

For Inclusion as an Agenda Item

Earlier this year the Grafham Water Centre replied to the Parish Councils' request to address the overgrown footpath at the side of 20 Rosecroft. They replied stating that it was the responsibility of the Highway Authority.

Having read their application CCC/26/018/FUL it becomes clear that responsibility for the Path's **surface** is the responsibility of the Highway Authority as stated by Russ Coles, the Definitive Map Officer from the Definitive Map Team. (paragraph DMapl 09 headed Maintenance).

However, in the same document in paragraph DMapl 04, it states:-
..."Landowners are reminded that it is their responsibility to maintain boundaries, including trees, hedges and fences adjacent to Public Rights of Way....."

So, we need to politely request from Anglian Water as owners of the land alongside this path that they fulfil their responsibilities under the Highways Act (1980), and get it cut back. No doubt they will argue that Grafham Water Centre owns the problem. That may be the case, but Anglian Water are the owners of the Land and they are therefore accountable.

Here endeth my Rant.

Regards

Pat

24th July 2026

enclosed. 2 documents from the planning application submitted by Grafham Water Centre.

From: Russell Coles
Sent: 17 July 2026 11:00
To: Planning DC
Subject: CCC/26/018/FUL

Categories:

Dear CCC Planning,

CCC/26/018/FUL - Proposed development of ten timber pod units to provide overnight accommodation for education groups at Grafham Water Centre.

Thank you for consulting with the Definitive Map Team on the above planning application.

The public right of way affected by this development is Public Footpath No.1, Perry which runs along the western boundary of the proposed site and crosses the access road into the site, it has a recorded width along its length of 4ft. To view the location of the footpath please view our interactive map online at [My Cambridgeshire](#).

Whilst the Definitive Map Team has **no objection** to this proposal, the footpath must remain open and unobstructed at all times.

Informatives

Should planning permission be granted we would be grateful that the following informatives are included:

Obstruction

DMapl 01 Public Footpath No.1, Perry must remain open and unobstructed at all times. Building materials must not be stored on Public Rights of Way and contractors' vehicles must not be parked on it (it is an offence under s 137 of the Highways Act 1980 to obstruct a public Highway).

Access

DMapl 02 The Public Footpath must not be used to access the development site unless the applicant is sure they have lawful authority to do so (it is an offence under S34 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 to drive on a Public Footpath without lawful authority)

Surface

DMapl 03 No alteration to the Footpath's surface is permitted without our consent (it is an offence to damage the surface of a public footpath under s 1 of the Criminal Damage Act 1971).

Boundary Maintenance

DMapl 04 Landowners are reminded that it is their responsibility to maintain boundaries, including trees, hedges and fences adjacent to Public Rights of way, and that any transfer of land should account for any such boundaries (s154 Highways Act 1980).

Obstruction

DMapl 05 The granting of planning permission does not entitle a developer to obstruct a Public Right of Way (Circular 1/09 para 7.1).

Permanence of Public Rights of Way

DMapl 07 If for whatever reason, the subsequent legal processes fail, the Public Footpath will remain in place

Maintenance

DMap1 09 The Highway Authority has a duty to maintain Public Rights of Way in such a state as to be suitable for its intended use (S41 Highways Act 1980 and S66 Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981). If the surface of the Footpath is damaged as a result of increased motorised vehicle usage, the Highways Authority is only liable to maintain it to a Footpath standard. Those with private vehicular rights will therefore be liable for making good the surface of the Public Right of Way.

Kind regards

Russ

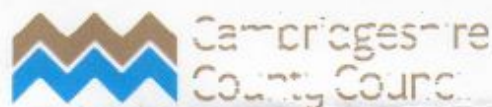
Russ Coles
Definitive Map Officer
Asset Management, Design and Delivery Service

[Cambridgeshire County Council](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

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Write to me at:

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Infrastructure & Project Delivery

Place and Sustainability
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For information about Cambridgeshire's Definitive Map & Statement of Public Rights of Way, please see:

[Definitive Map and Statement - Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

Location Plan, Grafham Water Centre, Accommodation Pods

