

This is an explanatory statement and does not form part of the order

Highways Act 1980

Public Path Order

Under the Highways Act 1980, county and district councils have the power to make orders to create, extinguish (close) or divert public rights of way. A notice that such an order has been made has to be advertised on the site of the path in question and in the local press. This provides an opportunity for objections or representations to be made to the proposed change.

West Suffolk Council has made an order under section 119 of the Highways Act 1980 to divert part of Wickhambrook Public Footpath 1 in the interests of the owners of the land crossed by the footpath. This statement has been prepared to explain various aspects of the order.

The applicants' consider the diversion is in their interests for the reasons set down below:

- Better and safer use of paddocks and grazing
- Easier access to maintaining paddocks
- Minimizing interactions with public when leading horses who can be unpredictable
- More privacy for our private dwelling
- Preserving wildlife habitat for resident Barn owls
- Peace of mind that horses are kept as separate as possible from general public and their dogs
- Enhanced safety by creating a double barrier between horses and new footpath.

The existing footpath has no legally recorded width. The proposed footpath will be 2.5 metres wide with a grass surface.

The council is satisfied that the order complies with the legal grounds and tests laid down in the Highways Act. It considers that the proposal is in the interests of the owners of the land, that the order does not alter any termination points of the footpath other than to other points on the same path or highway connected with it and which are substantially as convenient to the public, that the proposed route will not be substantially less convenient to the public as a consequence of the diversion and that the proposal will not have an adverse effect on public enjoyment of the footpath as a whole.

The order will come into effect only after it has been confirmed and the necessary site works have been undertaken: making and advertising the order simply provides an opportunity for objections or representations to be made.

Objections or representations relating to the order must be made in writing by 14 August 2026 to Mrs T Halliday, Head of Service (Governance), at the address below.

Please note that any such correspondence cannot be treated as confidential and may be inspected by any interested party. For further information please refer to <https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/privacy/>

The council is willing to discuss the concerns of those considering objecting or making representations relating to the order. Please contact the council's representative, Ms Sharon Berry of Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, telephone 01449 724634 or email public.realm@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk

The right of objection to an order is a statutory right, but it should be exercised in a reasonable manner. The costs involved in dealing with objections to orders are normally awarded against objectors only in cases of unreasonable behaviour.

If any objections are made and not withdrawn then the council will have to refer the order to the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for determination. An Inspector from the Planning Inspectorate will then hear the objections at a public inquiry or hearing, or in writing if the objectors agree. The Inspector can confirm an order, confirm it with modifications, or refuse to confirm it. If no objections are received the council will be able to confirm the order itself but it has no power to modify orders.

T Halliday
Head of Service (Governance)
West Suffolk Council
West Suffolk House
Western Way
Bury St Edmunds
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Dated: 17 July 2026