

**From:** [Robert Lee](#)  
**Bcc:** "[admin@acu.org.uk](mailto:admin@acu.org.uk)"; [Andy Reynolds](#); [BDS](#); [BHS](#); [Byways & Bridleways Trust](#); [consultations](#); [Environment Agency](#); [ELAF](#); [historicenvironment](#); [OSS central office](#); [Pathorders@ramblers.org.uk](mailto:Pathorders@ramblers.org.uk); [\[REDACTED\]](#); [Sustrans](#); [TRF central](#); "[Watercourse Regulation](#)"; [Sarah Potter](#); [\[REDACTED\]](#); [a.thorpe@langhamparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:a.thorpe@langhamparishcouncil.co.uk); [planning.services@colchester.gov.uk](mailto:planning.services@colchester.gov.uk); [pamela.donnely@colchester.gov.uk](mailto:pamela.donnely@colchester.gov.uk); [Jane.Thompson@colchester.gov.uk](mailto:Jane.Thompson@colchester.gov.uk); [operations@colchester.gov.uk](mailto:operations@colchester.gov.uk); [clr.lewis.barber@essex.gov.uk](mailto:clr.lewis.barber@essex.gov.uk)  
**Subject:** FW: INFORMAL CONSULTATION - LANGHAM FOOTPATHS 26 & 29 DIVERSION, COLCHESTER BOROUGH  
**Date:** 10 August 2022 15:38:00  
**Attachments:** [PROW-22-20 rev.06.07.22.pdf](#)

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Dear all,

Please note correction to email below sent at 15:36.

This is a [footpath diversion proposal](#) only and extinguishments do not apply to this scheme.

Apologies for any confusion.

Kind regards

**Robert Lee | PROW & Records Analyst**

**Definitive Map Team**



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E: [robert.lee@essexhighways.org](mailto:robert.lee@essexhighways.org)

W: [www.essex.gov.uk/highways](http://www.essex.gov.uk/highways)



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**From:** Robert Lee

**Sent:** 10 August 2022 15:36

**Subject:** INFORMAL CONSULTATION - LANGHAM FOOTPATHS 26 & 29 DIVERSION, COLCHESTER BOROUGH

Dear Sir/Madam,

Essex County Council would welcome your thoughts on the above diversion and extinguishment proposal. This is an informal consultation only and no Orders have yet been made.

Please note this informal consultation is not a statutory requirement on the Highway Authority. Its aim is to enable the principal stakeholders to comment on the proposed changes; feedback which is then considered by the Highway Authority and provided to the applicant.

It is not intended as a public consultation. The public are informed and invited to respond if they so wish at the formal, Made Order consultation stage via on-site notices and plans, and the

newspaper advertisement for the order.

To enable us to continue this discretionary service we would appreciate it if informal consultations are not shared with the public beyond any council meetings as no order has yet been made and public comments on the proposals are not at this stage being sought.

Highways Act 1980 Section 119

Essex County Council intends to make the following order:

To divert Footpaths 26 and 29 in the parish of Langham in the Borough of Colchester under section 119 of the Highways Act as shown on the attached Plan No.PROW-22-20 rev.06.07.22

Please note that the above footpath changes are fully contingent upon one another and therefore appear within the same order.

If you have any comment to make please do so by 7 September 2022.

*Please be advised that if an order is made for this proposal then any representation to that order will need to be made (in writing) at the time of that order's public consultation.*

*Prior responses to the informal process will not be considered as carried forward to the made order consultation process.*

Regards

**Robert Lee | PROW & Records Analyst**

**Definitive Map Team**



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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: INFORMAL CONSULTATION - LANGHAM FOOTPATHS 26 & 29 DIVERSION, COLCHESTER BOROUGH  
**Date:** 24 October 2022 11:08:06

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Hi Rob,

Thanks for the update. I had heard similar from a local resident. I'll get over for a further look sometime soon but can't foresee any other comments (apart from the usual dislike of zigzag routes).

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Footpath Secretary & Walking Environment Officer  
The Ramblers - Colchester District

[REDACTED]

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Company registration number: 4458492. Registered Charity in England and Wales number: 1093577.  
Registered office: 1 Clink Street, 3rd Floor, London, England, SE1 9DG

----- Original Message -----

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 20, 2022 2:30 PM  
**Subject:** RE: INFORMAL CONSULTATION - LANGHAM FOOTPATHS 26 & 29 DIVERSION, COLCHESTER BOROUGH

Hi [REDACTED],

I hope all is well with you?

Just a quick email to say that the applicant has undertaken some clearance and levelling work on the proposed diversion routes.

They weren't obliged to do this, but did so to make it easier for the public to view during the formal consultation.

Sarah and I took a look part way through their works and having done so are very confident in the deliverability of the proposed diversion routes.

They are holding off facing back the tree side-growth though until all the leaves drop, which I think is a sensible decision.

Kind regards

Rob

Robert Lee | PROW & Records Analyst

Definitive Map Team



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T:

W: [www.essex.gov.uk/highways](http://www.essex.gov.uk/highways)



From:

Sent: 08 September 2022 17:25

To: Robert Lee <Robert.Lee@essexhighways.org>

Cc: Sarah Potter <Sarah.Potter@essexhighways.org>

Subject: RE: INFORMAL CONSULTATION - LANGHAM FOOTPATHS 26 & 29 DIVERSION,  
COLCHESTER BOROUGH

Hi Robert,

Thanks for the full explanation. It's good to hear about withholding the confirmation, I had no idea. However it does alter how any objection can be made.

I can understand wanting to safeguard any children using the area although that is rather temporary in terms of PROW.

When I first walked in the area in the early 1980s, the commonly used route was to the east of the pond from B in a huge curve around to where 57 leaves the "alley"- there were no fences or boundaries within the larger field at that time.

Perhaps your drafting of the line for 29 to the land registry boundary intends the path to be 3 or 4 metres east of the conifers (to avoid the branches) except where it squeezes the pond,? I know the line itself has width and it is difficult to suggest such detail but, having planted the trees in my walking memory, I can't just assume the landowner intends to remove them.

I do understand about the boggy bit, it was one of my comments when 29 was in moved from the garden.

Photos too big to attach so...

From mid point of EB looking towards B

From mid point EB looking towards E

[REDACTED]

From mid point of ED looking towards D

[REDACTED]

Looking through fence at land under conifers at mid point CD

[REDACTED]

So, in summary, the Ramblers dislike the proposals especially the smaller northern section and have considerable concerns over safety in the narrow section near the pond - I don't want to hear of any children falling in. Once we can actually try to walk there, we might be able to withdraw our opposition.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

On 7 Sep 2022 17:13, Robert Lee <[Robert.Lee@essexhighways.org](mailto:Robert.Lee@essexhighways.org)> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

No worries re time.

If it's okay I'll raise the points that you have raised with Sarah and then get back to you, probably after consultation with the applicant.

Below are my initial thoughts though.

It was a really hot day when we undertook our site visit and A-B, like everywhere this summer, was bone dry when we walked along it.

However, Sarah has had many complaints previously from locals and the parish council about its boggy, and as I hadn't been there previously we and the parish council rep. were shown photos of what it does get like and it did look pretty horrendous. The landowner has already spent a considerable amount trying to address this himself, but the truth is that the geography of some PROW in relation to adjacent land means that an easy solution just isn't always available.

Like yourself our ability to see C-D was limited on the day by the current vegetation. That said, the landowner was adamant that the width is available with some to spare and I think the pond/former cesspit is not now physically of the same dimension as depicted on the maps. On the draft order plan I necessarily moved the dashed line in a bit from the solid boundary line on the mapping (making it closer to the pond). This is because that O/S boundary and Land Reg. boundary do not precisely accord in this instance, but inevitably

when you start trying to depict such small-ish changes on the mapping an element of it being a representation occurs and I don't think the physical path will be that close (to the pond).

These days though we rely less on the coming into force dates written into orders (for landowner works) and more on holding back confirmation.

In other words, we expect applicants like this one to undertake all the necessary works once the formal consultation has been completed (assuming unopposed) and we don't ask our legal to confirm the order until/unless the PROW Officer confirms from a site visit undertaken at that time that all is as it should be.

It has proven to be a very good incentive for landowners to get works right and if they don't... the path isn't diverted.

I didn't notice any significant slope on D-E-B but would welcome any photos you can send, plus Sarah and I can always revisit to check out specific issues like this.

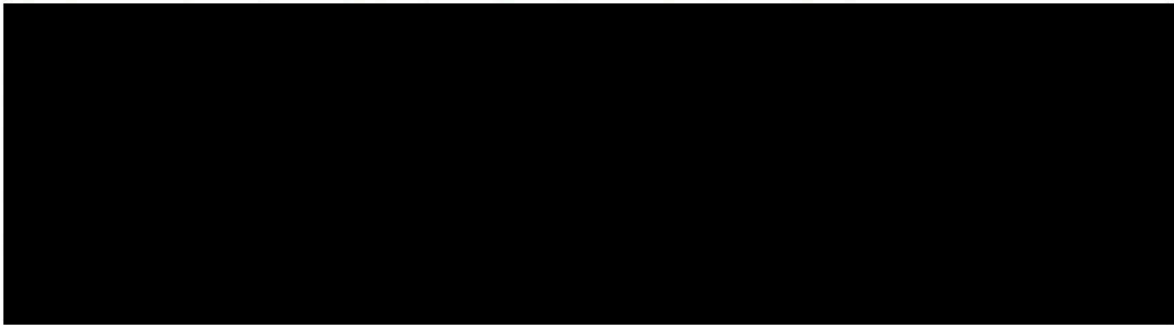
Likewise, I did not have the impression of any trip hazards when we walked it, but as above we wouldn't accept a new route until it's ready, and this applicant was willing and I got the impression able to undertake all necessary works (he was fizzing off on some small tractor thingy as we left). I also suspect that we could probably get them to maintain the cutting on the new paths, though this wasn't specifically discussed. It is, after all, in their interests to make the routes usable so that people aren't tempted to trespass and make their own routes.

In essence trespass is the main issue occurring presently (along with the bogginess). People are using the access into the field by FP26 to wander at will and allow their dogs to the same. The applicant has two young children who like to play there and there have been issues with dogs as well as general safeguarding concerns.

Unfortunately, the fence alongside FP29 has also been damaged with people wanting access to the field and apparently there's a video of cyclists using it on mass at night in the dark (they need better maps or perhaps apps).

I'll have a chat with Sarah and the applicant and perhaps re-visit the site when next in that area.

Overall though, our previous site visit didn't throw up anything that in our experience wouldn't meet the criteria of S119 – providing of course the works were carried out and the 2m provided etc.



Kind regards

Rob

**Robert Lee | PROW & Records Analyst**

**Definitive Map Team**

grn sig  


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W: [www.essex.gov.uk/highways](http://www.essex.gov.uk/highways)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 07 September 2022 16:14  
**To:** Robert Lee <[Robert.Lee@essexhighways.org](mailto:Robert.Lee@essexhighways.org)>  
**Subject:** Fw: INFORMAL CONSULTATION - LANGHAM FOOTPATHS 26 & 29 DIVERSION, COLCHESTER BOROUGH

Hi Rob,

Sorry I've squeezed the time limit to the end, my apologies.

We would probably object to the proposals as they stand. I see them as two separate items.

Whilst the southern part of AB is the fairly recent diversion out of the grounds of Keepers Cottage, usage has made it well worn. I imagine all AB still has waterlogged sections during the wet seasons but was a dry route providing useful shade on the hot day when I visited recently.

To provide a clear 2 metre route, the proposal CD would require the removal of about 7 semi-mature conifer trees and a large bank of brambles/nettles. Under the conifers, the ground is uneven with many holes over rabbit burrows. I am not sure that a safe width of two metres would fit between the fence and the sloping edge of the "pond" (I believe it is a former cesspit?). It is hard to see with all the brambles.

The replacement of DB with EB and DE was part of an earlier diversion proposal. EB is sloped from the fence line down into the field and is part of the rabbit warren with many holes. There are also a couple of mature trees overhanging the fence down to a height of some 60 cm. ED is also pitted and uneven.

I do not believe that the routes could be made safe from trips and feet down rabbit holes or kept free of vegetation without some extensive ongoing investment of time and effort.

I took a lot of photos, should you require them.

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Footpath Secretary & Walking Environment Officer  
The Ramblers - Colchester District

[REDACTED]

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Company registration number: 4458492. Registered Charity in England and Wales number:  
1093577. Registered office: 1 Clink Street, 3rd Floor, London, England, SE1 9DG

----- Original Message -----

**From:** [Pathorders](#)

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thursday, August 18, 2022 12:09 PM

**Subject:** Fw: INFORMAL CONSULTATION - LANGHAM FOOTPATHS 26 & 29 DIVERSION,  
COLCHESTER BOROUGH

Hi Both,

I have put this task on Assemble but am forwarding it here too in case that's useful.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]  
Footpath Admin Assistant (Volunteer)

The Ramblers Association

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**From:** Robert Lee <[Robert.Lee@essexhighways.org](mailto:Robert.Lee@essexhighways.org)>

**Sent:** 10 August 2022 15:38

**Subject:** FW: INFORMAL CONSULTATION - LANGHAM FOOTPATHS 26 & 29 DIVERSION,  
COLCHESTER BOROUGH

Dear all,

Please note correction to email below sent at 15:36.

This is a [footpath diversion proposal only](#) and extinguishments do not apply to this scheme.

Apologies for any confusion.

Kind regards

**Robert Lee | PROW & Records Analyst**

**Definitive Map Team**

[grn sig](#)



[grn sgh sig](#)

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W: [www.essex.gov.uk/highways](http://www.essex.gov.uk/highways)



---

**From:** Robert Lee  
**Sent:** 10 August 2022 15:36  
**Subject:** INFORMAL CONSULTATION - LANGHAM FOOTPATHS 26 & 29 DIVERSION, COLCHESTER BOROUGH

Dear Sir/Madam,

Essex County Council would welcome your thoughts on the above diversion and extinguishment proposal. This is an informal consultation only and no Orders have yet been made.

Please note this informal consultation is not a statutory requirement on the Highway Authority. Its aim is to enable the principal stakeholders to comment on the proposed changes; feedback which is then considered by the Highway Authority and provided to the applicant.

It is not intended as a public consultation. The public are informed and invited to respond if they so wish at the formal, Made Order consultation stage via on-site notices and plans, and the newspaper advertisement for the order.

To enable us to continue this discretionary service we would appreciate it if informal consultations are not shared with the public beyond any council meetings as no order has yet been made and public comments on the proposals are not at this stage being sought.

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Essex County Council intends to make the following order:

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20 rev.06.07.22

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Regards

**Robert Lee | PROW & Records Analyst**

**Definitive Map Team**

[gm sig](#)



[gm sgh sig](#)

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W: [www.essex.gov.uk/highways](http://www.essex.gov.uk/highways)



**From:** [Robert Lee](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Response to informal consultation - Langham Footpaths 26 & 29 Diversion, Colchester Borough  
**Date:** 30 August 2022 12:27:00

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Good afternoon [REDACTED],

Thank you for providing the Borough Council's response which is duly noted.

Kind regards

**Robert Lee | PROW & Records Analyst**

**Definitive Map Team**



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W: [www.essex.gov.uk/highways](http://www.essex.gov.uk/highways)



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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 26 August 2022 09:51  
**To:** Robert Lee <[Robert.Lee@essexhighways.org](mailto:Robert.Lee@essexhighways.org)>  
**Subject:** Response to informal consultation - Langham Footpaths 26 & 29 Diversion, Colchester Borough

Dear Robert,

Thank you for your informal consultation on the potential diversion and extinguishment of Langham footpaths 26 and 29. Having considered this proposal, we do not have any objection in landscape terms and do therefore not object, in principle, to this proposal.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Principal Planning Officer • Place and Client Services • Colchester Borough Council  
• [www.colchester.gov.uk](http://www.colchester.gov.uk)

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