

**Application by National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) for an Order granting Development Consent for the Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement (Case Reference: EN020002)**

**Examination Authority's note of Unaccompanied Site Inspection 5 undertaken on 10 October 2023 (USI5)**

Jason Rowlands and John McEvoy of the Examining Authority (ExA) undertook an Unaccompanied Site Inspection (USI5) on 10 October 2023 for the Examination of the application by National Grid Electricity Transmission for the proposed Bramford to Twinstead Reinforcement project. The inspection was undertaken on public roads in a single vehicle and on foot (where noted in Table 1).

The inspection route was planned having regard to the Procedural Deadline A submission [PDA-007] and Local Impact Report [REP1-045] from Suffolk County Council. The route travelled and locations inspected by the ExA as part of USI5 are shown in Table 1 below.

The weather on the inspection dates was dry with clear skies. Visibility at all visited locations was very good.

Further unaccompanied site inspections maybe undertaken by members of the ExA during its examination of the Application. A summary note will be published following any inspection.

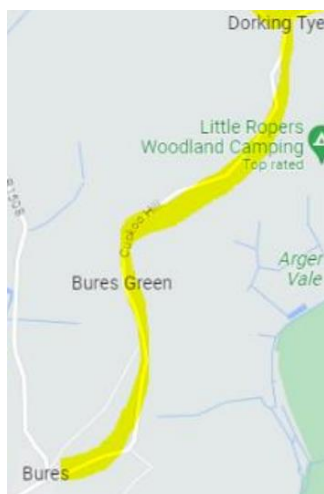
Table 1 - Unaccompanied Site Inspection undertaken on 10 October 2023

USI5-01

## Routes Cuckoo Hill and Assington Road

Routes suggested by Suffolk County Council in its submission:

- Procedural Deadline A, [PDA-007] Annex A Figure A3 Assington - Bures



The ExA observed the road:

1. geometry, alignment, width;
2. prescribed traffic signs including a sign denoting 'Single track road'.

Site photo taken by the ExA



The ExA's measurement of the **width** of the carriageway:

- 4.3 metres at a point coincident with a road traffic sign.

Route driven by the ExA along Cuckoo Hill and Assington Road

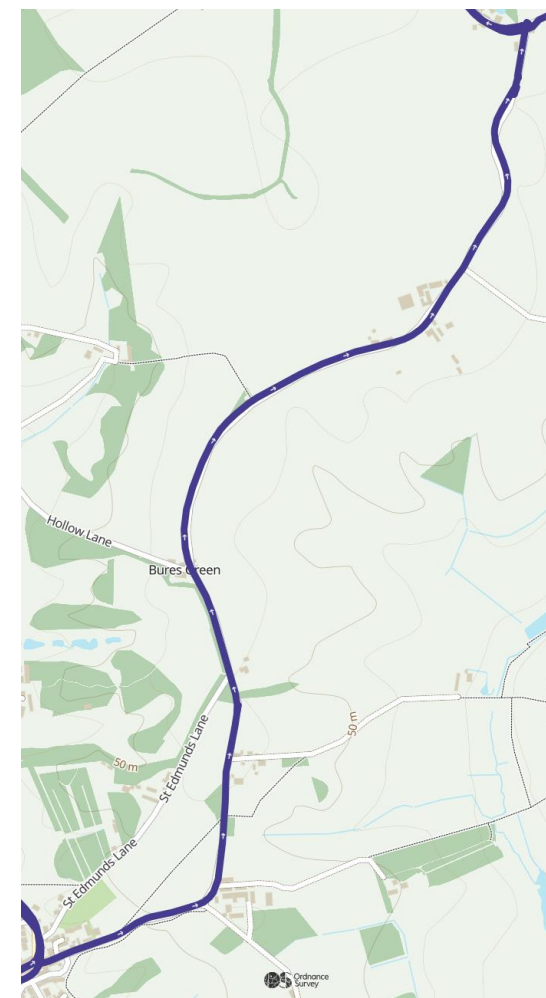


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**Table 1 Continued - Unaccompanied Site Inspection undertaken on 10 October 2023**

USI5-02

**Routes Dorking Tye and Upper Road**

Routes suggested by Suffolk County Council in its submission:

1. Procedural Deadline A, [PDA-007] Annex A  
Figure A3 Assington - Bures



The ExA observed the road:

1. geometry, alignment;
2. width – single track road;
3. 'Quiet Lane' signage;
4. frontage of Yorley Farm Nursery School.

**Site photo taken by the ExA**



**Route driven by the ExA along Dorking Tye and Upper Road**

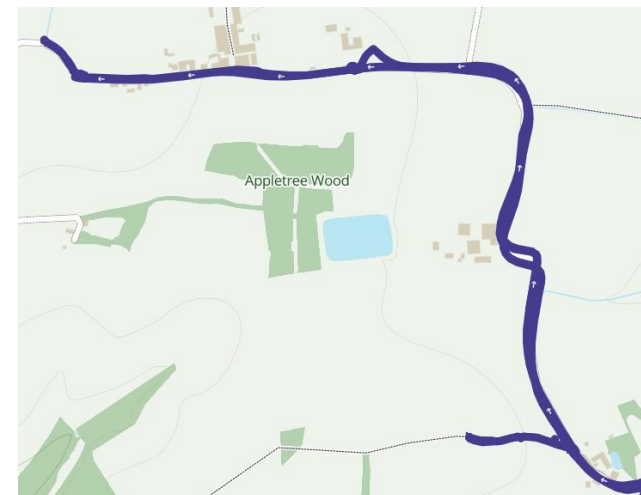


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## Table 1 Continued - Unaccompanied Site Inspection undertaken on 10 October 2023

### USI5-03

#### **Routes Bures Road and The Street, Assington**

Routes suggested by Suffolk County Council in its submission:

1. Procedural Deadline A, [PDA-007]  
Annex A  
Figure A3 Assington - Bures



The ExA observed the road:

1. geometry, alignment;
2. width – The Street, single track road;
3. 20mph, The Street.

The ExA's measurement of the **width** of the carriageway:

- 3.9 metres at a point coincident with 30mph speed limit roundels, Bures Road.

#### **Route driven by the ExA on Bures Road and The Street**

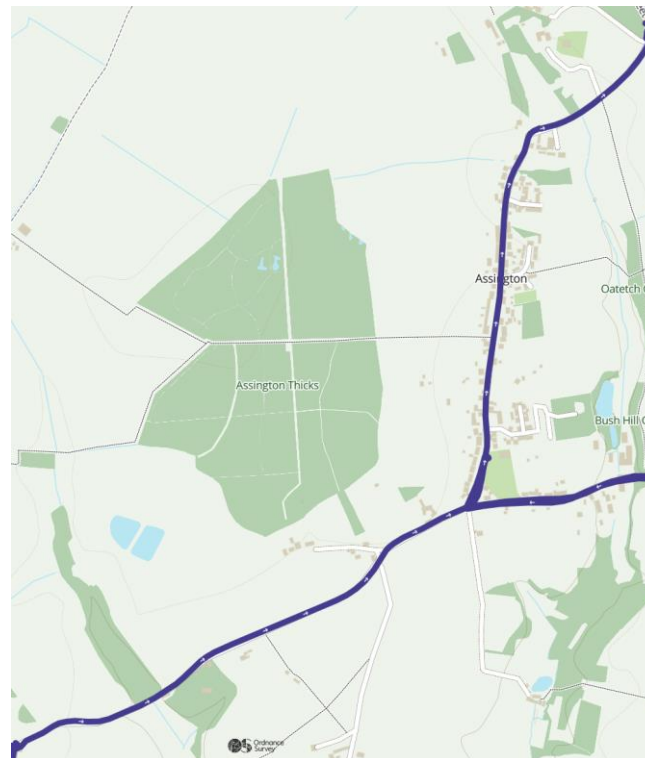


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**Table 1 Continued - Unaccompanied Site Inspection undertaken on 10 October 2023**

USI5-04

**Routes Barracks Road, Marshalls Green and Nayland Road**

Routes suggested by Suffolk County Council in its submission:

1. Procedural Deadline A, [PDA-007]  
Annex A  
Figure A3 Assington - Bures



The ExA observed the road:

1. geometry, alignment;
2. width – single track roads;
3. 'Quiet Lane' signage, Marshalls Green.

**Route driven by the ExA on Barracks Road, Marshalls Green and Nayland Road**

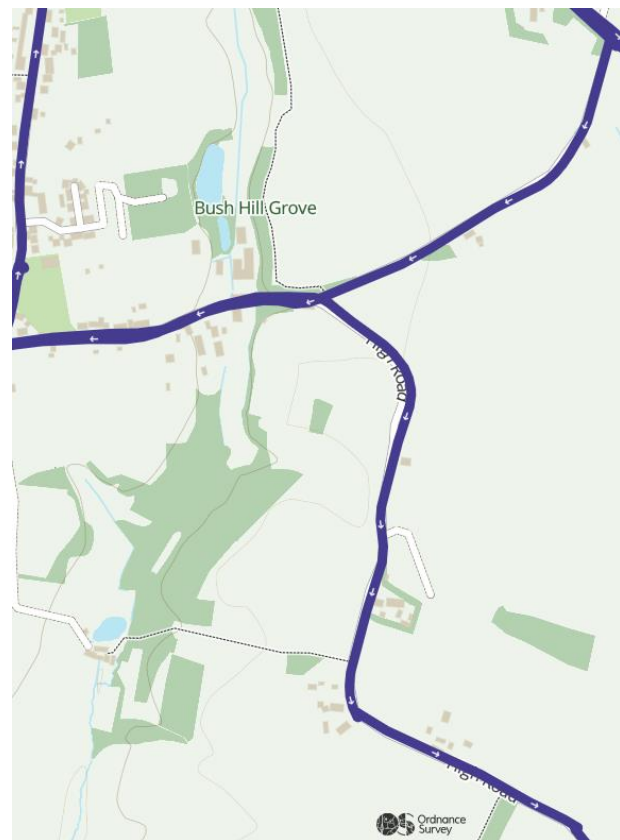


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Table 1 Continued - Unaccompanied Site Inspection undertaken on 10 October 2023

USI5-05

**Route Stone Street**

Routes suggested by Suffolk County Council in its submission:

1. Procedural Deadline A, [PDA-007] Annex A Figure A4 Polstead - Boxford



The ExA observed the road:

1. geometry, alignment;
2. width – single track road;
3. prescribed signage including a 7.5t weight limit advance notice sign.

**Site photo taken by the ExA on Stone Street**



The ExA's measurement of the **width** of the carriageway:

- 3.05 metres at a point coincident with a road narrowing shown in the image above.

**Route driven by the ExA along Stone Street**



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**Table 1 Continued - Unaccompanied Site Inspection undertaken on 10 October 2023**

USI5-06

**Routes Hadleigh Heath, Stackwood Road, and Millwood Road**

Routes suggested by Suffolk County Council in its submission:

1. Procedural Deadline A, [PDA-007] Annex A Figure A4 Polstead - Boxford



The ExA observed the road:

1. geometry, alignment;
2. width – single track on some sections;
3. vegetation.

The ExA's measurement of the **width** of the carriageway:

- 4.3 metres at a point coincident with a 30mph speed limit roundel.

**Route driven by the ExA along Hadleigh Heath, Stackwood Road, and Millwood Road**



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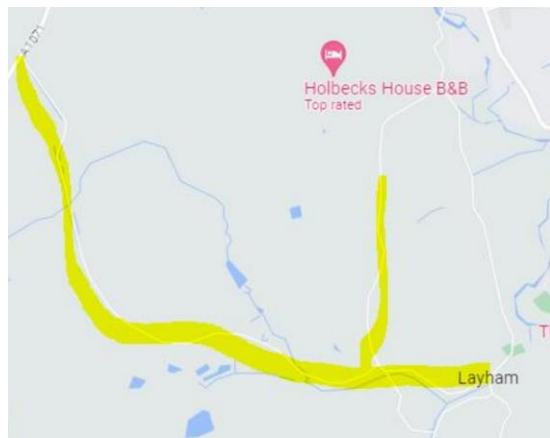
**Table 1 Continued - Unaccompanied Site Inspection undertaken on 10 October 2023**

**USI5-07**

**Routes Rands Road and Overbury Hall Road**

Routes suggested by Suffolk County Council in its submission:

1. Procedural Deadline A, [PDA-007]  
Annex A  
Figure A4 Polstead - Boxford



The ExA observed the road:

1. geometry, alignment;
2. width – single track in sections;
3. prescribed signs;
4. dwellings close to road edge.

**Routes driven by the ExA on Rands Road and Overbury Hall Road**

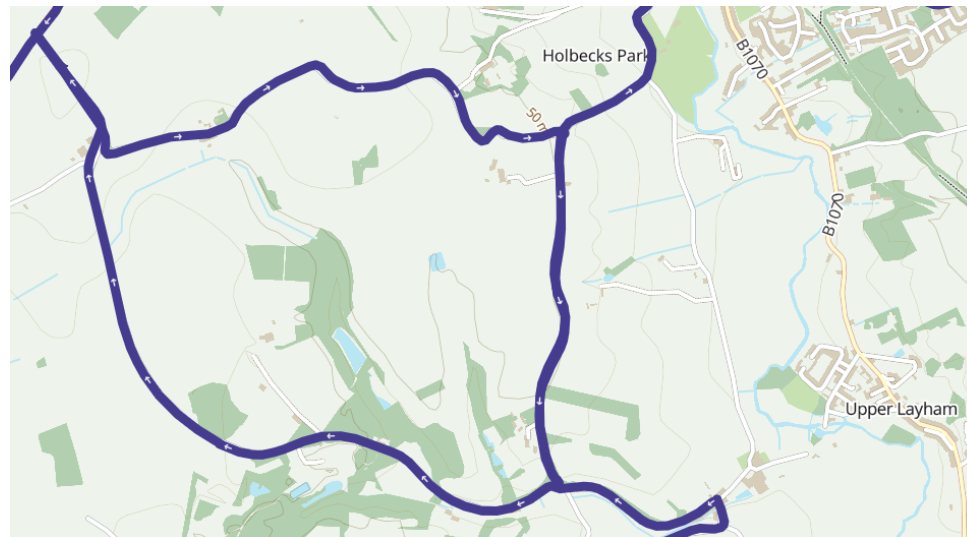


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Table 1 Continued - Unaccompanied Site Inspection undertaken on 10 October 2023

USI5-08

**Route Pigeons Lane**

Route suggested by Suffolk County Council in its submission:

- Procedural Deadline A, [PDA-007] Annex A Figure A5 Hadleigh – Chattisham – Hintlesham



The ExA observed:

1. Two prescribed traffic signs positioned at the entrance off the A1071 to Pigeons Lane, stating '*Unsuitable for heavy goods vehicles*';
2. Single track road.

**Site photos taken by the ExA**



**Route driven (north-south) by the ExA along Pigeons Lane**

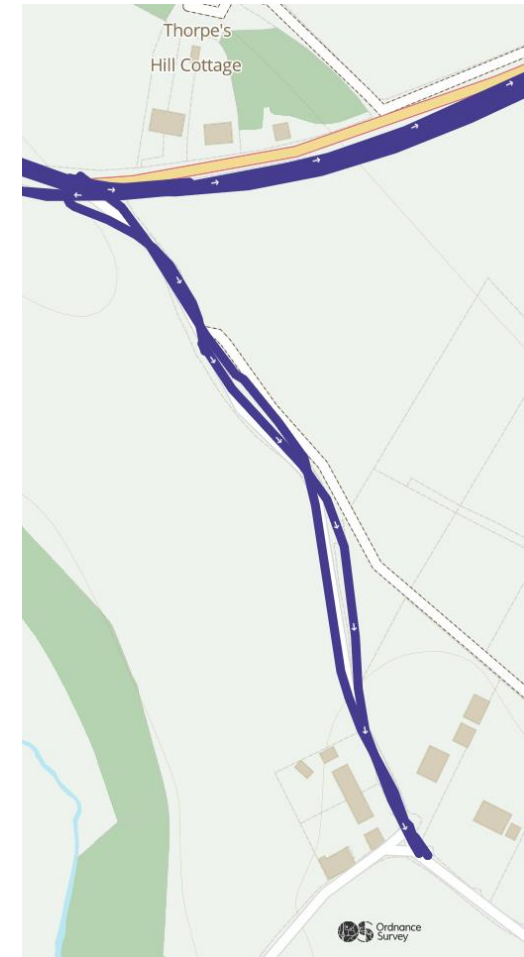


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Table 1 Continued - Unaccompanied Site Inspection undertaken on 10 October 2023

USI5-09

**Route Chattisham Lane**

Route suggested by Suffolk County Council in its submission:

- Procedural Deadline A, [PDA-007] Annex A Figure A5 Hadleigh – Chattisham – Hintlesham



The ExA observed:

1. Prescribed traffic sign positioned at the entrance off the A1071 to Chattisham Lane stating '*Unsuitable for heavy goods vehicles*';
2. Single track road;
3. Sharp bends.

**Site photos taken by the ExA**



**Route driven by the ExA along Chattisham Lane**



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Table 1 Continued - Unaccompanied Site Inspection undertaken on 10 October 2023

USI5-10

**Routes A134 Colchester Road and B1068 Stoke Road**

Routes suggested by Suffolk County Council in its submission:

- Procedural Deadline A, [PDA-007], Annex A Figure A2

Extract from Figure A2 in PDA-007 shown below:



The ExA observed:

1. geometry, alignment, width;
2. junctions;
3. prescribed signs and markings;
4. 18t weight limit – B1068.

**Site photos taken by the ExA**



**A134**



**A134**



**B1068**

**Routes driven by the ExA along the A134 Colchester Road and the B1068 Stoke Road**

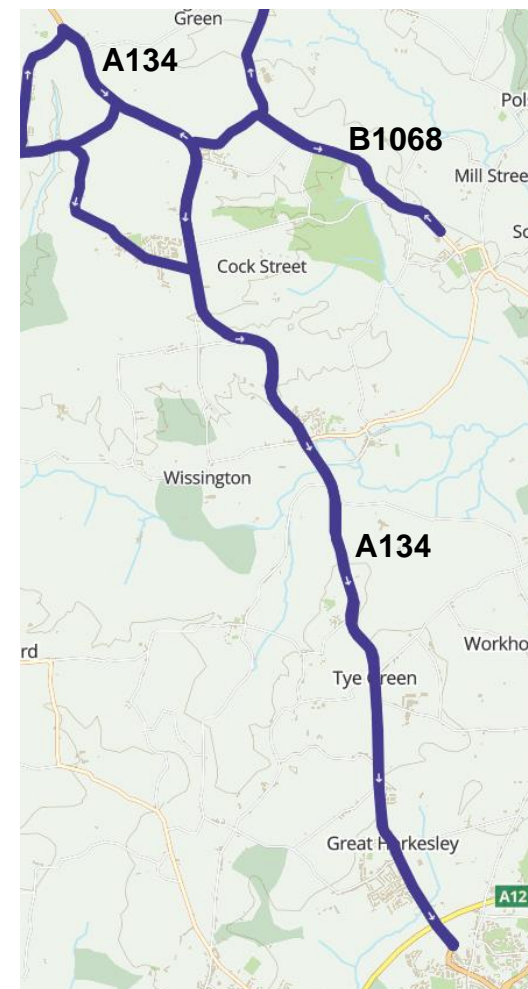


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**Table 1 Continued - Unaccompanied Site Inspection undertaken on 10 October 2023**

USI5-11

**Route B1508 Bures to Sudbury**

Route suggested by Suffolk County Council in its submission:

- Procedural Deadline A, [PDA-007]  
Annex A  
Figure A2

Extract from Figure A2 in PDA-007 shown below:



The ExA observed:

1. Prescribed traffic signs giving indication of the following hazards:
  - a. Bend ahead;
  - b. Road narrows on both sides ahead;
  - c. Junction on the outside of a bend;
  - d. Series of bends ahead (for 1 mile);
  - e. Pedestrians in the road;
2. Roadside mirrors;
3. Faded centre line markings;
4. 'Slow' markings;
5. On street parking restricting two-way traffic movement;
6. Junctions.

**Route driven by the ExA**

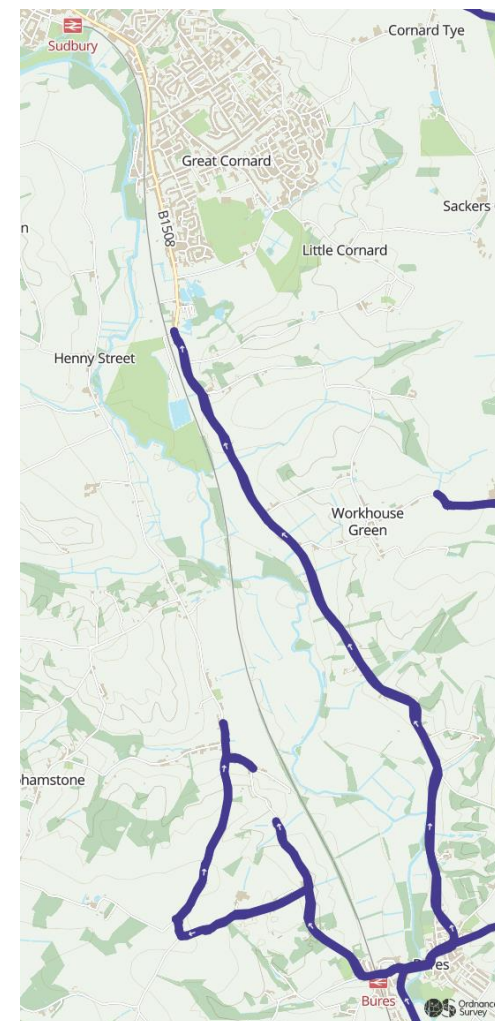


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**Table 1 Continued - Unaccompanied Site Inspection undertaken on 10 October 2023**

**USI5-12**

**Road bend on the A1071 Wilderness Hill**

Road bend location suggested by Suffolk County Council in its submission:

- Procedural Deadline A, [PDA-007]  
7. Suggested Locations for ExA Site Inspections, Annex A, Figure A1 – A1071
- Extract from Figure A1 in PDA-007 shown below:



The ExA observed:

1. geometry, alignment, width;
2. traffic navigating the bend;
3. traffic navigating Dukes Street junction;
4. prescribed signs and markings.

**Photo taken by the ExA of the road bend on the A1071**



**Route driven by the ExA on the A1071 at Wilderness Hill**

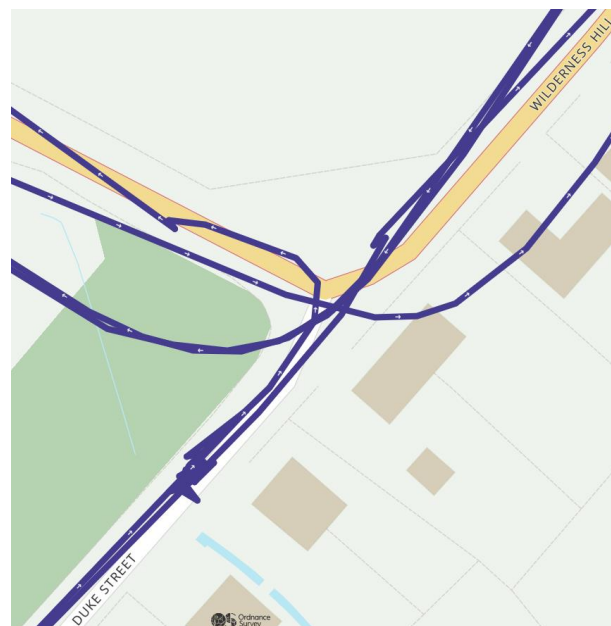


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**Table 1 Continued - Unaccompanied Site Inspection undertaken on 10 October 2023**

USI5-13

**Road bend on the A1071 Back Road**

Road bend location suggested by Suffolk County Council in its submission:

- Procedural Deadline A, [PDA-007]  
7. Suggested Locations for ExA Site Inspections, Annex A, Figure A1 – A1071
- Extract from Figure A1 in PDA-007 shown below:



The ExA travelled the road bend on four occasions.

The ExA observed:

1. Geometry, alignment, width;
2. Prescribed signs and markings.

**Photo taken by the ExA of the road bend on the A1071 Back Road**



**Route driven by the ExA on the A1071 Back Road**



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**Table 1 Continued - Unaccompanied Site Inspection undertaken on 10 October 2023**

**USI5-14**

**Road bend on the A1071 at the entrance to College Farm**

Road bend location suggested by Suffolk County Council in its submission:

1. Procedural Deadline A, [PDA-007]  
7. Suggested Locations for ExA Site Inspections, Annex A, Figure A1 – A1071
2. Extract from Figure A1 in PDA-007 shown below:



The ExA travelled the road bend on four occasions.

The ExA observed:

1. Geometry, alignment, width;
2. Prescribed signs and markings.

**Photo taken by the ExA of the road bend on the A1071 at the entrance to College Farm**



**Route driven by the ExA on the A1071 at the entrance to College Farm**



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Table 1 Continued - Unaccompanied Site Inspection undertaken on 10 October 2023

USI5-15

**Road geometry of the A1071 Thorpe's Hill**

Location on the A1071 suggested by Suffolk County Council in its submission:

- Procedural Deadline A, [PDA-007]  
7. Suggested Locations for ExA Site Inspections, Annex A, Figure A1 – A1071
- Extract from Figure A1 in PDA-007 shown below:



The ExA observed:

1. geometry, alignment, width;
2. junction with Pigeons Lane;
3. vegetation;
4. prescribed signs and markings.

Photo taken by the ExA of the road geometry on the A1071 Thorpe's Hill



Route driven by the ExA on the A1071 Thorpe's Hill

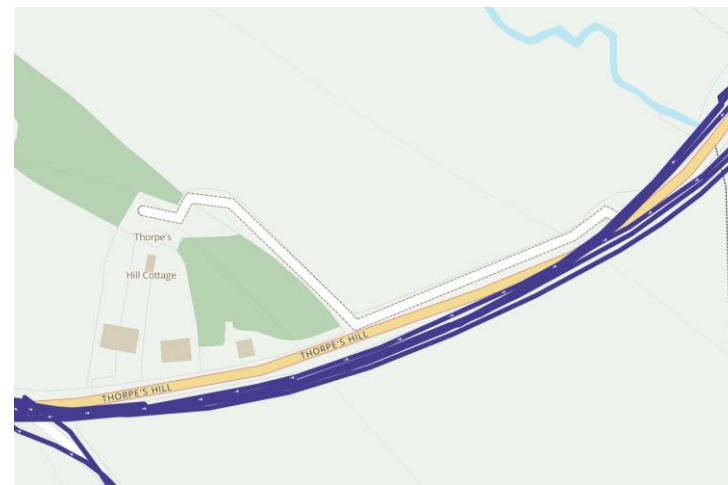


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**Table 1 Continued - Unaccompanied Site Inspection undertaken on 10 October 2023**

**USI5-16**

**Public footpaths south of Pond Hall Road / west of Clay Hill, Chattisham**

Footpaths suggested by Suffolk County Council in its submission:

- Procedural Deadline A, [PDA-007] 7. Suggested Locations for ExA Site Inspections, Paragraph 7.11, Figure 3 and Figure 4, Extract of plan provided in PDA-007 shown below:



The ExA observed:

1. Public footpaths running beneath the high voltage transmission line;
2. Sub-standard layby area opposite the signpost indicating the roadside (Pond Hall Road) entry point to the footpaths;
3. Restricted visibility for pedestrians attempting to cross Pond Hall Road at this point.

**Site photos taken by the ExA**



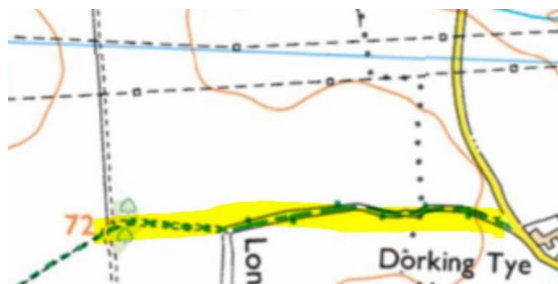
Table 1 Continued - Unaccompanied Site Inspection undertaken on 10 October 2023

USI5-17

**Restricted byways Dorking Tye House, Bures St Marys**

Byways suggested by Suffolk County Council in its submission:

- Procedural Deadline A, [PDA-007] 7. Suggested Locations for ExA Site Inspections, Paragraph 7.12, Figure 5 Figure 6, Extract of plan (Figure 5) provided in PDA-007 shown below:



The ExA observed:

- vehicle tracks along the restricted byway;
- nearby high voltage transmission lines;
- vegetation/ hedgerow.

**Site photos taken by the ExA**



**Byway (running east-west) walked by the ExA**



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**Table 1 Continued - Unaccompanied Site Inspection undertaken on 10 October 2023**

USI5-18

**Signal junction A1214/ A1071**

Junction location referenced by Suffolk County Council in its submission:

- Local Impact Report, [REP1-045], 12 Traffic and Transport (including Public Rights of Way), Paragraph 12.6.a A1214 / A1071 signal junction, *“junctions that already experience noticeable congestion”*,

The ExA:

- drove through the signalised junction on two occasions;
- on the first occasion, joined the A1214 London Road northbound from the A1071;
- on the second occasion travel the return route onto the A1071 at 16:12PM;
- did not encounter any significant delays travelling through the signal junction.

Photo taken by ExA on the A1214 London Road at 16:12:13



Route driven by the ExA through the signal junction

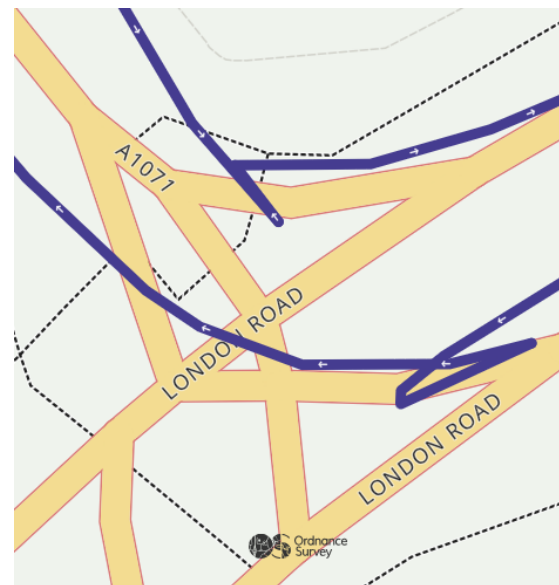


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Table 1 Continued - Unaccompanied Site Inspection undertaken on 10 October 2023

USI5-19

### Signal junction A1071 / Hadleigh Road

Junction location referenced by Suffolk County Council in its submission:

- Local Impact Report, [REP1-045], 12 Traffic and Transport (including Public Rights of Way), Paragraph 12.6.b A1071 / Hadleigh Road signal junction, *“junctions that already experience noticeable congestion”*,

The ExA:

- drove through the signalised junction on the A1071 on two occasions;
- on the second occasion drove through the signalised junction at 16:13PM on the A1071 travelling east-west;
- did not encounter any significant delays travelling through the signal junction.

### Routes driven by the ExA through the signal junction

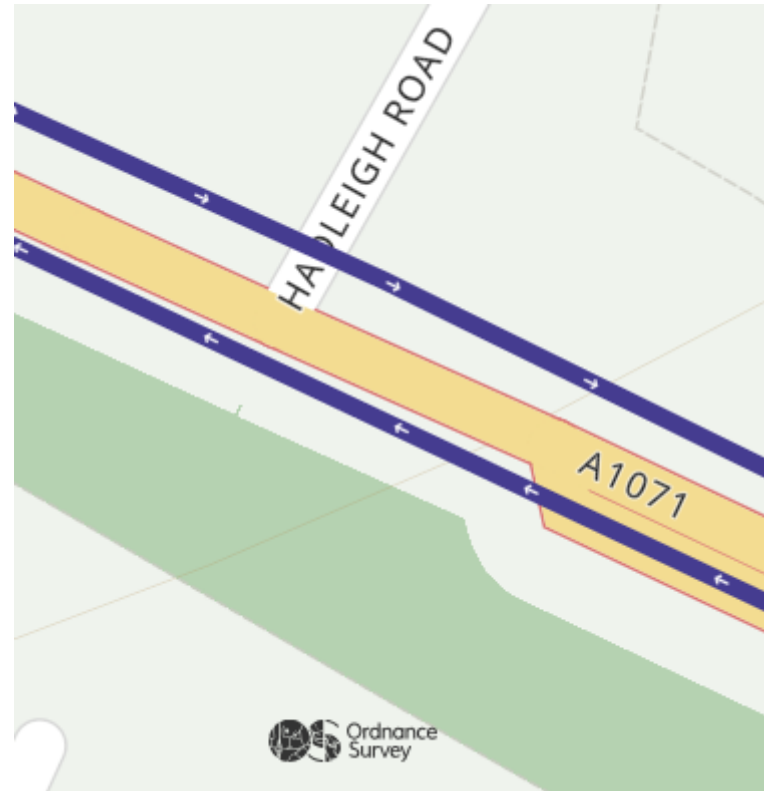


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**Table 1 Continued - Unaccompanied Site Inspection undertaken on 10 October 2023**

USI5-20

**Roundabout junction A1071 / B1113**

Junction location referenced by Suffolk County Council in its submission:

- Local Impact Report, [REP1-045], 12 Traffic and Transport (including Public Rights of Way), Paragraph 12.6.c A1071 / B1113 roundabout junction, *“junctions that already experience noticeable congestion”*.

The ExA:

1. drove through the junction on four occasions;
2. on the fourth occasion (16:14 PM) remained on the A1071 Hadleigh Road travelling east-west;
3. did not encounter a delay on the approach or while negotiating the junction on any of the four occasions.

**Photo taken by ExA on the A1071 the approach to the roundabout at 16:14 PM**



**Routes driven by the ExA through the roundabout junction**



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Table 1 Continued - Unaccompanied Site Inspection undertaken on 10 October 2023

USI5-21

### Priority junction A134/ A1071

Junction location referenced by Suffolk County Council in its submission:

- Local Impact Report, [REP1-045], 12 Traffic and Transport (including Public Rights of Way), Paragraph 12.6.d A134 / A1071 priority junction, *“junctions that already experience noticeable congestion”*,

The ExA:

- observed a prescribed traffic sign positioned on the A1071 approach to the priority junction: *‘Queues likely’*;
- joined a traffic queue on the A1071, extending from the priority junction, at 16:34 PM;
- exited the A1071 to join the A134 at 16:46 PM (a delay of 13 minutes);
- at the junction, observed a non-signalised marked priority junction with motorists on the A1071 relying on suitable gaps in traffic to join the A134.

Type of prescribed traffic sign observed by the ExA



(The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions, 2016, Sign table Schedule 2, Part 2, Diagram 58)

Route driven by the ExA through the priority junction

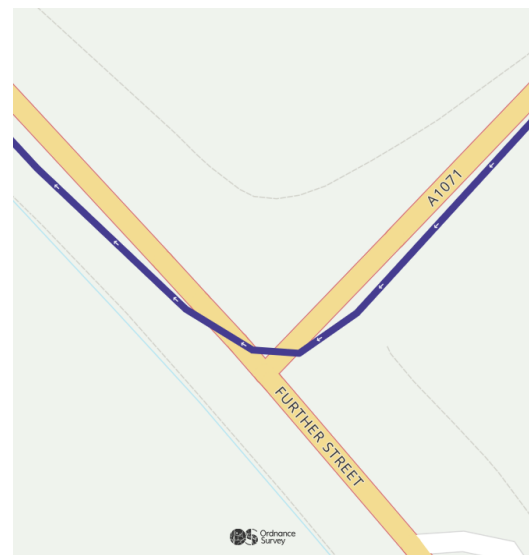


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Table 1 Continued - Unaccompanied Site Inspection undertaken on 10 October 2023

USI5-22

### Temporary access point Henny Road

The ExA:

1. Measured the width of the carriageway:
  - (i) 3.8 metres at a point coincident with a 30mph roundel sign;
  - (ii) 5.8 metres at a point coincident with the street name sign near the Alhamstone Rd. junction;
2. Observed;
  - (iii) no street lighting;
  - (iv) the width of the highway at the point of a proposed temporary access point, shown on Sheet 20 of the General Arrangement Plans [APP-18], close to the speed limit roundel sign referred to in (i) above. An extract from Sheet 20 is shown;
3. Lamarsh Village Hall, located on Henny Road.

Site photos taken by the ExA



Extract from Sheet 20 of APP-18



Route walked and driven by the ExA along Henny Road



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**Table 1 Continued - Unaccompanied Site Inspection undertaken on 10 October 2023**

USI5-23

**Proposed bellmouth Church Hill**

The ExA:

- observed the alignment of Church Hill at the site of a proposed temporary bell mouth entrance, shown on Sheet 02 of the General Arrangement Plans [APP-18] and the entrance to Rose Cottage.
- An extract from Sheet 02 is shown:



**Route driven by the ExA along Church Hill**



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**Table 1 Continued - Unaccompanied Site Inspection undertaken on 10 October 2023**

**USI5-24**

**Environmental measure Upper Road**

The ExA observed:

- 1. the highway verges of Upper Road (shown as an environmental mitigation (ENV11) on Sheet 19 of the General Arrangement Plans [APP-18]);
- 2. frontage of Yorley Farm Nursery School.

**An extract from Sheet 19 is shown below:**



**Site photo images taken by the ExA**



**Route driven and walked by the ExA along Upper Road**

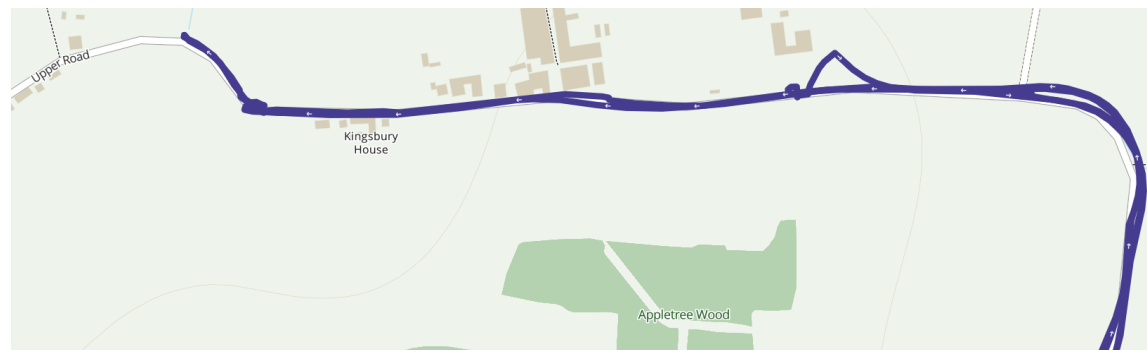


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