

## **Dedham Vale National Landscape (new brand for AONB) and Stour Valley Partnership Post Issue Specific Hearing 6 Submission**

On behalf of 20042014, the Dedham Vale National Landscape (new brand for AONB) and Stour Valley Partnership (DVNLSVP).

### **Item 6:**

The DVNLSVP considers that the applicant should give additional weight and consideration to the rights of way issues where those rights of way form part of the Stour Valley Path.

The Stour Valley Path is a 63 mile regional route between Newmarket and Cattawade that runs through the Dedham Vale National Landscape and Stour Valley project area, starting in Cambridgeshire and taking in parts of Essex and Suffolk. See <https://dedhamvale-nl.org.uk/visiting/visitor-guides/stour-valley-path/>

The DVNLSVP considers that additional measures to minimise impacts of closures and/or diversions. National promotion of closures should be considered as this route is a significant draw for locals and visitors and forms an important part of the visitor draw and consequently the local visitor economy.

REP3-056 para 4.4.1 records 'relatively low use' of the footpath but the DVNLSVP have not seen a definition of what that might mean or what it is relative to. The DVNLSVP considers that any use of the Stour Valley Path is significant in enjoying the nationally designated landscape and associated Stour Valley project area.

### **Item 9:**

The DVNLSVP would wish to see the closure of the Stour Navigation due to the construction of a Bailey Bridge for use as part of the temporary haul road used for the construction of the Bramford to Twinstead reinforcement project avoided or minimised.

Users pay a fee to use the Navigation and the closure of the of the river will have an adverse impact on them. It considers that the applicant should include a temporary portage during closures, which is likely to require navigation users to be accompanied on the portage route for safety reasons.

If navigation is closed for the duration of the works then the applicant should consider timings of the closures, avoiding the Sudbury to Sea event see: <https://www.riverstourtrust.org/events/sudbury-to-the-sea-overview/> and weekends and bank holidays when the navigation is likely to be most used. Furthermore, as a matter of good will the applicant should consider making a payment to be used to enhance the navigation.

Simon Amstutz

On behalf of the Dedham Vale National Landscape (new brand for AONB) and Stour Valley Partnership