25;</b></li> <li>• <b>Cost £50-£100 million</b></li> </ul> <p>The project will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver 2.6 KM of dual carriageway</li> </ul>	<p>Applicant: National Highways</p> <p>For further information:</p> <p><a href="https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/east/a47-blofield-to-north-burlingham/">https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/east/a47-blofield-to-north-burlingham/</a></p> <p><a href="https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/a47-blofield-to-north-burlingham/">https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/a47-blofield-to-north-burlingham/</a></p> <p>Planning consent has been granted to proceed with the works to the A47 between Blofield and North Burlingham.</p> <p>A legal case heard in July 2003 had challenged the decisions from the Secretary of State for Transport to grant development consent orders (DCOs) for this and two other A47 improvement schemes near Norwich. The High Court dismissed the claimant's argument.</p> <p>However, on 18 October, the Court of Appeal granted the claimant a right to have his appeal heard and a one-day hearing will be held on 16 January 2024.</p>
2.2	<p><b>A47 / A11 Thickthorn Junction Improvement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Start of works Jan - March 2023;</b></li> <li>• <b>Open to Traffic 2024/2025.</b></li> <li>• <b>Cost- £50-£100 million</b></li> </ul> <p>The project will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Remove the existing footbridge over the A47</li> </ul>	<p>Applicant: National Highways</p> <p>For further information:</p> <p><a href="https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/east/a47-thickthorn-junction-near-norwich">https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/east/a47-thickthorn-junction-near-norwich</a></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>Start of works June 2023 - delayed;</p> <p>Open to Traffic 2024/2025.</p> <p>Timetable subject to legal challenge</p>

	and a new footbridge for walkers, cyclists and horse riders provided.	(See above A47 Update from National Highways on the legal challenge.)
2.3	<p><b>A47 North Tuddenham to Easton Dualling Scheme</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Start of works Jan-March 22-23</b></li> <li>• <b>End Date 2024 / 2025</b></li> <li>• <b>Cost £100 - £250 million</b></li> </ul> <p>The scheme will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a new dual carriageway to replace the existing single carriageway between North Tuddenham and Easton.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Remove the existing roundabout at Easton to create safer routes for walkers, cyclists and other vulnerable users.</li> </ul>	<p>Applicant: National Highways</p> <p>For further information:  <a href="https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/east/a47-north-tuddenham-to-easton-improvements9km">https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/east/a47-north-tuddenham-to-easton-improvements9km</a></p> <p>Development Consent Order (DCO) granted.</p> <p>Start of works Jan-March 2023 – involving vegetation removal;  End Date 2024 / 2025  Cost £100 - £250 million</p> <p>Timetable subject to legal challenge (see above A47 Update from National Highways on the legal challenge.)</p>
2.4	<p><b>A47 Vauxhall Junction</b> (not currently a NSIP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Start Date 2023-24</b></li> <li>• <b>End Date 2024-25</b></li> <li>• <b>Cost £25- £50 million</b></li> </ul> <p>Proposals under development.</p> <p>The scheme will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• make journeys quicker, safer and more reliable, allow for increased future traffic and help grow the local economy (Great Yarmouth)</li> </ul>	<p>Applicant: National Highways</p> <p>For further information:  <a href="https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/east/a47-vauxhall-roundabout/">https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/east/a47-vauxhall-roundabout/</a></p>

2.5	<p><b>Third River Crossing – Great Yarmouth</b> (not an NSIP)</p> <p>The scheme will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reduce congestion and improve access to the A47</li> </ul>	<p>Applicant: Norfolk County Council</p> <p>Further information:  <a href="https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/major-projects-and-improvement-plans/great-yarmouth/third-river-crossing">https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/major-projects-and-improvement-plans/great-yarmouth/third-river-crossing</a></p> <p>DCO granted on 24 September 2020 by the Secretary of State.</p> <p>Under construction, with the bridge now operational for river users with the full opening date to road traffic due to be announced early in 2024.</p>
2.6	<p><b>Norwich Western Link (NWL)</b> (not an NSIP)</p> <p>The scheme will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a new 3.8 mile dual carriageway road connecting the western end of Broadland Northway to the A47 trunk road.</li> </ul>	<p>Applicant: Norfolk County Council</p> <p>Further information:  <a href="https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/major-projects-and-improvement-plans/norwich/norwich-western-link/about-the-norwich-western-link">https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/major-projects-and-improvement-plans/norwich/norwich-western-link/about-the-norwich-western-link</a></p> <p>NCC Cabinet agreed the appointment of the contractor in June 2021.</p> <p>An update was taken to cabinet on 4 December 2023  <a href="https://norfolkcc.cmis.uk.com/norfolkcc/CalendarofMeetings/tabid/128/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/496/Meeting/2055/Committee/169/Default.aspx">https://norfolkcc.cmis.uk.com/norfolkcc/CalendarofMeetings/tabid/128/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/496/Meeting/2055/Committee/169/Default.aspx</a> )</p> <p>The report confirmed an updated budget and timescale for delivery (main construction 2026-2029) and it was agreed to submit the planning application as soon as possible (early 2024).</p>
<b>3. Other Projects (not highways related)</b>		
3.1	<p><b>The Medworth Project – Waste to Energy</b></p> <p>Energy from waste combined heat and power facility generating electricity and steam on land at Algores Way, Wisbech.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The main site is located wholly within the Cambridgeshire district of Fenland. NCC is</li> </ul>	<p>Applicant: MVV Environment Ltd.</p> <p>Further information:  <a href="https://www.mvv-medworthchp.co.uk/about-the-project">https://www.mvv-medworthchp.co.uk/about-the-project</a>  <a href="https://www.mvv-medworthchp.co.uk/news/">https://www.mvv-medworthchp.co.uk/news/</a>  <a href="https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/medworth-energy-from-waste-combined-heat-and-power-facility/">https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/medworth-energy-from-waste-combined-heat-and-power-facility/</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application was received by the Planning Inspectorate on Thursday 7 July 2022 and</li> </ul>



	<p>considered a host authority as the proposed grid connections will be in Norfolk.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grid connection will be in Norfolk to Walpole sub-station via an over-head power line 132 kv</li> </ul>	<p>accepted for examination. Examination opened on 21 February 2023 and closed 21.8.2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Details of the Preliminary Meeting TBC</li> <li>Public Rights of Way plan available <a href="#">here</a></li> <li>Targeted start construction 2024; and complete by 2026.</li> </ul> <p><b>Secretary of State's decision deadline 21.2.2024</b></p>
3.2	<p><b>Norwich to Tilbury (previously East Anglia Green) - National Grid</b></p> <p>The East Anglia Green Energy Enablement (GREEN) project is a proposal to build a new high voltage network reinforcement between Norwich, Bramford and Tilbury.</p>	<p>Applicant: National Grid</p> <p>Further information:  <a href="https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury">https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury</a>  <a href="https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/norwich-to-tilbury/">https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/norwich-to-tilbury/</a></p> <p><b>Interactive map</b>  <a href="https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ba2cbd9ac64c4723847fae8637d50df3/">https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ba2cbd9ac64c4723847fae8637d50df3/</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Soft launch” of the project on 26 January 2022;</li> <li>Non-Statutory Consultation on the Preferred Route Corridor ran to 16 June 2022</li> <li>Statutory Consultation (S42) – April 2024;</li> <li>Statutory Consultation Submission DCO – Q1 2-25 ;</li> <li>Examination and Decision 2025-2026</li> <li>Construction starts 2027</li> <li>Fully Operational from 2031</li> </ul> <p>NCC response to non-statutory consultation(September 2023):  <a href="#">CMIS &gt; Calendar of Meetings</a></p>
3.3	<p><b>Grimsby to Walpole – National Grid</b></p> <p>Proposed new 400 kV overhead line and substation at Walpole</p>	<p>Proposal includes a new stand-alone Substation located at Walpole comprising <b>12.6 Ha site</b>. There would be approximately 2 – 3 KM of 400kV overhead line entering Norfolk from the Lincolnshire border.</p> <p>Non-statutory Consultation 18 January 2024 for 8 week period.</p>

		<p>Further detail can be viewed:</p> <p><a href="https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/grimsby-to-walpole">https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/grimsby-to-walpole</a></p>
3.4	<p><b>Eastern Green Links 3 and 4</b></p> <p>National Grid project</p>	<p>These two offshore projects comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EGL 3 – HVDC marine cable from Scotland to Lincs (554 km). Landfall the cable buried and would link to a new convertor station at Walpole</li> <li>• EGL 4 – HVDC marine cable from Scotland to Lincs (450 km). Landfall the cable buried and would link to a new convertor station at Walpole</li> <li>• Convertor station sites 19.2 Ha (for both EGL 3 AND 4).</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/eastern-green-link-3-and-4">https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/eastern-green-link-3-and-4</a></p>
3.5	<p><b>Fens Reservoir</b></p> <p>New Reservoir North of Chatteris</p>	<p>Applicant: Anglian Water and Cambridge Water</p> <p>Water transfer infrastructure expected in Norfolk covering new pipelines and service reservoir (TBC).</p> <p>Second round Non statutory Consultation expected March 2024</p> <p><a href="https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/WA010004">https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/WA010004</a></p>
3.6	<p><b>Larkshall Mill Aggregate Manufacturing and Carbon Capture Facility</b></p>	<p><b>The application has been withdrawn by the applicant</b></p>