8a. Churchyard Report September 2026

Churchyard Gates

The making of the new gates by Countryside Gates & Fencing remains on schedule. However. an issue has arisen with the gate posts. Councillors will recall that new posts were commissioned in May 2024 (cost approved at meeting held on 8th May 2024) when it was still deemed possible to refurbish the gates at the south-west of the churchyard. These posts are now deemed too short to support the new gates and therefore we have no option but to purchase new posts.

We asked Countryside Gates & Fencing for a quotation and as they would have to buy-in and undertake finishing work this would amount to a further charge of £914.40 inc VAT. Shrubland Woodland Products has quoted the council £387.94 inclusive of VAT of £64.66 for partly finished posts, which meet the revised specification. The recommendation is to accept Shrubland's quotation and ask David Oliver if he will kindly plane and rebate the posts as he did with those ordered in 2024. The cost of the new posts will need to be covered from the green spaces reserve. The council will seek to sell the posts it already has to part recover costs.

Rights of Way

A letter dated 18th September 2026 – copy attached – has been received from the definitive map officer at Suffolk County Council, Lisa Hammarstrom, seeking 'evidence' to support the three RoW through the churchyard submitted in 2024. Council to restate the previously made case and to consider what further evidence might be supplied so the clerk might respond within the requested 28 days.

Cllr Nick Mills 22nd September 2026

Your Ref:
Our Ref: CPM1075/LH
Date: 18 September 2026
Enquiries to: Lisa Hammarstrom
Tel: 01473 260177
Email: lisa.hammarstrom@suffolk.gov.uk

Suffolk County Council

Sue Frankis
Coddenham Parish Council

Dear Sue Frankis,

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 – Section 53

Claimed Footpaths – Around St Mary's Churchyard in Coddenham

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 requires the County Council to keep the Definitive Map and Statement under review and to investigate and determine formal applications made. This application is for three footpaths on the route shown by the bold purple lines on the attached plan.

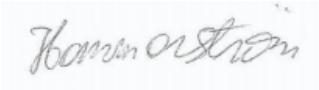
I am investigating the evidence to see whether or not there is sufficient evidence to support the claim.

The only criterion which the County Council may take into account under the 1981 Act is evidence. No consideration may be given to other factors such as the effect on the environment, the suitability of the route for any particular purpose, or the wishes of landowners or users. I am therefore inviting you to submit any evidence at your disposal, so that it may be included in the Committee report. I would like to stress that public rights cannot be negated by non-use.

I should appreciate a response within 28 days. Please respond to me preferably via my email address, if not to the postal address at the foot of this letter.

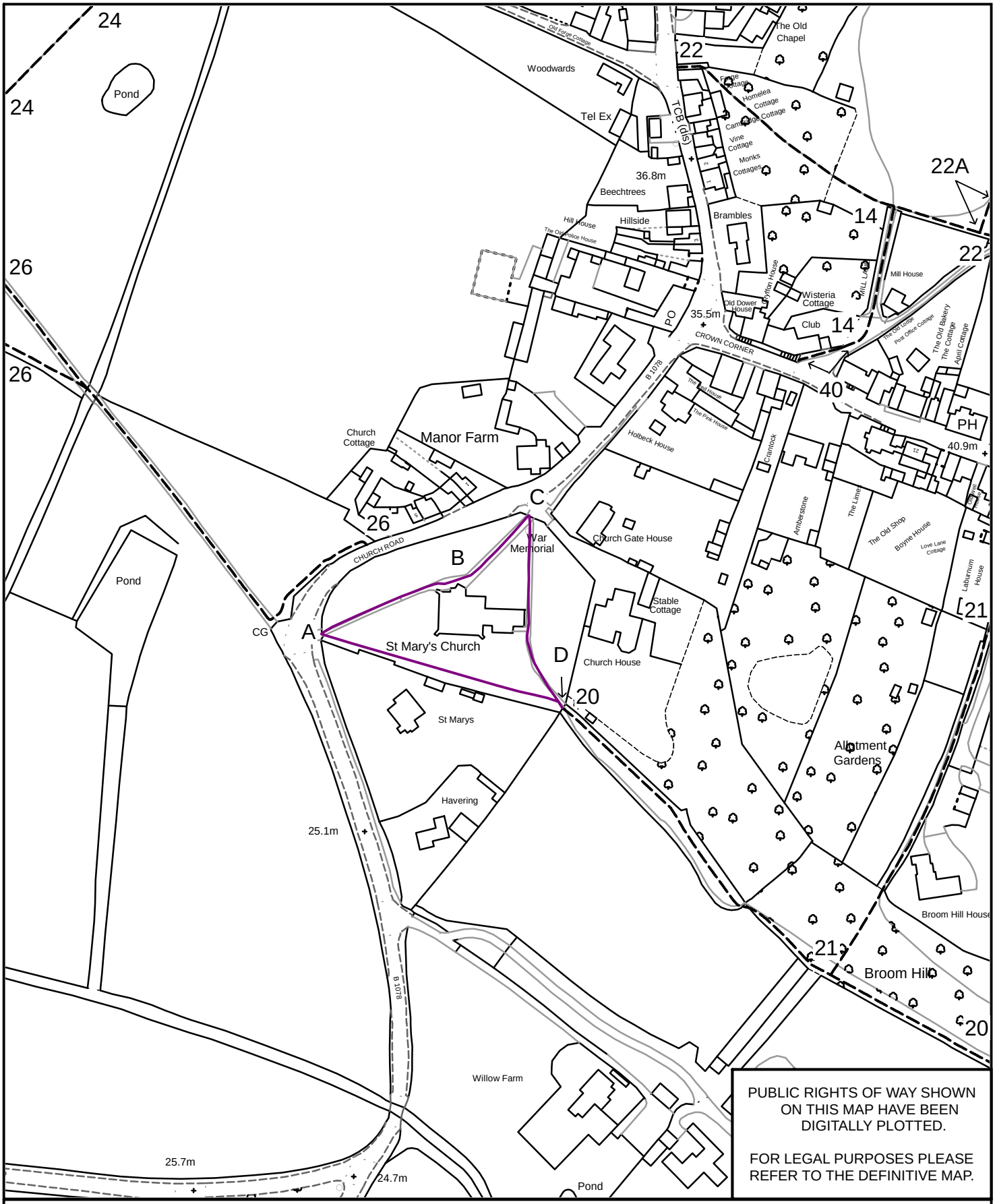
Unless there is something specific which I need to ask you, it is unlikely that I shall contact you again before sending you a copy of the draft report. I should therefore be grateful if you would treat this letter as your only invitation to submit evidence.

Yours sincerely,



Lisa Hammarstrom
Definitive Map Officer

The Rights of Way and Access Privacy Notice can be viewed at:
https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/about/privacy-notice/rights-of-way-and-access-privacy-notice/



PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY SHOWN ON THIS MAP HAVE BEEN DIGITALLY PLOTTED.

FOR LEGAL PURPOSES PLEASE REFER TO THE DEFINITIVE MAP.

CLAIMED FOOTPATHS - AROUND ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD IN CODDENHAM

Suffolk County Council

Executive Director of Growth, Highways and Infrastructure
Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich, Suffolk. IP1 2BX

Claimed Footpath

Existing Footpath

N
W E
S

Scale: 1:2,000 at A4

DRAWN BY: LH	DATE: 09/09/2026	

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