

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes of AGM held on 5th November 2022
4. Matters Arising
5. Chair's Annual Report
6. Membership Report
7. Treasurer's Annual Report
8. Group Footpath Secretaries Reports
9. Appointment of Area Councils Representatives
10. Appointment of Accounts Examiner
11. Election of Officers and Committee
12. Any Other Business



RAMBLERS

**Bury
St Edmunds**



1. Welcome
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes of AGM held on 5th November 2022
4. Matters Arising

Chair's Report

2022-2023



- Significant changes to the Committee
- Covid influence greatly reduced

Core belief: *We are united by a love of walking and a determination to have a strong footpath network*

Plan

- Maintain the events and activities that work for our membership
- Reintroduce some events that had been affected by Covid
- Try something new

While taking into account

- Providing something for all
- Cost
- Our impact on the environment

Walks programme

This is central to what we do

- We have continued our programme of Tuesday, Friday and Saturday walks
- Thank you to all walk leaders and especially to Julia, who has worked tirelessly to encourage leaders to come forward and fill the gaps in the programme
- We need more leaders to share the workload. Help is always at hand. Any ideas for walks, even if you don't want to lead, are very welcome



**Bury
St Edmunds**

2023 events

















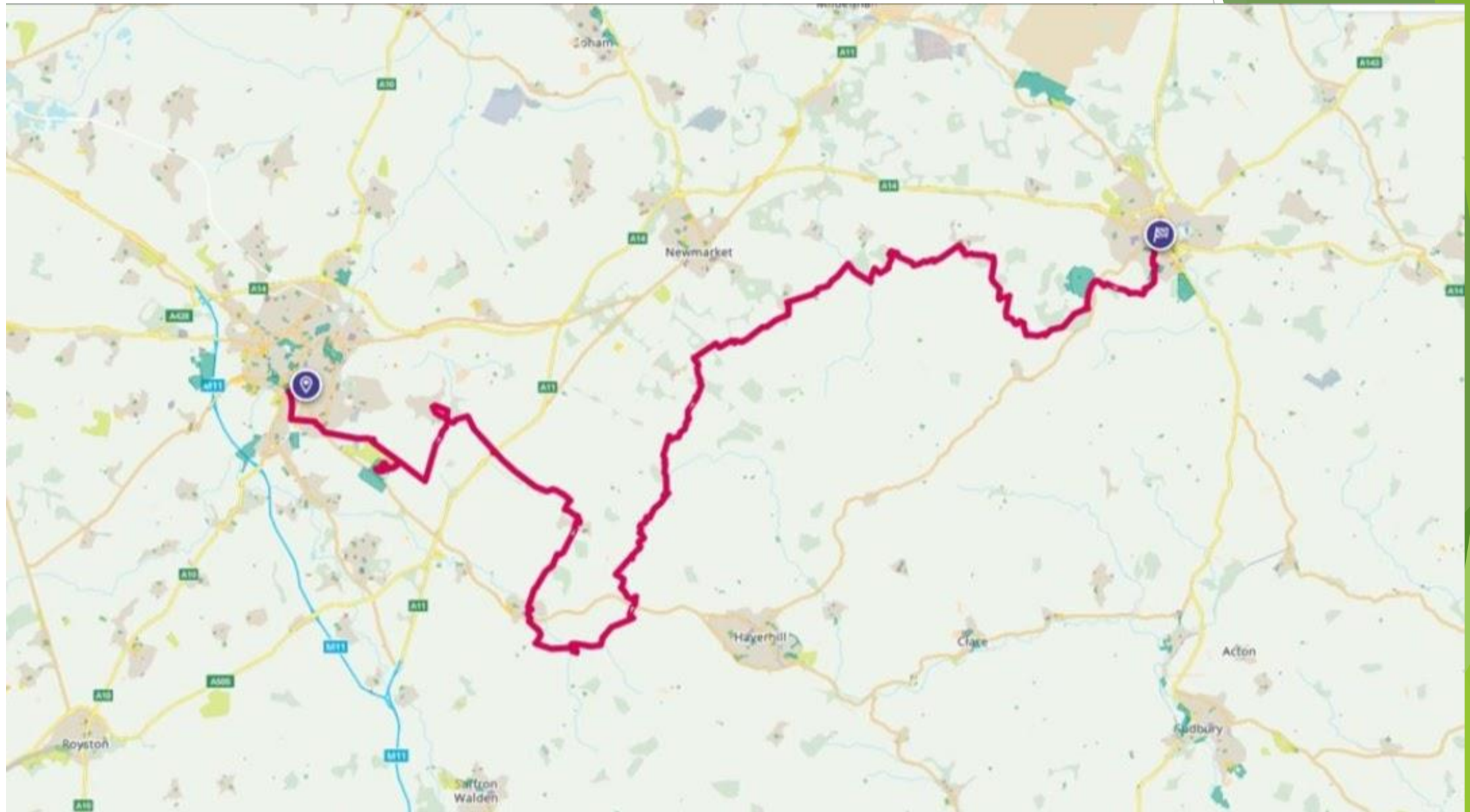
John
Gateshill



















26 July
2023











Sue Hawthorn

9 September · 🧑🏻‍🤝‍🧑🏻

Thought you lovely quizzers might like some statistics from last night.

Section 1 - Who - average table score 9.5 range 5-13.5

Section 2 - What - average score 8.5 range 6.5-10

Section 3 - Which - average score 7 range 5.5 - 10

Section 4 - Where - average score 9 range 6-11

Section 5 - When - average score 7.5 range 5.5 - 8.5

Overall:

- there were 5 questions which all tables got right.
- there were 10 questions that only one table got right
- only one question (Where is Death Valley) which no table got right.

Membership Report

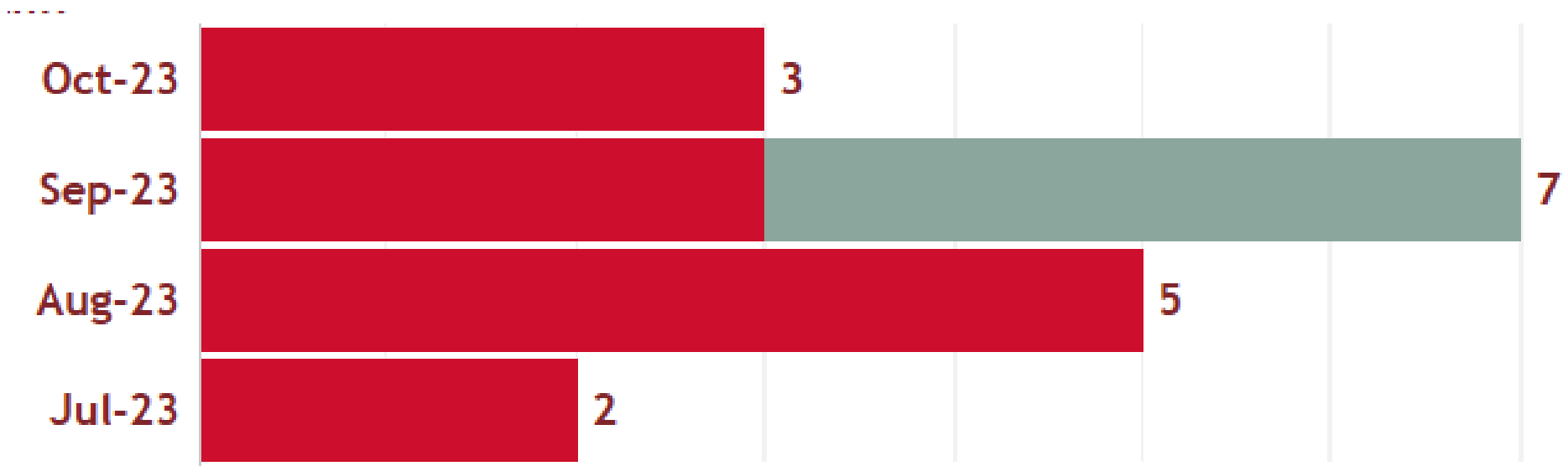




**Bury
St Edmunds**

Our Members

There are 383
of us including
13 affiliates





Bury St Edmunds Ramblers





Thomas Berry

Top contributor · 5 days ago ·

Lovely sunny Sunday walk from Elmswell.



I think we all found ourselves in parts of Ely we'd never seen before...it was a great route 😊
A few more pics from me..



Rosalind Round

Top contributor · 16 September ·

Smashing day out! Thank you Trevor, we know it wasn't your favourite sort of weather, but what a cracker. So many different vistas and so much humour.

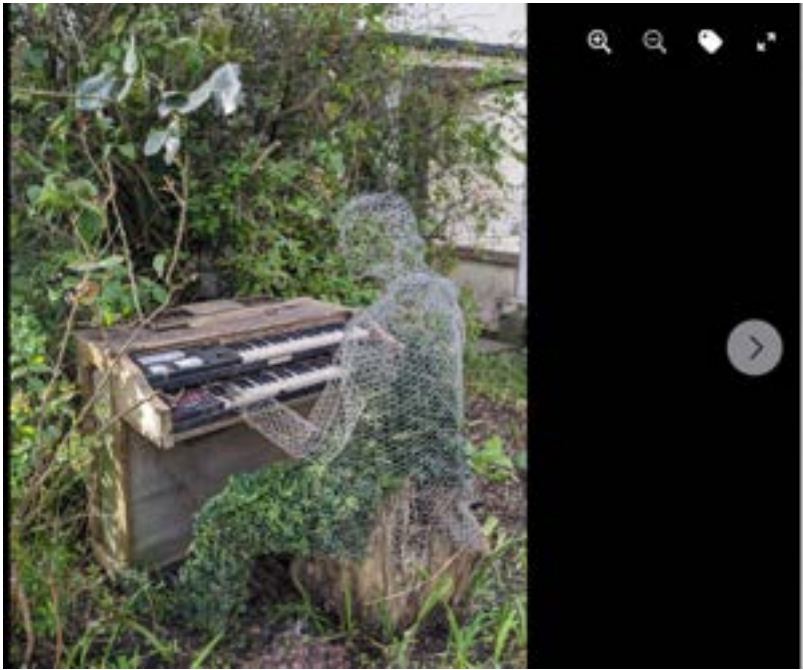


Thomas Berry

Top contributor · 25 September ·

A Wattisfield wander.







Mike Kenning

9 September · 🌐

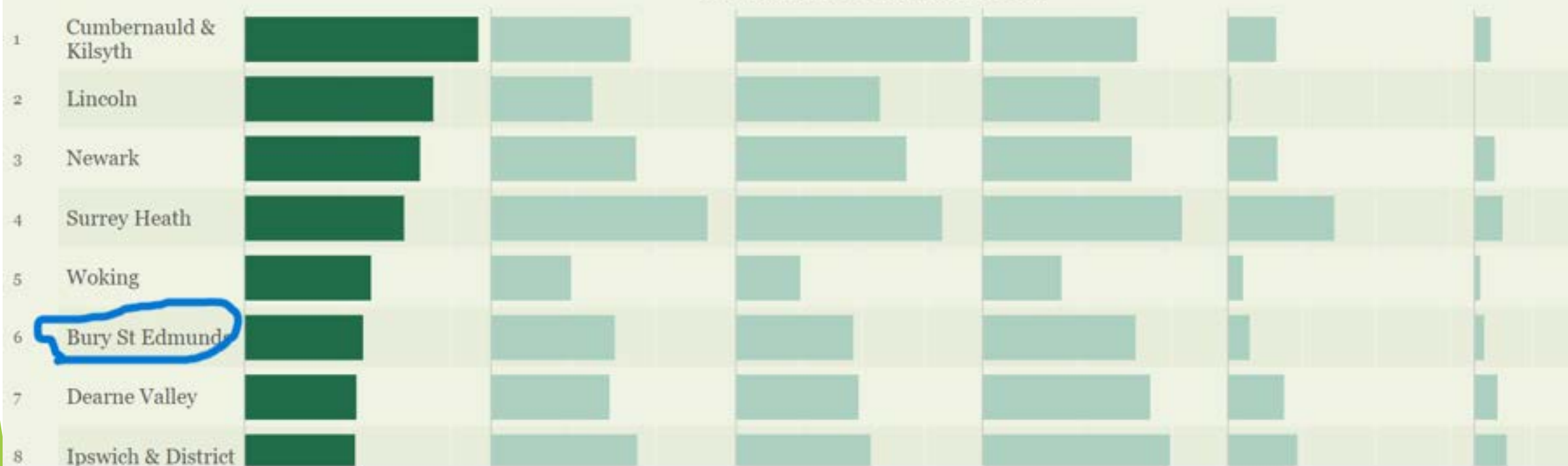


Day 9. Crossed the River Minho, frontier between Portugal & Spain. Getting there.



Group Walking Statistics: Who's leading the most walks?

Data taken only from walk registers.



In 2023

6th out of 130 groups

58 led walks

150 walkers

Treasurer's Report



BURY RAMBLERS GROUP - AGM STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

MAIN ACCOUNT				
Financial Year to 30-Sep		21-22	22-23	
Brought Forward		£686.91		£732.40
Central Office Allocation	£200.00		£500.00	
Donations	£28.55		£60.83	
Book Sales			£55.00	
Walking Partnership	£60.00		£50.00	
Receipts		£288.55		£665.83
Newsletters/Publicity	-£127.92		-£288.24	
Walks Related	-£16.85		-£536.98	
AGM	-£83.40		-£94.34	
Admin	-£14.89		-£14.90	
Payments		-£243.06		-£934.46
Carried Forward		£732.40		£463.77
			<u>Walks Related</u> Equipment -£152.98 See Social A/C Walk Sign -£384.00 St Edmunds Wa -£536.98	
Account examined by Paul Harrison, 19 October 2023				

BURY RAMBLERS GROUP - AGM STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

SOCIAL ACCOUNT

Financial Year to 30-Sep		21-22	22-23
Brought Forward		£4,792.23	£3,983.86
Walks	£1,154.00		£3,086.00
Social Events	£502.50		£525.00
Holiday	IoW £21,060.00		Mid Wales £2,860.00
Holiday	Mid Wales £2,800.00		Minehead £2,850.00
Receipts		£25,516.50	£9,321.00
Walks	-£1,104.00		-£2,732.00
Social Events	-£502.50		-£474.83
Holiday	IoW -£24,371.53		Mid Wales -£5,401.00
Holiday - recce	Mid Wales -£256.04		Minehead -£509.20
Expenses	-£90.80		See below -£350.00
Payments		-£26,324.87	-£9,467.03
Carried Forward		£3,983.86	£3,837.83
			<u>Expenses</u> Gifts 2022 AGI -£300.00 Equipment -£50.00 -£350.00 Microphone/PA System £202.98 cost split between Main A/C (£152.98), and Social A/C (£50)

Account examined by Paul Harrison, 19 October 2023

Report from Footpath Secretary Area 1B 2023

On Going Issues

New rights of way

- Rougham footpath 36
- Dalham footpath 10
- Rickinghall footpath 22

Rougham FP36



- Footpath Order March 2020
- The ROW is on the Ordnance maps and is now on the definitive map for Rougham
- You are still not able to walk the footpath as you cannot find it on the ground.

Rougham Footpath 36



- This is where the footpath should start
- This has been reported to Suffolk PROW as it is impossible to find the footpath

Response from Suffolk PROW's team

- SCC PROW are in talks with the landowner.
- The tenants of one of the cottages had taken legal action out against the landowner.
- The landowner has agreed to put the footpath to the west and north of the cottage gardens.
- Plus put in the across field paths

Denham FP10/ Dalham FP18



- Footpath Order passed in April 2019
There has been an objection by the land owners to Denham FP 10
- A high Court challenge to the Order or accept a diversion

Map of Denham FP10 & FP18



Reasons for changing route of Denham FP10/ Dalham FP18

- The land owners have planning permission for a horse menage and horse training areas on and adjacent to the current line of the path, from B to F
- The owners have offered a diversion to the present route, rather than go to the High Court.
- The Ramblers did not object to this diversion.

Denham FP10/ Dalham FP18

- The footpath will be of a wider width of 1.7 to 2 metres
- The open fence we asked for, so that the views to the east were kept, is in place along the ROW
- *Suffolk Ramblers have no objections the new route of Denham FP 10*
- There is a delay to setting up of the new PROW due to the new water main works taking place.

Rickinghall footpath 22

- From Rickinghall Superior FP 26 to West Hall Road
- This is a new PROW
- Order passed in June 2022.
- It is on both the Ordnance and Definitive maps.
- Not able to walk it

Route of Rickinghall footpath 22



Rickinghall FP 22 April 2023

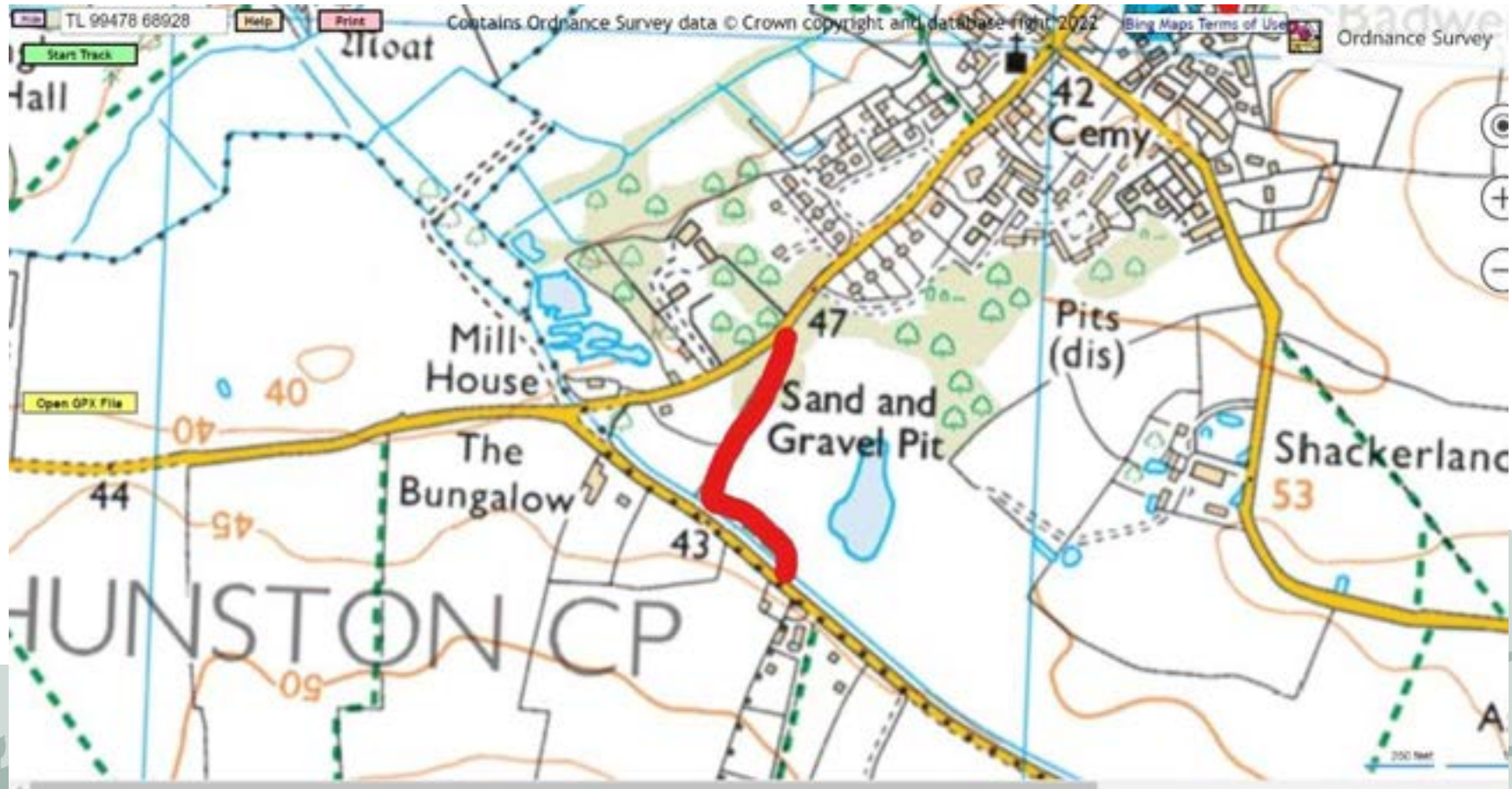


- Reported to SCC PROW April 2023
- Also reported 2 finger posts missing
- The finger posts have been dealt with but no response about the new PROW

Developments that may affect **PROW's**

- Badwell Ash - an application for an estate of 52 new homes
- On land east of Hunston Road
- Affects Badwell Ash footpath 11 as it is on the site boundary running along the southern and western edge
- Asked by Babergh and Midsuffolk planning for Ramblers to comment on the development

Badwell Ash Footpath 11



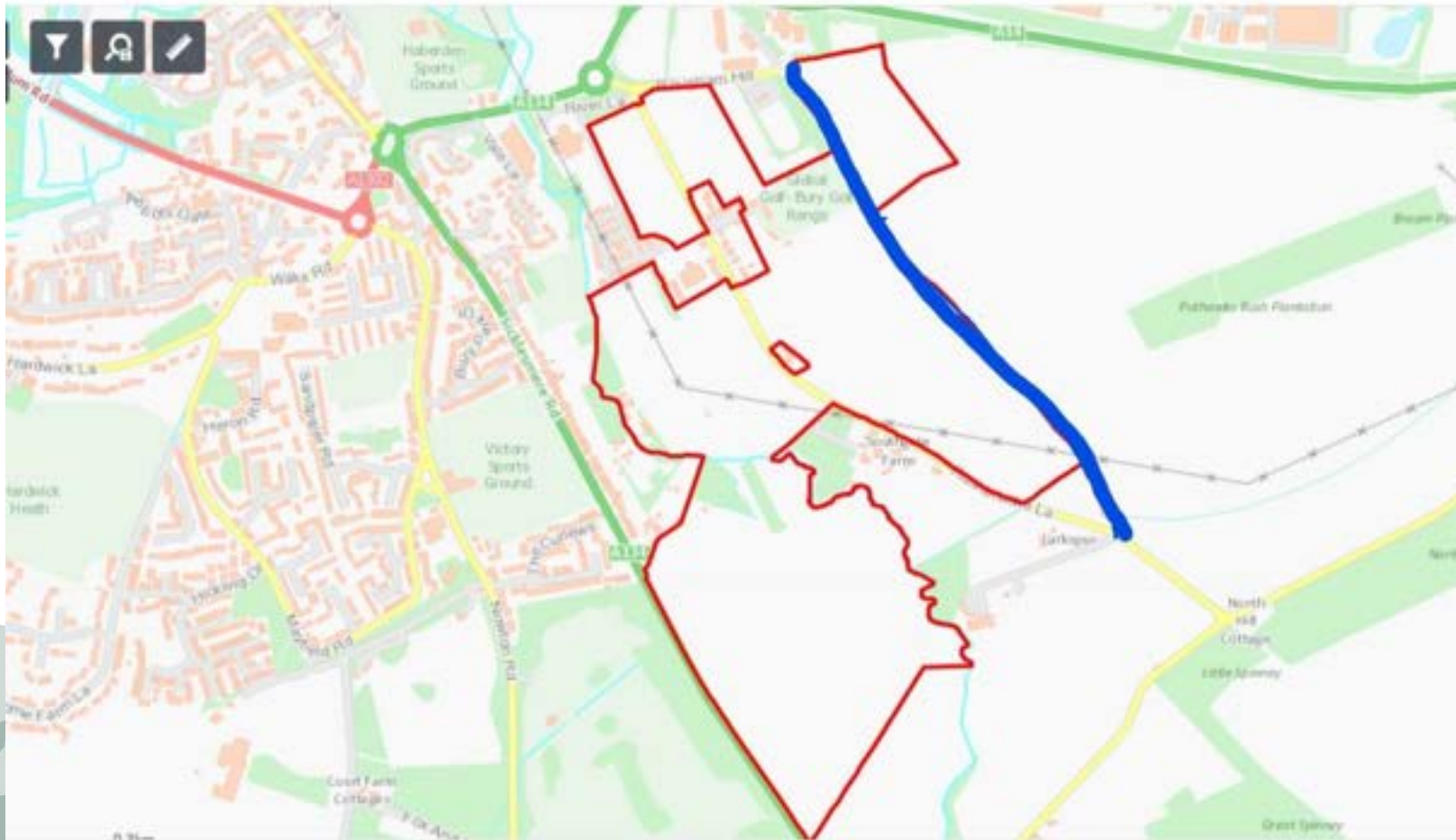
Badwell Ash Footpath 11

- This PROW had been incorporated into the plans and drawings of the planning application with reassurances that it would be maintained
- Plans for other footpaths through woods and around the estate
- Ramblers were pleased to see developers encouraging the use of outdoor space

Badwell Ash

- The application has been refused by Babergh and Mid Suffolk planning on the grounds of landscaping
- The facts in the original application have not been in the subsequent applications given to planning.
- Disappointing

Rougham Hill a development of 1250 homes, which may affect Bury St Edmunds FP 11



Rougham Hill

- SCC want to encourage use of sustainable forms of transport
- There is an emphasis on cycle lanes and footpaths, which must be put in first.
- Jaynic the developers have to agree to this before the planning application is agreed

Westley footpath 1 and Bury St Edmunds footpath 7



Westley footpath 1

- Objected as there are errors and concerns in the planning application - states Westley footpath 1 is used by both walkers and cyclists. This PROW is a footpath, not a bridleway and is for the use of walkers only, not cyclists
- No information was given into how the PROW will be managed if it is changed to dual use.
- What will happen to the footpath while the relief road is built and while the new estate is built?
- The safety of users of the PROW was not mentioned in the application.

Westley footpath 1



- It will be a huge loss to change the landscape of this beautiful footpath into a tarmac one

Whepstead Footpath 13



This is shown by the green dotted line around Whepstead Hall

Planning application to put overhead power lines underground

The new route of the underground cables is along the footpath

Whepstead footpath 13

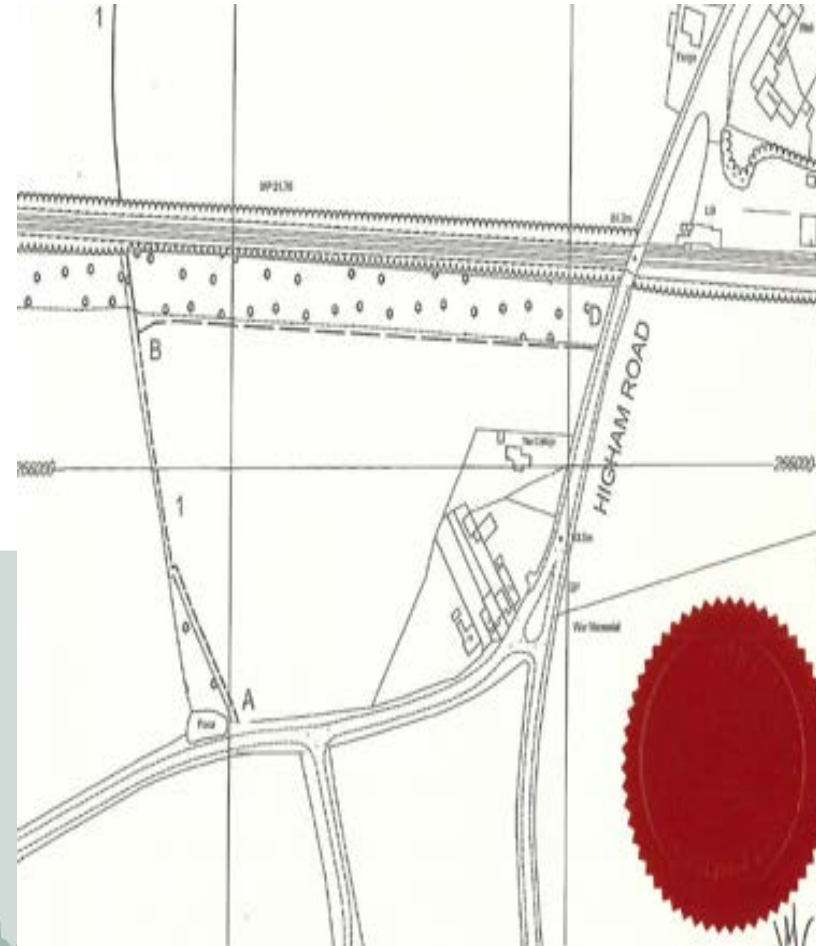
- The yellow line shows present position of overhead cables
- Red dotted line shows route of underground cable
- This appears to follow the route of Whepstead 13



Objected to planning application

- From the plan it appears that the route of the underground power cables follows Whepstead footpath13.
- The PROW is not mentioned in the planning application
- SCC PROW have also objected on the grounds that there is a PROW in the vicinity of the proposed works.

Rail Crossing Diversion Order at Higham. The route has been changed.



Horringer Bridleway 7

This is a new bridleway from the Westley estate in Bury St Edmunds to Horringer



Western Way Development

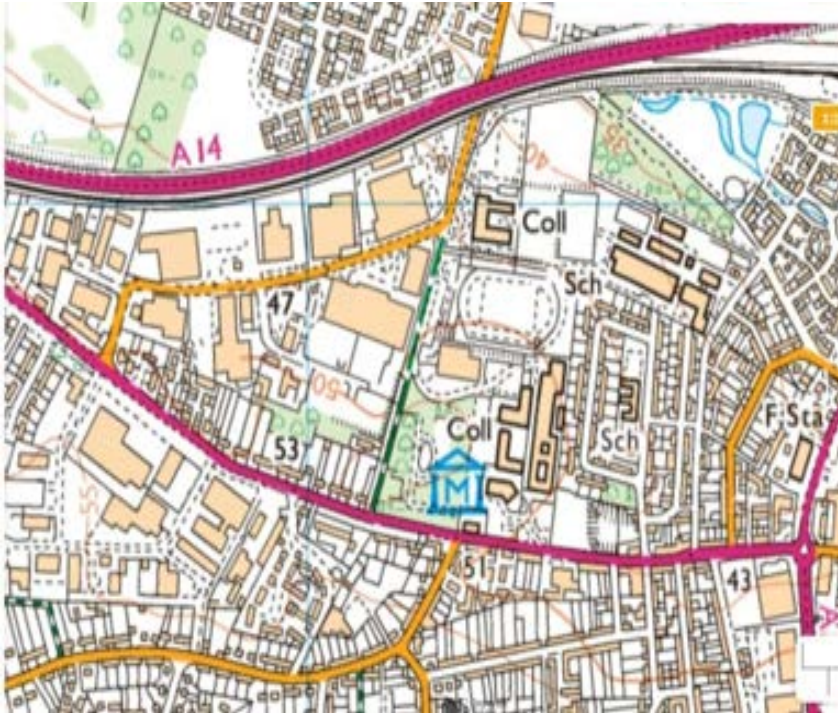
Location map showing new development



New public/private sector hub

- New sports and leisure facilities including new energy centre, surface car parks, a multi-storey car park, sports pavilion, associated landscaping and highways improvement works. ⁶⁹
- The present existing leisure centre will be demolished.

New PROW between BSE bridleway 1 and the town centre



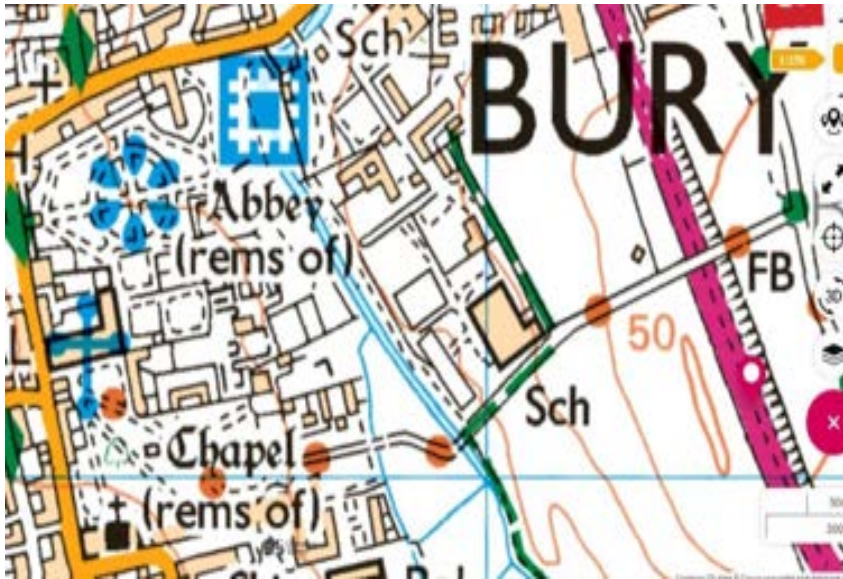
- A new pedestrian link to the town centre.
- There are plans to improve BSE bridleway 1 for both pedestrians and cyclists. The width of the bridleway is to be increased from 2.5m to 3.5m and then divided into 2m for pedestrians and 1.5m for cyclists.
- There are then plans to improve/put in a new cycle route from the bridleway to the town centre.

St James Middle School



- There is a planning application for 9 dwellings on the former school site.
- These new homes will consist of 6 flats and 3 new houses.

Bury St Edmunds FP 14

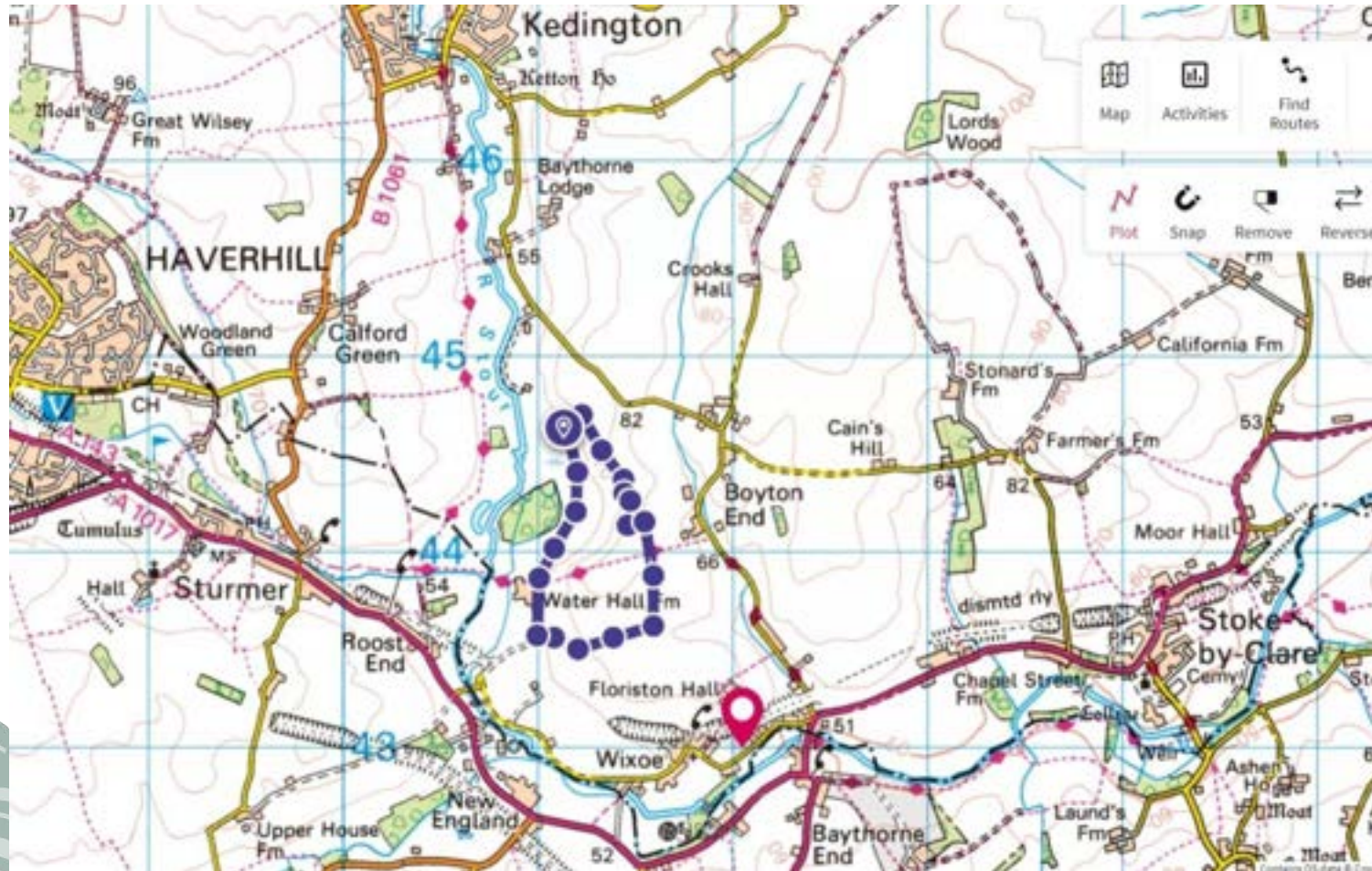


- Bury St Edmunds Footpath 14 runs along the edge of the site but will not be affected by the actual build.
- There will be a link from this site to the footpath.

Application for a Solar Farm that will be across the Stour Valley Path



Position of the solar farm on the Stour Valley Path



Views from the Stour Valley path



To be replaced by 9 foot solar panels for 40 years



The Ramblers objected to the solar farm

- Loss of views of the countryside. Enzygo to put in a biodiversity corridor to hide solar panels, this will take at least 15 years to achieve this. No guarantee that this will hide the solar panels.
- Views could be lost for 40 years.
- The solar farm would be visible to those walking along the River Stour path from Keddington.

- Glint and Glare survey not carried out for PROW's. It is a legal requirement to do this.



The Ramblers objected to the solar farm

- Safety of walkers – The compound to store all materials & provide parking north of the PROW.
- Access to the compound is from the south and will have to cross the PROW.
- The largest part of the solar farm is south of the PROW there will be continual movement across this while installation of the panels take place

The Ramblers objected to the solar farm

- Damage to surface of the PROW caused by heavy traffic crossing it.
- Who will reinstate the path?
- This objection was sent to Val Conaboy, Jenny Bradin, Phil Prigg and Jim Richards for their approval before being sent.

Solar farms

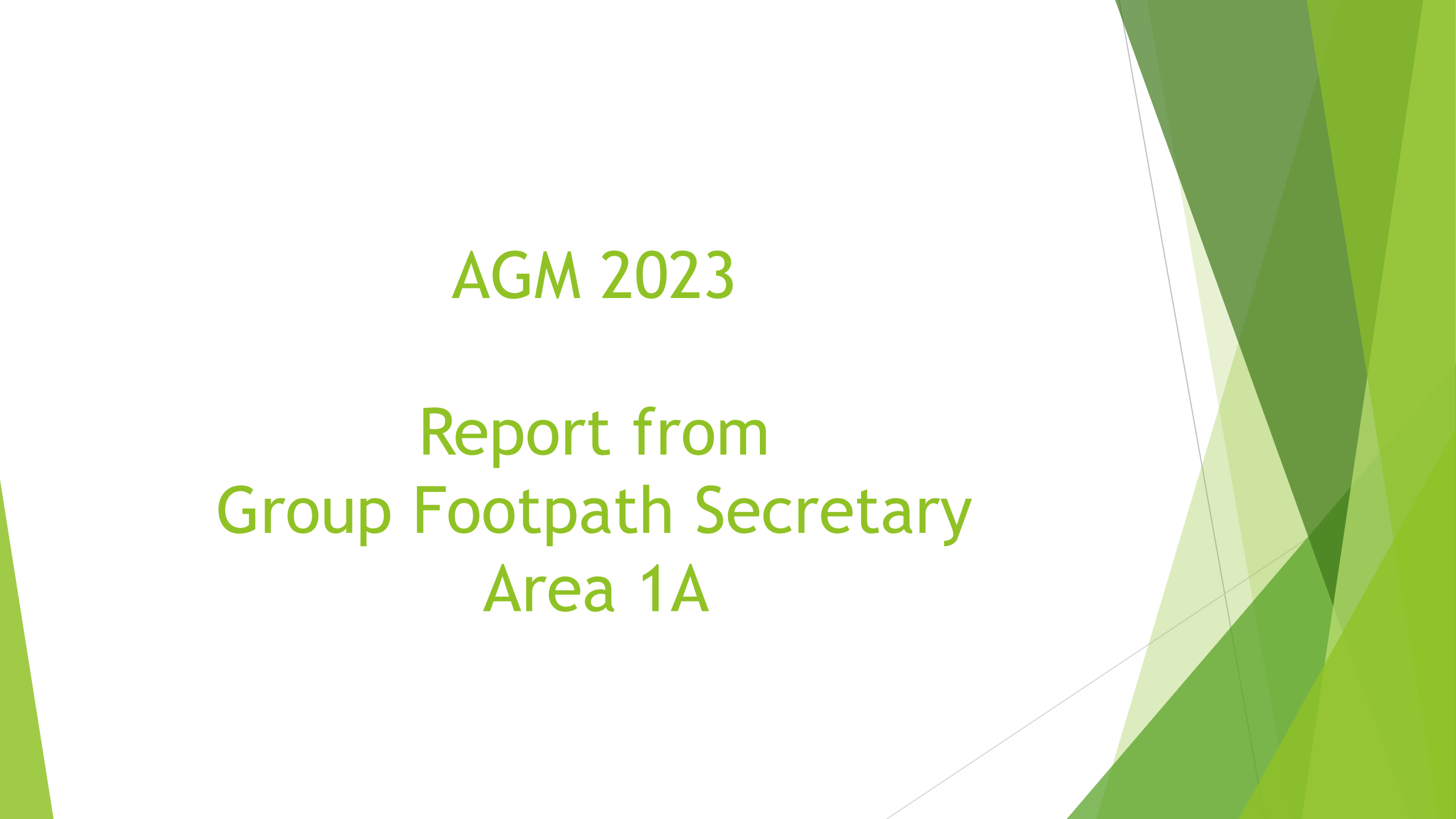
- The Ramblers support the need for the reduction in carbon emission but ask that sites for solar farms be chosen that have a less detrimental effect on the countryside.



Thank you

Any Questions?



The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes in various shades of green, creating a modern, layered effect on the right side of the slide.

AGM 2023

Report from
Group Footpath Secretary
Area 1A

Ingham/Culford Footpaths



Ingham FP2 and FP7

► Update

- Constant problems and complaints from residents about state of paths in Ingham/Culford
- Informed SCC contractors were due to cut and would survey width along ploughed field. Not done due to wet weather
- Diversion agreed with Area Officer but no plan of diversion available
- Tomato glasshouses now almost white elephant, very little produced
- Attended 2 hour meeting with resident from Dairy Lane and we walked all the troublesome paths between Ingham and Culford
- Ongoing discussions with Area Officer but no progress until after sugar beet has been harvested and paths reinstated.

Ingham/Culford Footpaths and The Drift



Hepworth FPs 10 and 11

Beck Street to Wood Lane



Hepworth FPs 10 and 11

► Update

- New route created by John Andrews.
- Over 3 years since the modification Order was made and added to the Definitive Map.
- Two landowners involved. One has since died so now unclear as to ownership for his part of the land.
- John has chased this up with SCC but they say no signage can be put up until the route paperwork is officially complete and therefore cannot be walked.
- Paths are already marked on the OS map.

Hepworth FPs 10 and 11

‘No public right of way’ notice
in Beck Street put up by
landowner



Unmarked route in field
looking towards Wood Lane



Bridge at Ixworth Abbey

The Paddock, Ixworth



Hempyard Bridge at Ixworth Abbey

► Update

- Planning permission received for this 500 year old bridge 2 years ago with all objections resolved.
- Repairs agreed should correspond to the original Grade 1 listed construction appropriate to the 500 year old bridge built in conjunction with the Abbey.
- No work has yet been started.

Bridge at Ixworth Abbey

Bridge to be returned to original construction



Wooden railings to be demolished

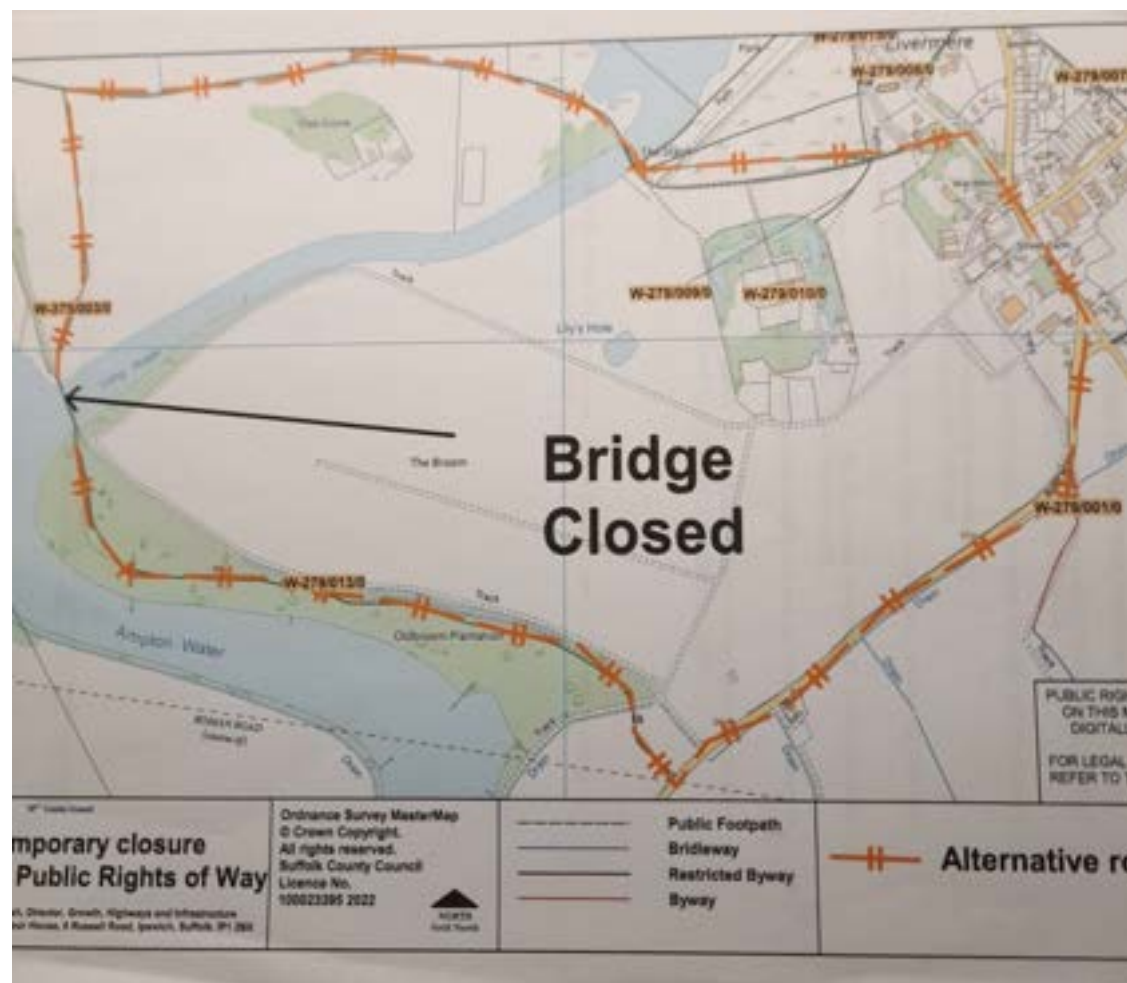


Closure of bridge over Ampton Water



Bridge closed at Ampton Water

Diversion route round Livermere estate via Timworth Road and Great Livermere



Bridge closure at Ampton Water

FP 13 Gt Livermere and FP3 Lt Livermere

► Update

- The wooden bridge between Ampton Water and Long Water on the Ampton Estate has been closed since 3rd February 2022 as it is beyond repair
- This closure has been extended time after time and the date has now been put back to January 2024.
- In the meantime work has been carried out by the estate to extend the banks on either side of the water
- I wrote to SCC asking if there were any intentions or plans for the two extended banks to be connected by a bridge of some sort to once again connect the paths to a circular route.
- Received a reply on 16th October which I shall read out separately.

Bridge closure at Ampton Water

Unsafe rotting bridge



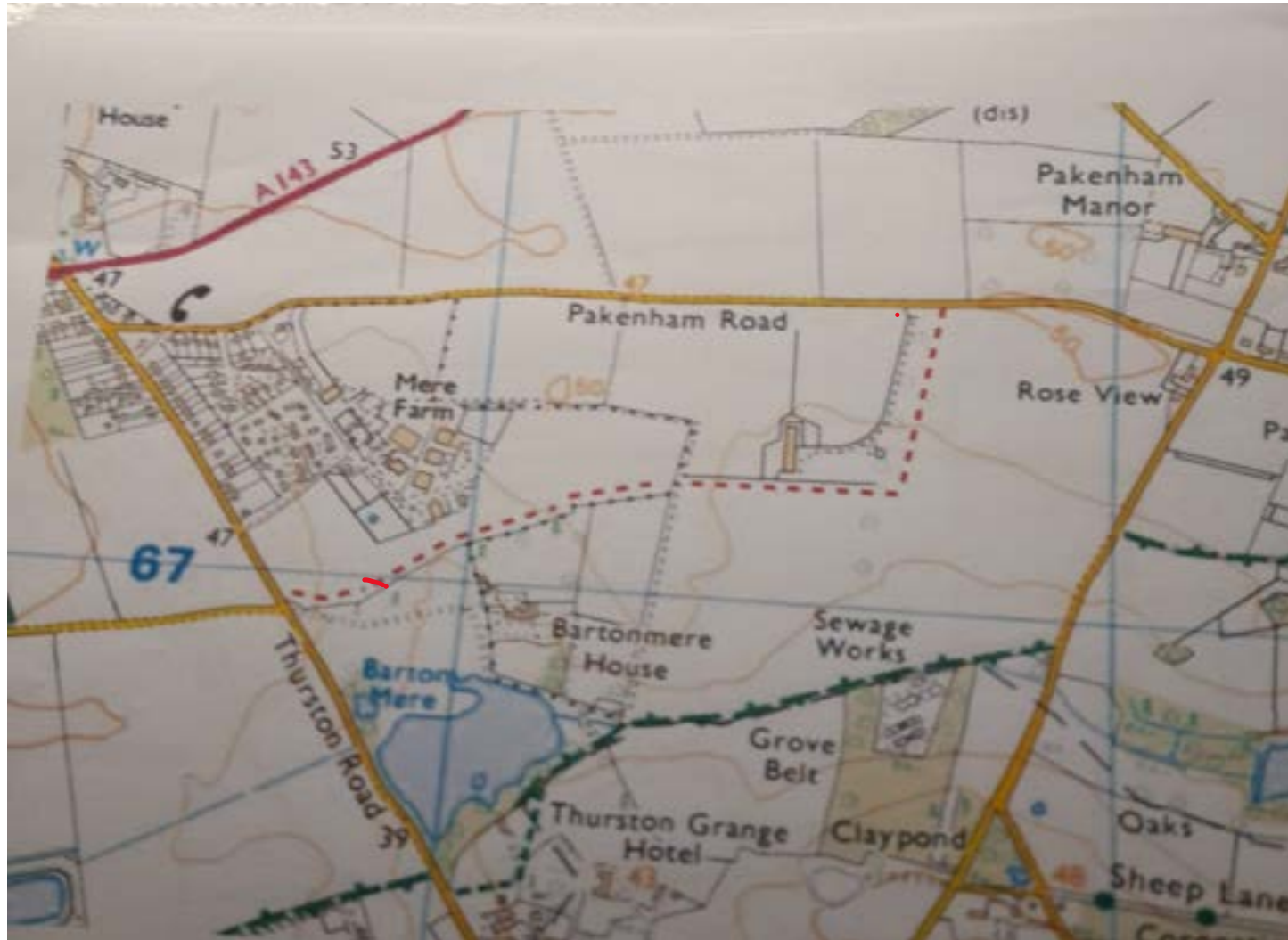
Extended banks



New Footpath Between Pakenham FP21 and Great Barton FP22

- ▶ Update
- ▶ John Andrews had been successful in obtaining a Creation Agreement in 2022 between Pakenham FP21 and Great Barton FP22.
- ▶ A useful link obtained between two villages.
- ▶ Pakenham road to Thurston road (near Barton mere)
- ▶ Order made and waymark signs now erected (but not yet on OS map)
- ▶ Path round initial field quite overgrown and finger post on Pakenham road vandalised and wooden bridge over ditch overgrown. Reported to SCC.

Pakenham and Great Barton



Pakenham Footpaths

- ▶ **Pakenham Footpath 3**
- ▶ Problems during the winter with this footpath, broken gatepost and stile. Area Footpath Officer instructed landowners to repair and I understand this was done eventually after weather improved.
- ▶ Notification recently from Thomas of obstruction of a tied up field gate plus two other gates needing attention. He has reported these and asked for an inspection. Thank you Thomas.
- ▶ Another complaint has been voiced about Pakenham 21 and Great Barton FP22 which I have dealt with above.

Whatfield FP14



Whatfield footpath FP14

Although Whatfield is not in our area, it is obviously walked by our members so I thought I would mention that members can report any problem to us and we can pass it on to the appropriate local footpath secretary.

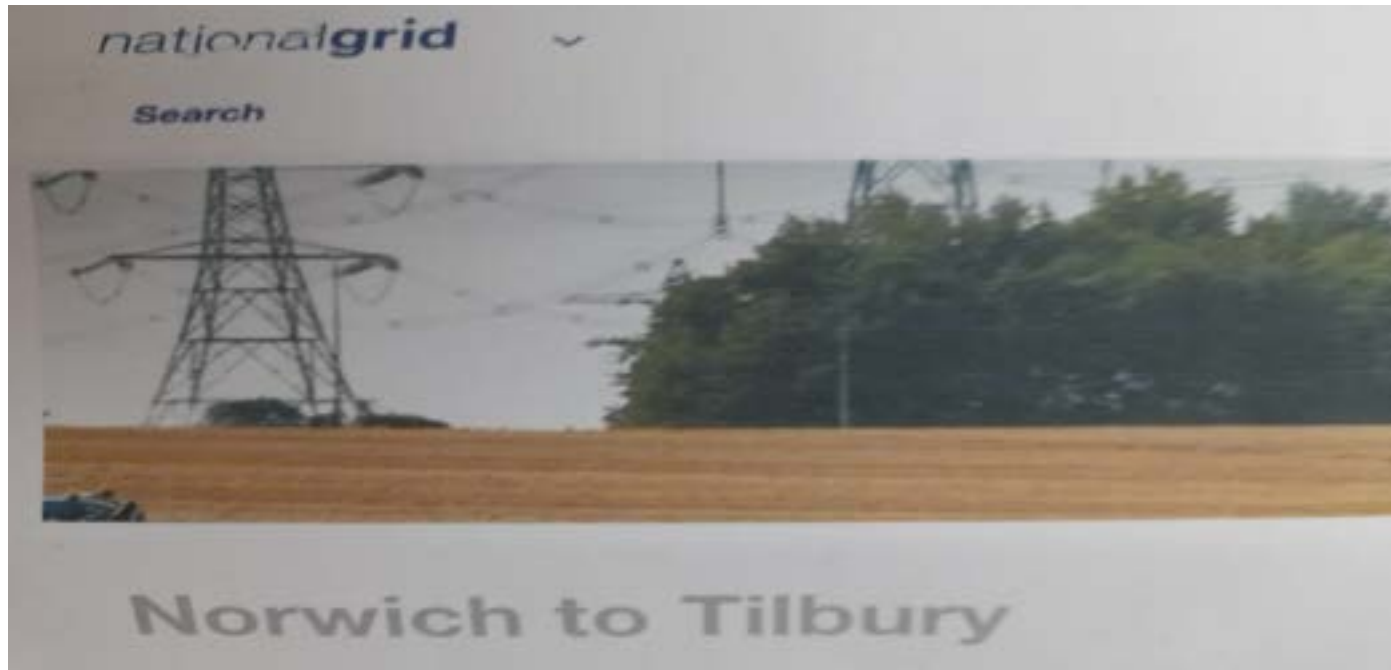
I passed on the complaint to Phil Snelling of the Stowmarket group and he dealt with it with some success as the blocked gate is now reported to be unlocked.

Another overgrown and almost impossible path in Whatfield TM0239246430 has also been reported and I have passed that over to Phil also, hopefully with the same success.

Euston Permitted Paths

This year Euston Estate produced a map of their permissive paths. A copy can be obtained from their estate office.

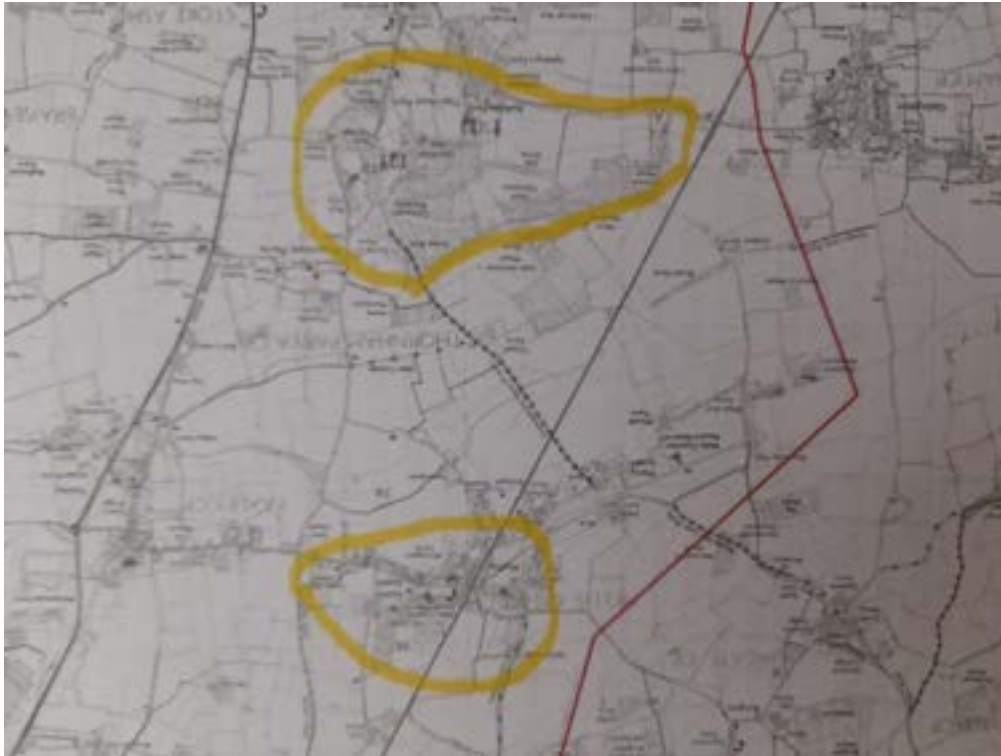




50 metre pylons will be visible for miles and the route crosses hundreds of footpaths.
Construction phase of 3-4 years.

- ▶ In mid-Suffolk Wortham, Mellis and Gislingham will be affected which includes the Angles Way. Further south it includes the Essex Way, St Edmunds Way and Stour Valley Path.
- ▶ Area Secretary has suggested there should be one response from all Ramblers groups affected - Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk, with Head Office involved.
- ▶ Agreed that Simon Pulley of Essex should do an in depth analysis of the effect on the path network.
- ▶ (There is a group who are campaigning for all the infrastructure to be off shore.)

National Grid - Proposed new 400kv overhead line alignment in Mid Suffolk



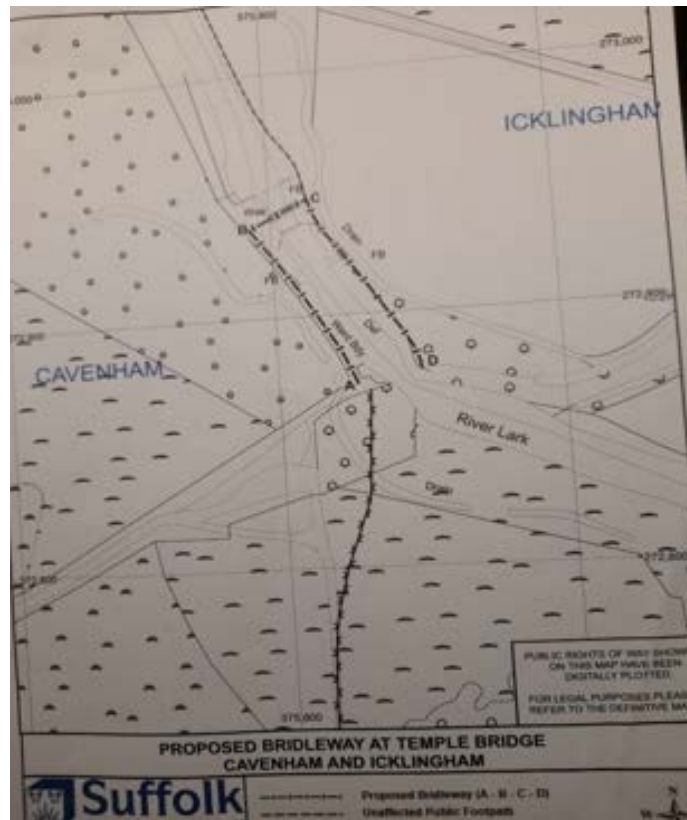
Temple Bridge Cavenham and Icklingham Creation Order



Proposed Order to record this link as a public bridleway

- ▶ Some time ago the old Temple bridge became unsafe and was demolished.
- ▶ A temporary metal bridge was installed for access for pedestrians, equestrians and cyclists.
- ▶ Already used unofficially as public access so this Order is making it legal.
- ▶ Therefore I reported that Ramblers had no objection to this Creation Order.
- ▶ It is actually part of the Ickneild Way on one bank and the Lark Valley Path on the other bank!
- ▶ Horse mounts have now been built for equestrians.

New section of bridleway around and crossing bridge over Temple Staunch



Network Rail and Level Crossing Stiles (verbal report)

- ▶ Network Rail are installing new infrastructure at level crossings, in particular stiles. They are beginning with the East Suffolk line in the Waveney Area.
- ▶ Jim Richards, Area Secretary, has raised the health and safety issues both with SCC and Ramblers Central Office. (SCC has suggested Ramblers should take up issue with NR as SCC have had no joy.)
- ▶ The newest ones are steel and look a bit fragile, but the dogs are well taken care of, with their own little gate.
- ▶ Others are the opposite in that they are very sturdily wooden but are very high and would take some time to cross. Last thing you want when crossing a railway line.

Claimed bridleway in Brandon and Lakenheath (North Fen Drove)

- ▶ Another of John Andrews claims for this new bridleway. The route runs from Wangford Road in Lakenheath, then north to connect with Byway 7 in Brandon (Hereward Way).
- ▶ On 3rd October SCC Development and Regulation Committee confirmed the Modification Order as it was unopposed.
- ▶ It will be known as Brandon Bridleway 22 and Lakenheath Bridleway23. There will be a 6 week High Court Objection period following which the route will be added to the Definitive Map and statement.

(There were 68 separate pieces of evidence plus 23 sources of information to produce this claim.)

Claimed bridleway at Brandon and Lakenheath



Mellis level crossing, Cowpasture Lane

Cowpasture Lane and crossing used perfectly safely ever since railway was built.

NR closed crossing in Spring 2022 to install flashing lights and audible warning system. It constantly failed.

NR asked SCC to close public right of way for safety reasons but never fixed the problems.

Nothing done for a year so residents of Mellis set up publicity campaign including article in the Guardian. Residents got very angry. They had lost their circular walk.

I was asked to become involved after speaking to residents living next to crossing.

I had communications with Claire Dickson at SCC who informed me that Head of Rights of Way had been pressing NR for months.

Eventually after receiving a time limited legal warning NR repaired the lights and opened the crossing, to the delight of residents of Mellis.

Ramblers Central Office had also become involved along the way but by that time Jim our Area Secretary was able to tell them that we already had matters in hand.

[illegible]

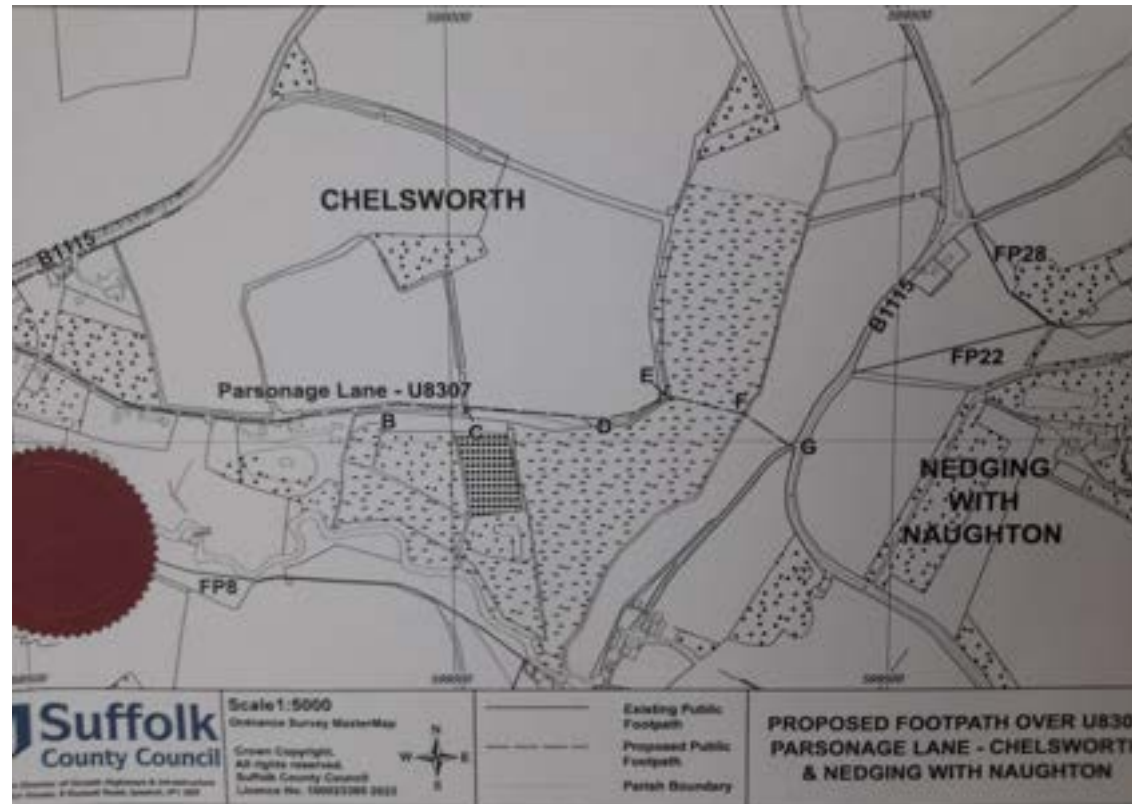
Mellis level crossing



Chelsworth - Parsonage Lane



Chelsworth - Parsonage Lane



Chelsworth - Parsonage Lane

(To be explained verbally)

- ▶ This is a situation which has gone on for years, it is half road, half path/track which has been used by residents for years, but the path part is not a right of way legally. It has been argued over time and time again but technically it apparently cannot be a right of way although half of it is a road. The Definitive Map officer therefore rejected the claim, as others had done before him.
- ▶ However the members of the SCC committee decided that this nonsense had gone on for too long and did not accept his recommendation to reject and authorised the Order. The Order affects the whole of Parsonage Lane from B1115 Bildeston Road as Chelsworth FP11 to over the parish boundary in Nedging with Naughton becoming FP29 to the B1115 in the east.
- ▶ I watched the committee meeting live on Utube and it was a revelation to see a group of councillors collectively make a commonsense decision. It was the end to a never ending saga.
- ▶ There is of course an appeal period to 22nd December for objections to be made, but I hardly think that they will be queuing up.

Suffolk Area Council

- ▶ Two representatives from Area Council attended General Council. Discussions of interest included new Trustees and **risk assessments/still being discussed by Head Office committee!**
- ▶ Subjects raised by Area during the year included:
- ▶ East Anglia ONE Offshore Windfarm and East Anglia Two Offshore Windfarm -judicial reviews unsuccessful and appeals are pending.
- ▶ Sunnica Energy Farm (Freckenham, Worlington, Chippenham and Snailwell). Examination closed at end of March and result on hold.
- ▶ Judicial review on Sizewell C began in March 2023.
- ▶ ***Don't Lose Your Way* - paths saved on basis of historic evidence**
- ▶ 22nd February 2022 Government announced cut off date of 2026 would be extinguished.
- ▶ 22nd March 2023 Government U-turn - set new deadline date of 2031 to save these paths.
- ▶ **The Annual General Meeting of the Suffolk Area Council will be held on**
- ▶ **Saturday 3rd February 2024 at 11 am**
- ▶ **Venue: St Marks Church Centre, Bridge Road, Oulton Broad, Lowestoft NR33 9JX**

Appointments



Appointment of Area Council Representatives

- **Existing representative**

Jenny Bradin (willing to continue)

Appointment of Accounts Examiner

- **Existing examiner**

Paul Harrison (retiring)

Election of Officers & Committee



Appointment of Chair

- **Existing Chair**

Val Conaboy (willing to continue)

Existing members of the committee standing for re-election

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Treasurer | Mark Broughton |
| • Secretary/Membership | Chris Flood |
| • Group Footpath Secretary 1A | Jenny Bradin |
| • Group Footpath Secretary 1B | Lynne Bambury |
| • Minutes Secretary | Tony Rowe |
| • Communications Secretary | Sue Hawthorn |

New Members nominated for the committee

- **Programme Co-ordinator** **Tom Berry**

Nominated by Julia Bradbury, seconded by Val Conaboy.

Any Other Business



