

# Public Information

from  
**Norfolk County Council**

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For immediate release

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## **UPDATE: Brancaster Footpath 5 – Extended Boardwalk Closure**

Norfolk Coast Path's 1.7km long boardwalk at Brancaster will be closed for a longer period than was originally planned due to a rapid deterioration of the boardwalk. The closed stretch is along Brancaster Footpath 5, between Harbour Way and Butchers Drive.

The National Trails officers have been regularly monitoring the condition of the boardwalk whilst planning the maintenance work, which had been due to start earlier this year. However, the deterioration escalated rapidly to a point where the work that was originally planned would not be sufficient to keep the boardwalk safe and functioning. We have therefore had to take the difficult decision to close the boardwalk long-term on health and safety grounds whilst we seek funding for a full boardwalk replacement or equivalent works.

We understand that this is a popular stretch of the Coast Path and that the continued, longer-term closure will be very disappointing for the public and the businesses along it. The site sits within the Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and the North Norfolk Coast Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and the wildlife has a large impact on what work can be carried out and when – for example, we may need to obtain a European Protected Species (EPS) licence to protect certain habitats through the course of the work.

We are looking at the feasibility of different options which will take into consideration the long-term sustainability of the route, the sensitivity of the wildlife and the cost and time needed to complete the work. We will be consulting with the landowner and other organisations to ensure the relevant permissions are sought. We will keep residents, businesses and the wider public up to date as the scheme progresses.

We will update the Norfolk Trails and National Trails websites and on-site notices as well as providing the opportunity to review and feedback on the plans. An Activity Log is available on the Brancaster section of the National Trails website for the public to keep up to date ([www.nationaltrail.co.uk/en\\_GB/short-routes/brancaster-boardwalk-diversion/](http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/en_GB/short-routes/brancaster-boardwalk-diversion/)). We will also add more detailed timescales once the plans have been approved and any repair works are scheduled.

While this section of the Coast Path is closed the existing diversion route will remain in place along footpaths, pavements and quiet country lanes. Barriers and signage will be

placed across the boardwalk at the main entry points. The footpath sits within Brancaster Marsh Common which is common land and access for 'rights of common' (e.g. access for grazing cattle) will not be affected.

The County Council thanks people for their patience while the planning for this section of the Coast Path is underway.

**For Further Information:**

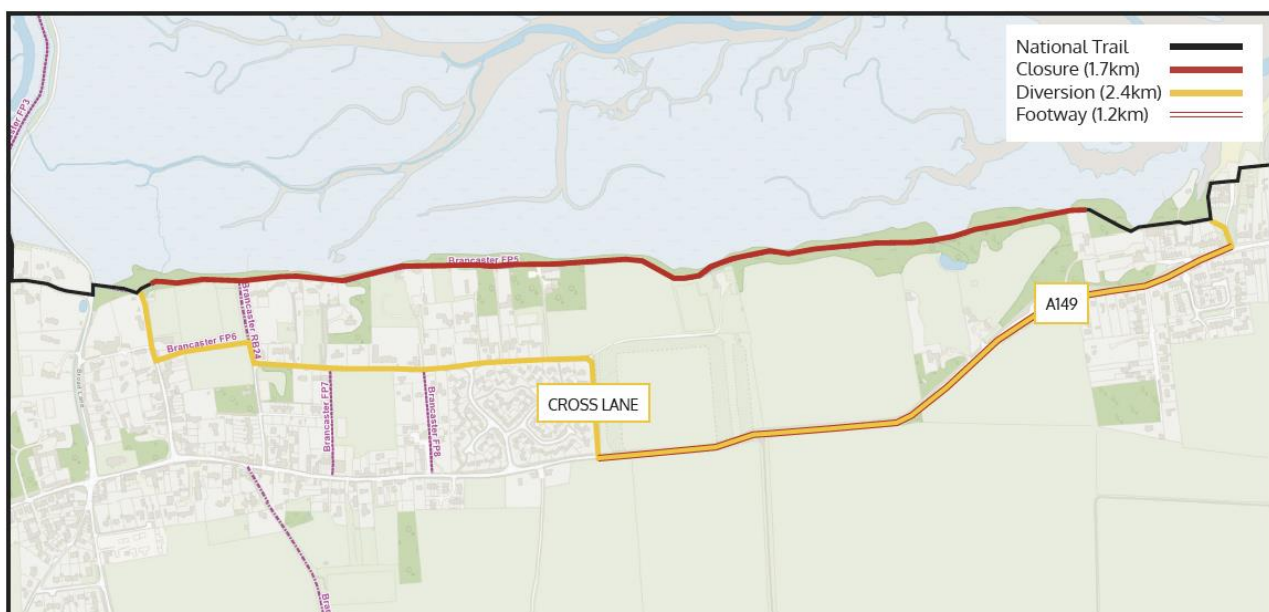
Benjiman Grapes, National Trail Officer, [nationaltrail@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:nationaltrail@norfolk.gov.uk), 0344 800 8020.

Up-to-date information about roadworks in Norfolk is available on the County Council website at [www.norfolk.gov.uk/roadworks](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/roadworks)



If you need this report in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact 0344 800 8020 and ask for Norfolk Trails or textphone 0344 800 8011 and we will do our best to help.

The diversion between Butchers Drove and Harbour Way:



**Norfolk County Council**