

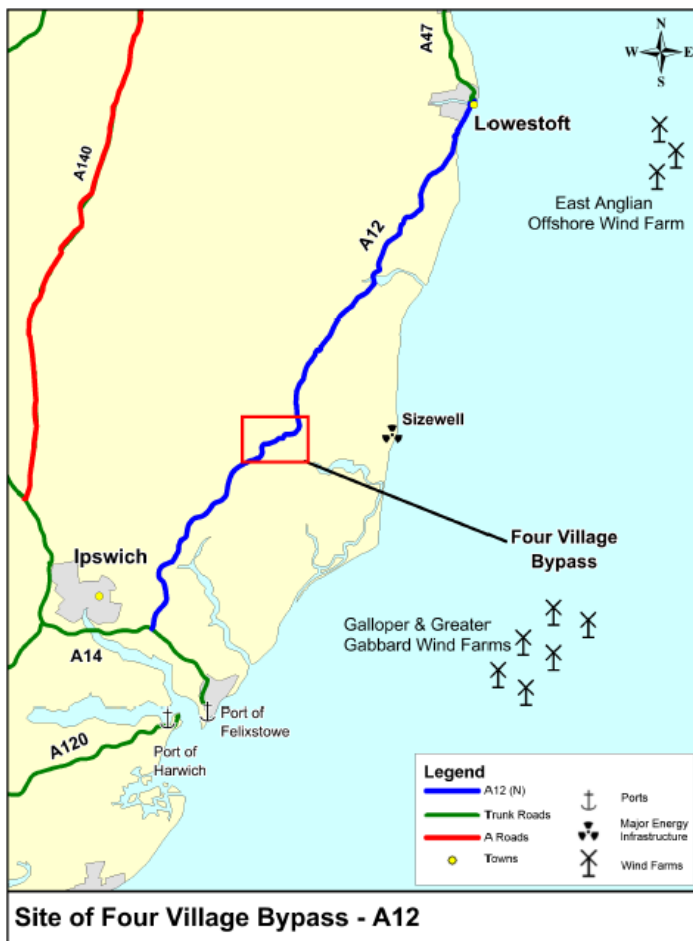
APPENDIX

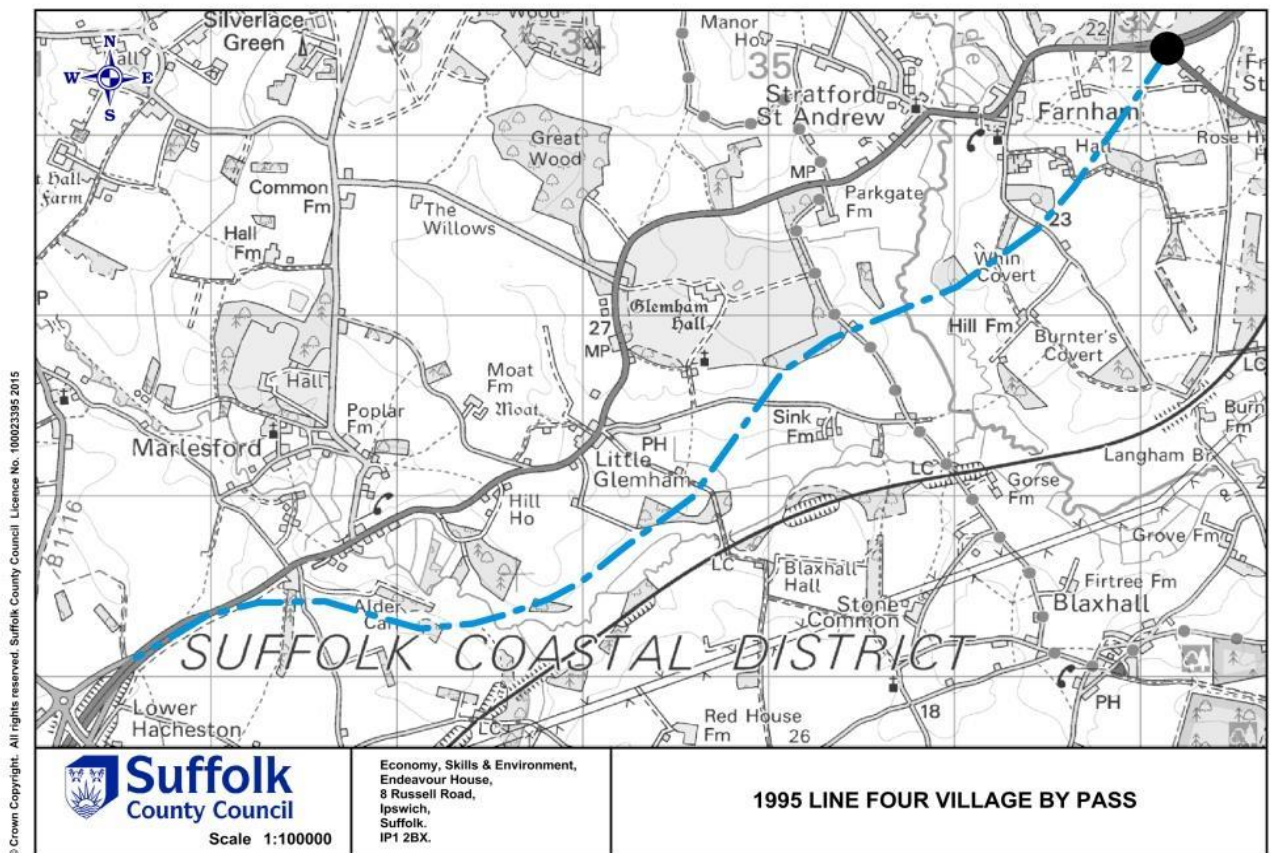
THE A12 BETWEEN IPSWICH AND LOWESTOFT

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The A12 is a route from Junction 28 of the M25 near Brentwood to Lowestoft in North Suffolk. It is in two separate sections, linked by the A14 M1 to Felixstowe road from junction 55 at Copdock, south of Ipswich, to junction 58 Seven Hills east of the town. The southern section is a major trunk road, scheduled for further improvements. However, the northern section was de-trunked in 2001, and is largely unimproved north of Woodbridge, with the exception of sections of dual carriageway near Wickham Market, and the final approach to Lowestoft together with a single carriageway by-pass to Saxmundham. It is this northern section for which major improvements are sought over the next two decades.

The most significant “pinch-point” of this northern section is through the four villages of Farnham, Stratford St Andrew, Little Glemham and Marlesford. In 1995 a full dual carriageway bypass scheme through the four villages’ area was taken successfully through Public Inquiry by the Highways Agency, but subsequently removed from the spending programme in early 1996 due to national funding constraints.





In 2006, this work was reviewed by Suffolk County Council, finding that a strong business case for a range of interventions existed. A full bypass of the four villages remained the best solution.

Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils have recently undertaken an assessment to underline the wider economic benefits of investment in the A12. All parties still believe that such a bypass is a transport priority to support growth in the A12 corridor, including the development of Sizewell C.

The assessment shows that over 15 years an improved A12 could generate some 2,600 jobs and £133m per year of added economic value to the local economy based on current plans. It would also support the provision of 2000 much needed new homes for the local population. All this is part of East Suffolk's Growth Plan produced by Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils. Consideration of further development in both Suffolk Coastal and Waveney will take place as part of the reviews of their respective local plans which will commence next year. The report also highlights that businesses find the condition of the A12 as a barrier to future investment decisions.

The New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership identifies the energy sector as one of its five high impact sectors, offering the opportunity for rapid growth in jobs and productivity. With major wind farms and oil and gas servicing as well as the existing and proposed Sizewell nuclear power stations close to or based along the A12, the Strategic Economic Plan sees the A12 as a Key Link in its transport strategy and supports the development of the Four Villages By-Pass. Similar issues are reflected in the Suffolk Growth Strategy.

The Suffolk Energy Coast Delivery Board has been set up by the local authorities and Government Departments (led by Energy and Climate Change) principally to act as a forum to enable close co-operation between levels of government in maximising the economic opportunities offered by Sizewell C and other energy developments. The need to have a conversation with Government on A12 transport issues emerged from the meetings of this Board.



Large load negotiating the "Farnham Bend" on the A12

EDF Energy, in its first round of public consultation for Sizewell C, made proposals for dealing with one element of the issues at the four villages, the constricted road in the village of Farnham. However the response of the local authorities was that any of these were inadequate to deal with the anticipated growth in traffic that would result from the construction project.

References (these documents will be provided for officers in advance of any meeting, though all are in the public domain)

Economic Assessment of the Case for A12 Improvements. Mott McDonald on behalf of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Council 2015

Business Case for Four Villages By-Pass. AECOM on behalf of Suffolk County Council 2006 and refreshed in 2013

East Suffolk Growth Plan. Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils

Suffolk Growth Strategy. Suffolk Local Authorities 2014

New Anglia Strategic Economic Plan. New Anglia LEP 2014