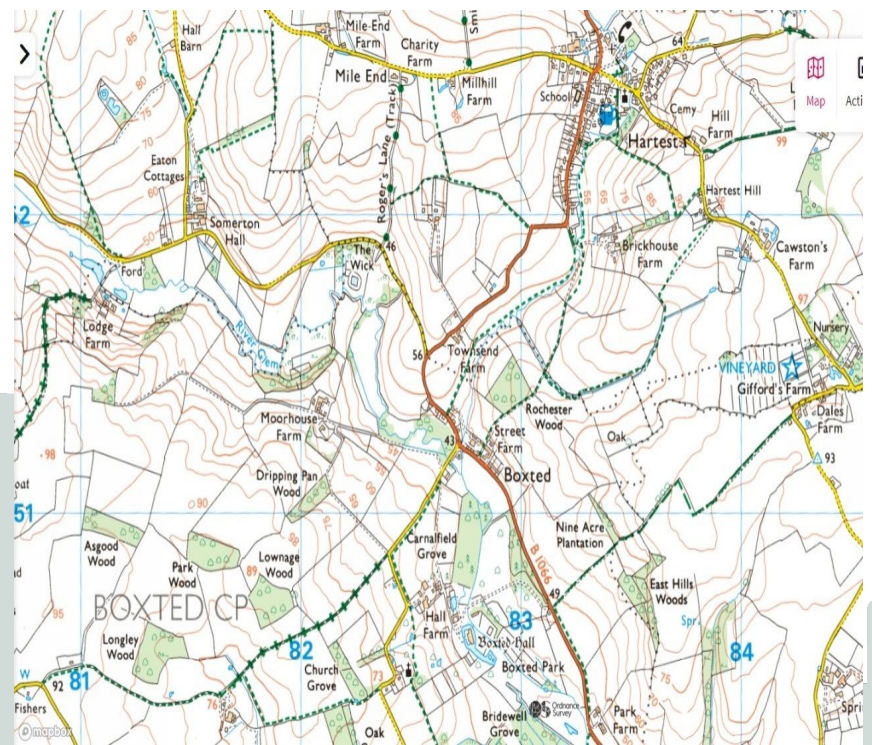


Report from Footpath Secretary for Bury St Edmunds Area 1B 2025



Solar Farms Boxted



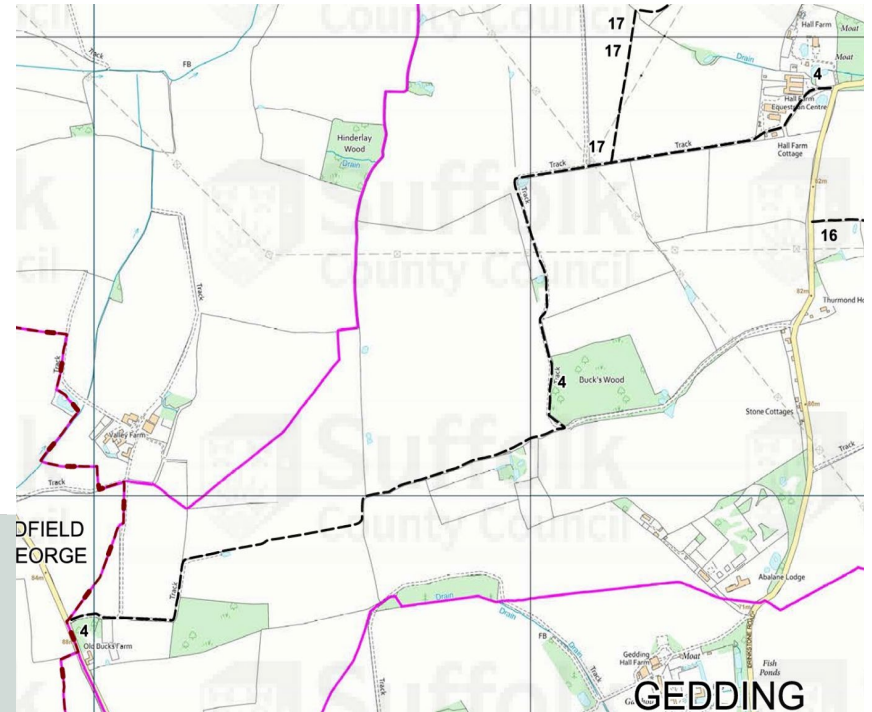
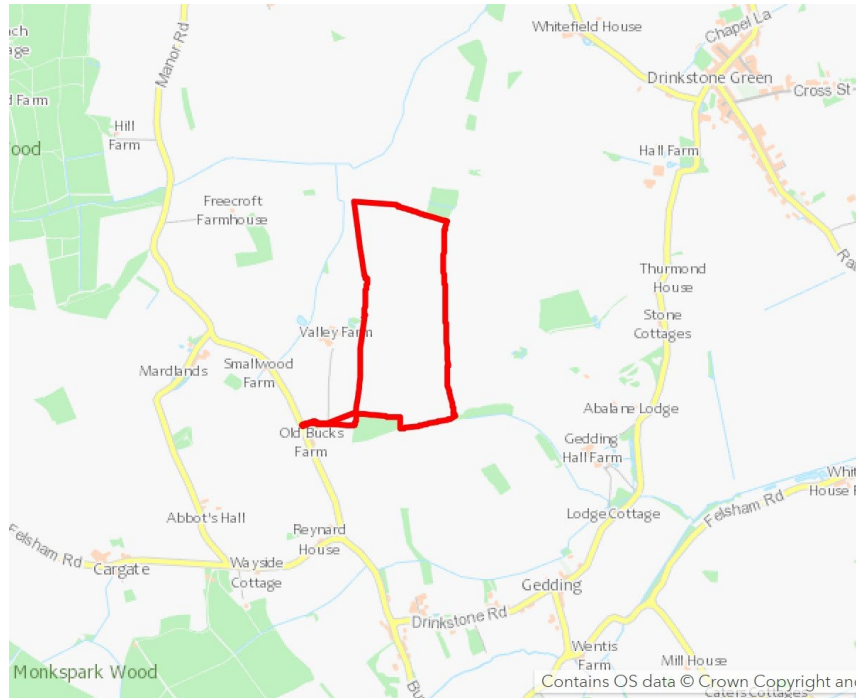
No Decision has been made

- In August 2025 this application is still ongoing.
- Highways have objected re the traffic movement on Braggon's Hill. Until passing places are put in place along this road, highways will not remove their objection.
- Archaeological officer has given a huge list of what searches need to be done before any work can be carried out
- Lead Local Flood Authority are concerned about increased flooding risk caused by ground works

Objections

- The Bury St Edmunds Ramblers objected on the grounds of the visual impact on the surrounding Suffolk countryside. Particularly from Hartest Hill on the opposite side of the valley.
- There are 5 PROWs close to the solar farm, that would be affected visually by this solar farm.
- The PROW's have still not been included in the Glint and Glare survey.
- The Ramblers objected again in February 2025 for the same reasons as last year.

New Solar farm at Hesset



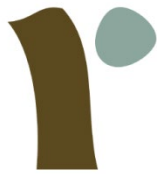
Footpaths affected

- Drinkstone footpath 4 will pass through the southern section of the solar farm.
- Drinkstone footpath 17 to the north and east of the solar farm



Objections by the Ramblers

- This path is a vital link in the footpath network for Drinkstone and the neighbouring parishes.
- There is no easy alternative route that could be taken and still keep a walk enjoyable and safe.
- It is proposed by the developers that when the construction is completed, Drinkstone FP 4 would be routed through a corridor bounded by a 2-metre fence.
- This would completely spoil the walk in a very rural part of countryside.
- A suggestion is to re-route the footpath around the field boundaries to the south side of the solar farm.



ramblers

at the heart of walking

SCC PROW response

- SCC PROW objected to the proposal as Drinkstone Footpath 4 will be closed for a period of nine months during construction. A closure of this duration is unacceptable.
- Suitable measures are to be implemented to maintain access to the PROW.
- If a temporary closure is the safest course of action. The applicant should consider providing a temporary diversion.
- To remove the current holding objection, SCC PROW requests clarification on how the PROW will be maintained safely and kept open during construction, or, if a temporary closure is necessary, details of the proposed diversion route.

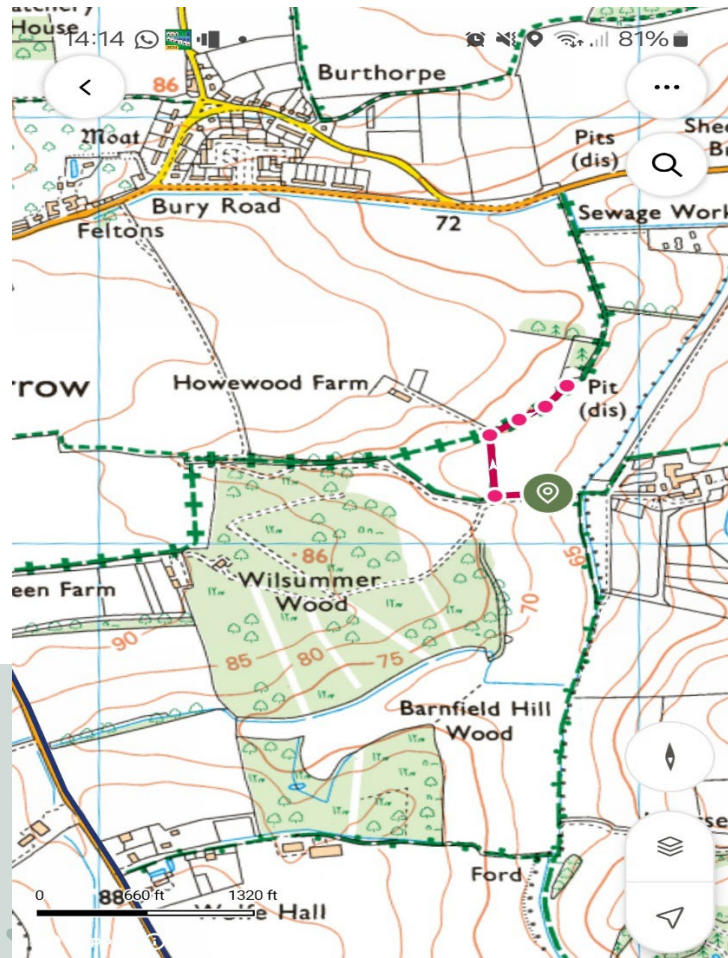
Is it legal to shoot across a **PROW?**

- On Tuesday 7th January, our group was on a walk near Barrow.
- We were stopped by Barrow Bridleway 12 and asked to wait as there was a shoot taking place and they were shooting across the route we needed to take.
- We were told it would only be 4 minutes but it was nearer to 20 minutes

Barrow Bridleway 12



Barrow FP 12



Is it okay to have a shoot across a **PROW?**

- There is nothing in legislation preventing this, discharging a firearm is only covered by Carriageway in that you can only discharge a firearms up to 50 feet, 15 metres from the centre line of the Highway (carriageway).

Necessary warnings?

- Should there have been notices on the paths leading to Barrow Bridleway 12 warning of the shoot?
- There is no legislation requiring this.

Is it an Offence?

- It is not a specific offence to shoot across a public right of way, but to do so could amount to
- common law nuisance,
- wilful obstruction of the highway under [Highway Act 1980 s137](#),
- a breach of the [Health and Safety at Work Act 1974](#)
- intimidation.

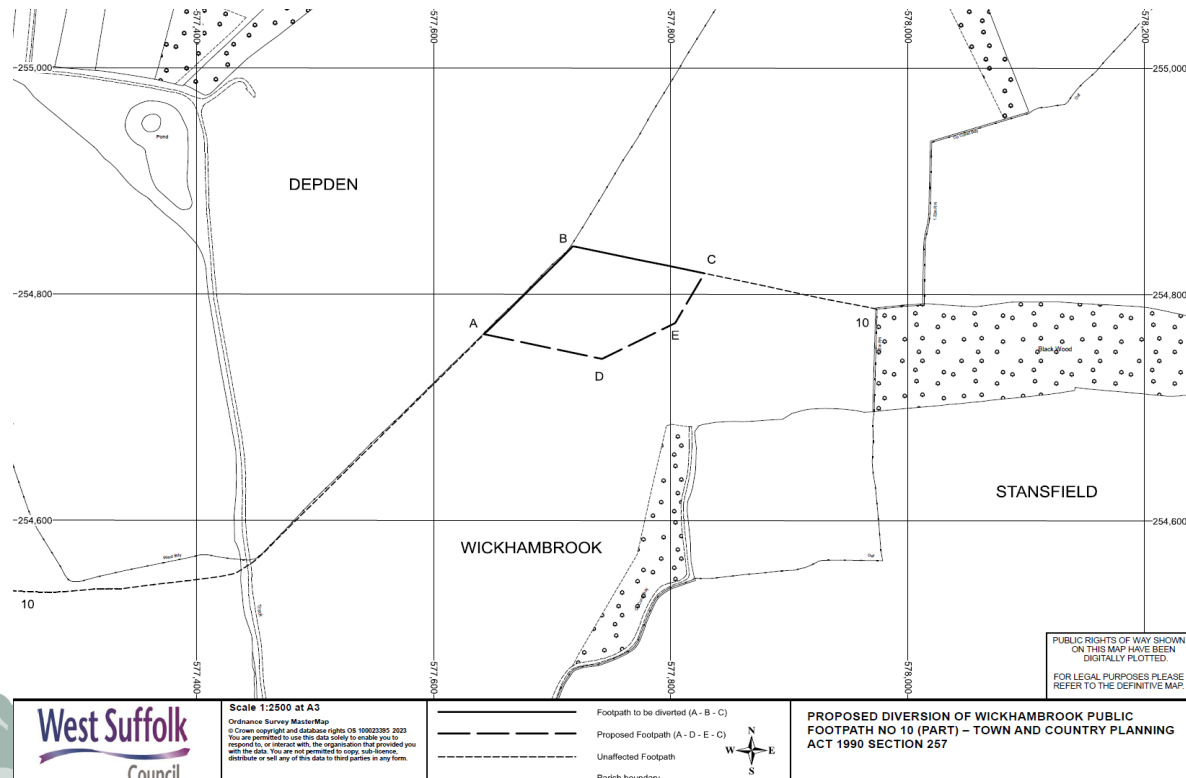
What should have happened?

- The Banksman should have stopped the shoot until we were safely past.
- Therefore, the breach wasn't that they were conducting a shoot but rather they interrupted our rights unlawfully.
- It is a criminal offence to prevent the public exercising their right to pass along a PROW under Common Law and the Highway Act.

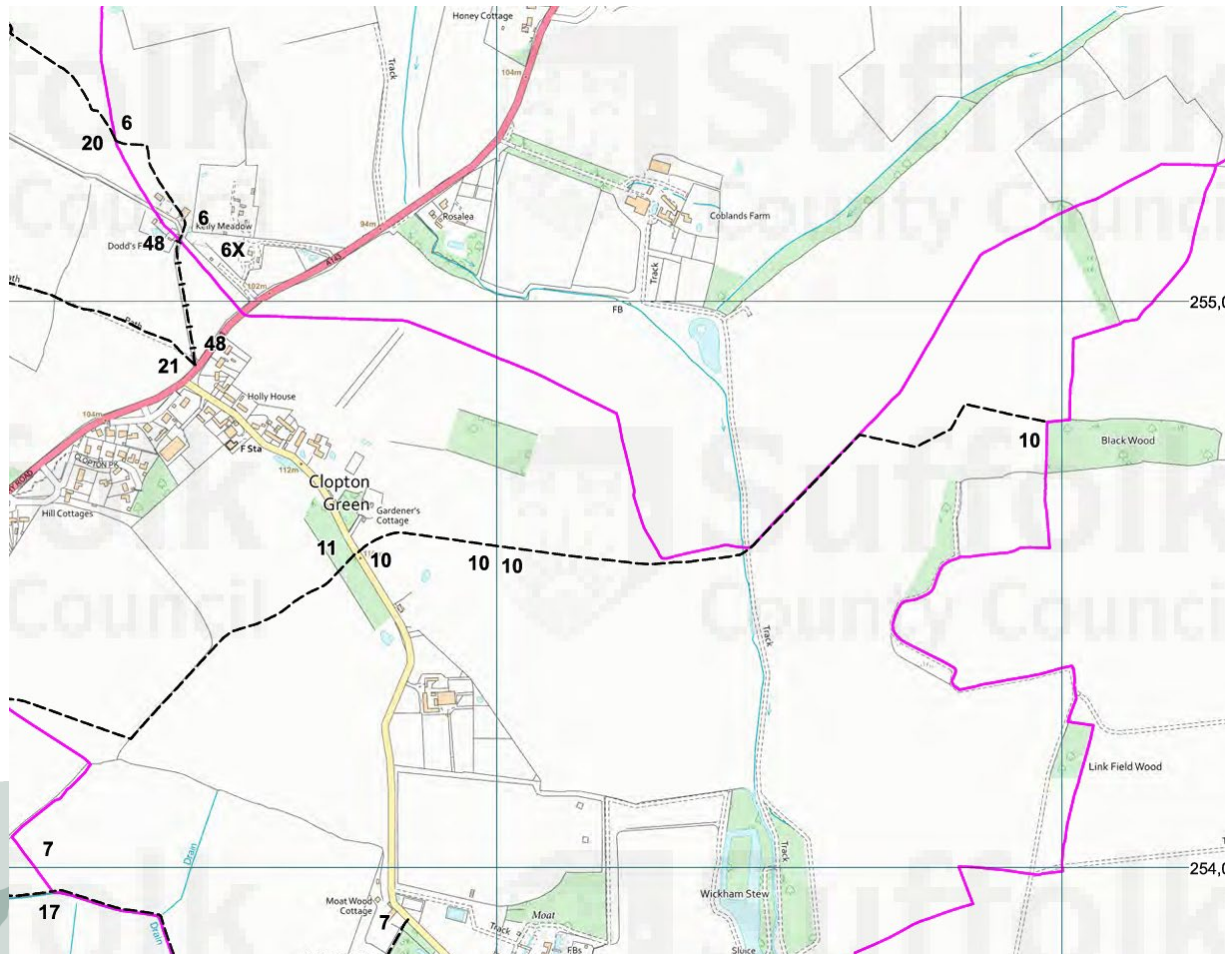
Wickhambrook FP 10

- The land owner wants to build a new conservation lake on their property to do this they needed to divert Wickhambrook footpath 10.
- This FP has now been diverted.
- Wickhambrook Footpath No 10 (part) Public Path Diversion Order 2024 came into effect on 24 June 2025.

Wickhambrook FP 10. The old route is shown by A,B,C and the new route by A,D,E,C



The new route of Wickhambrook FP 10 is now on the definitive map for Suffolk but it is not on the OS map at the moment





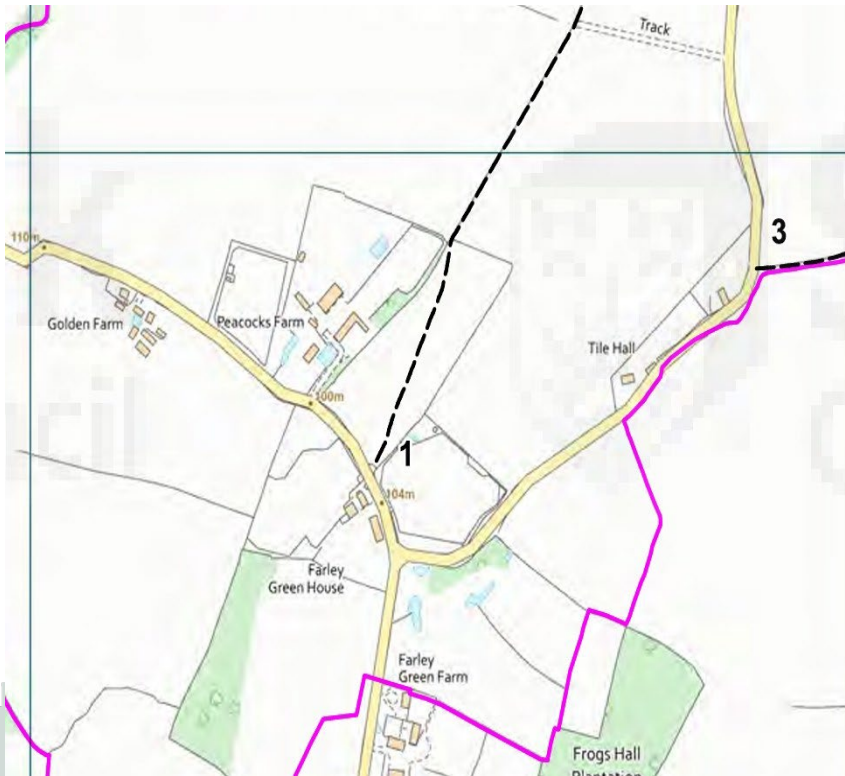
Wickhambrook Footpath 1

ramblers

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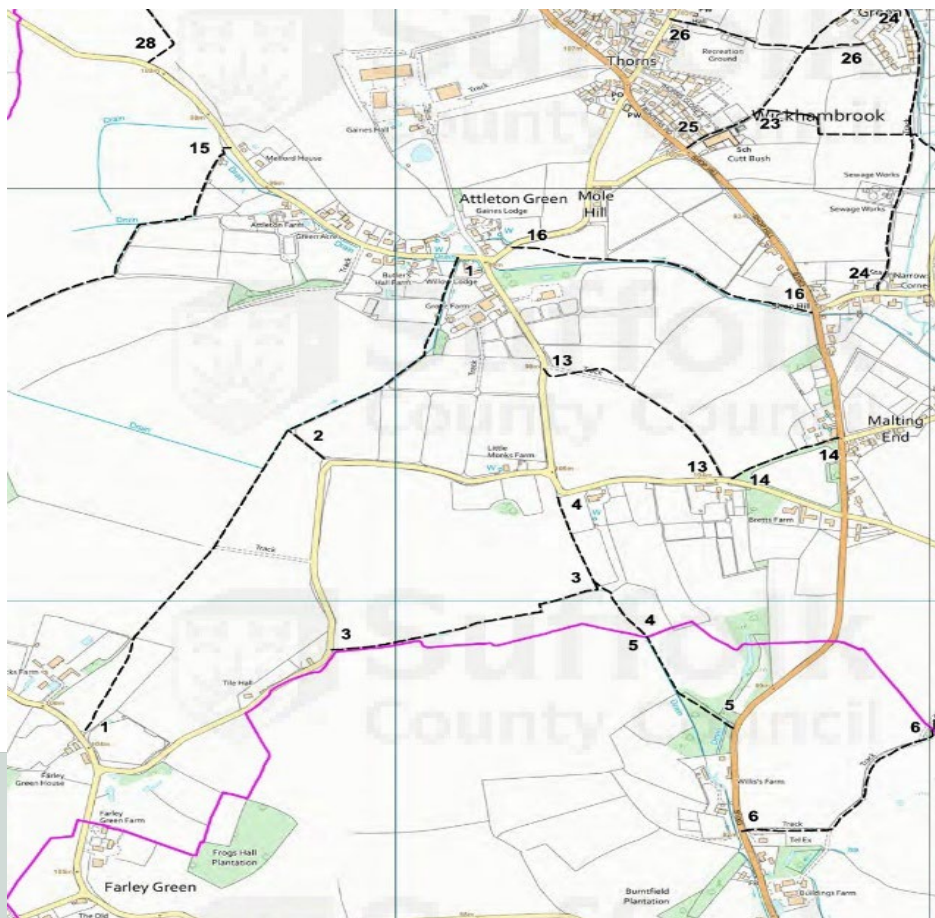
- There has been an application to move Wickhambrook Footpath 1 from going diagonally across a field to go around the field edge.
- Bury St Edmunds Ramblers were asked by Babergh Midsuffolk PROW if we have any objection to the diversion of Wickhambrook FP1.
- The Ramblers have no objections to this and filled in a response form saying this

The present route of the footpath runs from A to B. The new route will be from A, C, D, B



Wickhambrook FP 1

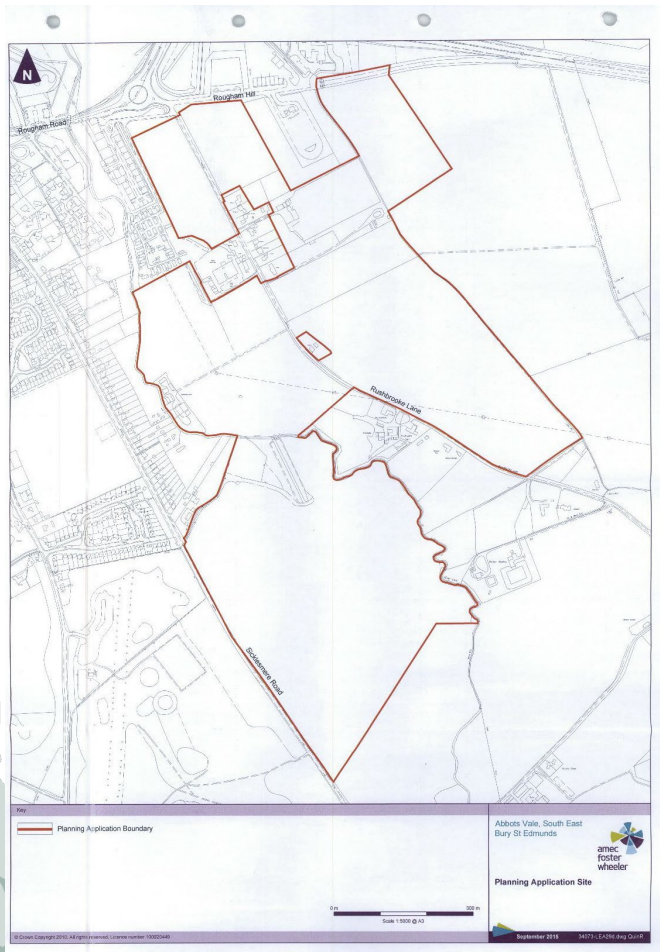
There are 52 PROW's in Wickhambrook



Bury St Edmunds Footpath 11

- Planning has been put forward for a new housing estate south of Rougham Hill
- A new Denbury Homes development.
- This development does enclose and will affect Bury St Edmunds footpath 11.

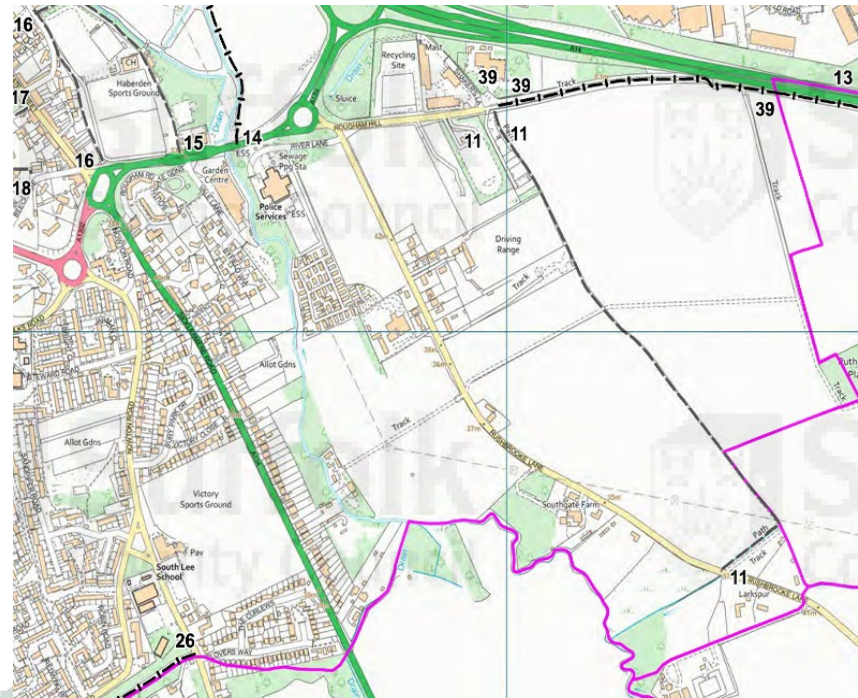
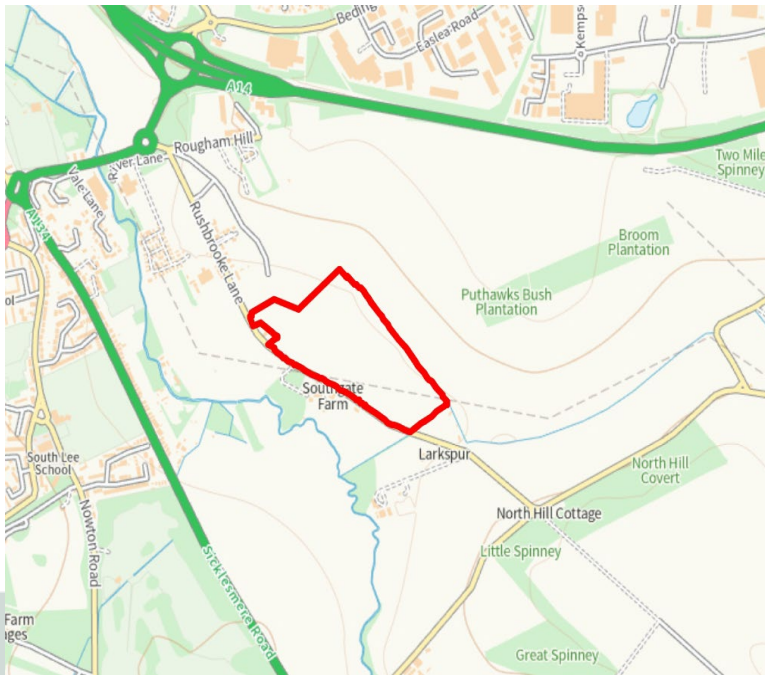
Total area of the new housing development



- This application to build a new housing development started in December 2015 and has been ongoing for nearly 10 years.
- One of the main objectors is SCC PROW

Present site development.

Bury St Edmunds FP 11 is along the right border and southern edge



SCC PROW have very strongly objected to this housing development

- The applicant needs to produce a PROW management plan.
- The need to apply for a Temporary Traffic regulation order
- The definitive line and full enforceable width to be marked out on the site at the start of the development.
- The requirements go on and cover 4 sides of A4
- I have a copy if anyone would like to read it

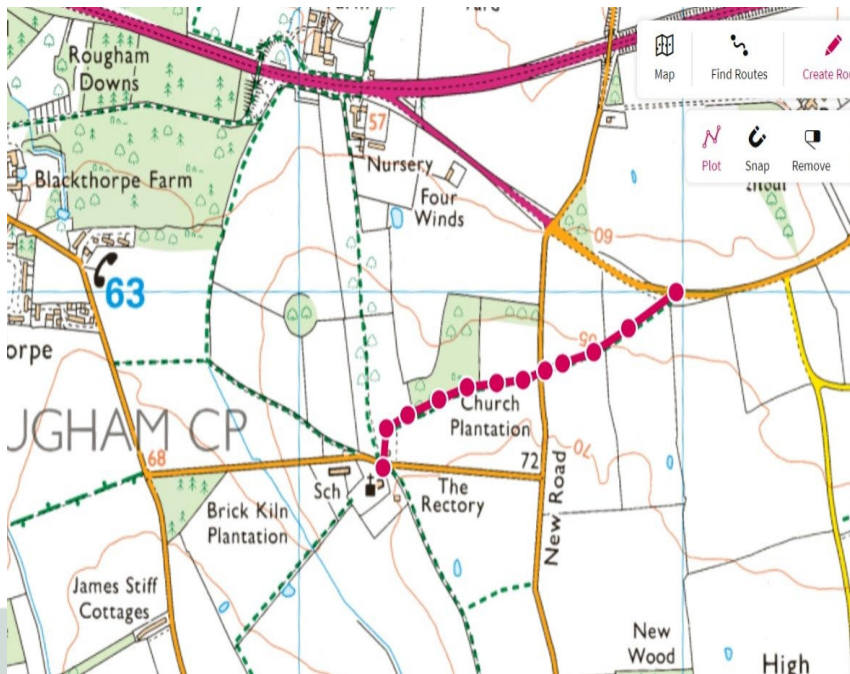
Rougham FP 23

Use of barbed wire on a stile



- It is illegal to put barbed wire around the posts of a stile or across the rungs of a stile.
- The landowner has been asked to remove this barbed wire by SCC PROW
- The landowner was asked to do this August last year!!

Rougham FP36



This PROW has been an ongoing issue since January 2020.

Work has started on this footpath by Church Cottages over 2 months ago but now seems to have stopped. The FP is overgrown and impassable.

Rougham Footpath 36



Response

- I emailed James Pickering PROW officer for Suffolk County Council to ask what is happening to Rougham FP 36.
- Rougham estate had to stop work due to issues from one of the tenants living in Church Cottages.
- This tenant is leaving at the end of the year.
- It will then be possible to continue work on this PROW with ease.

Any Questions?

