

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

RIGHTS OF WAY WORKING GROUP

Meeting Type:	DoO Governance Group Meeting
Date:	2 nd December 2025
Venue:	MS Teams
Meeting Chair:	Andrew Woodin (SCC)
SZC Attendees:	Daniel Piercy (DP) – Proxy for RB, Rebecca Quigg (RQ) - Transport Coordinator, Niki Pieri (NP), John Pelham (JP), Michelle Emmerson-Grey (MEG)
Regulatory Attendees:	SCC – Andrew Woodin (AW), Annette Robinson (AR), David Falk (DF), ESC – Sarah Potter (SP)
Apologies:	Richard Bull (SZC)
Quorum:	Quorate group members are highlighted in bold
Meeting Record produced by:	Jen Mills (SZC)
Next Meeting Date:	4 th March 2026

Summary / Key Discussion

Meeting Notes:

INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW OF PREVIOUS ACTIONS

Actions:

Date Raised	Ref.	Description	Lead	Date Due
04/06/2025	1	A draft of the communications plan will be circulated before the next meeting for discussion. This draft will outline the structure, technical inputs for public communication, and any proposed solutions	ROWWG	Next meeting
02/09/2025	2	BG to summarise the PRow Fund improvement proposals, including variations and delivery sequencing, and circulate to the group for agreement.	BG	Next meeting
02/09/2025	3	SZC to provide an update on coastal works as a result of installation of MBIF and communicate the agreed approach.	SZC	Next meeting
02/09/2025	4	JP to share the skeleton version of the PRow works tracker with the group	JP	Next meeting

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02/09/2025	5	SZC to present the final communications plan and the proposed technological solution for the works tracker at the next ROWWG meeting.	SZC	Next meeting
02/09/2025	6	SZC to create a visual summary of PROW Fund spending, key deliverables, and progress to date for presentation at a forum next year (long-term action)	SZC	Ongoing

Review of Previous Actions

- Action 1: closed. The draft communications plan was circulated in advance of the meeting and picked up in agenda.
- Action 2: picked up in agenda.
- Action 3: closed. picked up in agenda.
- Action 4: ongoing – still in progress for payment, provider ready. MEG aiming to share examples in January 2026. OS maps being updated in relation to the MBIF can be uploaded to works tracker as bespoke updates as a temporary solution.
- Action 5: picked up in agenda.
- Action 6: ongoing - long-term action in relation to visually displaying spend of the fund to the community and a wider audience. No projects currently to display, SZC lead but joint discussion required.

Update on managing the PROW Fund

- Delivery manager is currently absent from work. Potential workarounds to commence delivery on being investigated by SCC. DF noted the team will be identifying projects they can begin work on in the immediate term.
- AR was noted to be working on FP20 with the RSPB Minsmere which is being looked at in the immediate term.
- AW suggested a meeting be arrange with SCC Operations Manager for rights of way works to progress options.

ACTION SCC to identify resource with time allocation to help deliver PROW Fund.

- AR noted discussion at previous group had agreed maintenance and minor improvements works for side growth and surface cutting on routes that cannot normally be funded for these works. A list is under preparation with engagement of local communities and SCC area operations team engaged to progress delivery.
- ESC noted they were keen to see the priority list given internal ESC group keen to be updated and see improvements.

MBIF King Charles III England Coast Path diversion

- Rights of Way and Access Strategy DCO Document requires any temporary diversions which are necessary to the coast path need to be agreed in advance, in addition to other formal processes.
- DP noted would need WG consent to undertake temporary weekday closures and inland diversion.
- JP provided updates to the group on the proposed closures and diversion route. Notices designed and A5 leaflets also being made for distribution around area.

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- DF noted possibility of people reducing the prescribed route by walking through Minsmere site where no dogs allowed. DF noted variations in ground conditions could mean shorter alternative route may sometimes be available. JP noted difficulty of trying to adapt diversion on a regular basis and the need for consistency in diversion. DF noted perhaps a communication on the ends of FP20 to advise that the path is liable to flooding which is why the longer diversion has been provided. This would give public awareness should they try to use this route instead. Importance of public communications and information sharing.
- JP noted he intends to add public comments on OS Map app to keep information up to date for users.
- AR noted the longer diversion is also required for safety reasons with areas of deep running water on FP20.
- AR flagged earlier suggestion of a temporary board walk across sensitive area of wet meadow on a permissive path, recommended for an area of ENGL land where the route can be wet. NP confirmed that this is being investigated currently and needs to be agreed with ENGL. As SZC is a statutory undertaker, if there is no impact on the SSIS, no formal consent would be needed from NE although SZC would keep them involved and in discussions. NP sought clarity that the wording in Requirement 10 could be that SZC are committing to this and looking to provide this.
- AR sought clarity of timescales for the proposed temporary closures. NP noted that the Project wants to start on the 12th January and run until the 31st March 2026. SZC committed to keep AR updated on a weekly basis on start and progression of the works. If it appears the works will go further, SZC would have to come back to seek further consent in such an eventuality.
- AW queried whether it was worth adding a further notice beyond diversion point when approaching from the north, in case they miss the initial notice. JP confirmed they intend for a number of notices to be repeated along the path from the northern approach for this reason.
- SZC confirmed the closure would be published on a number of websites in addition to leaflets and posters.
- DP sought clarity from the group that they were happy with the proposed weekday closure and diversion as discussed. **No objections received from members.**

Update on liaison between PRow and Tourism Funds leads

- It was confirmed that ESC and SCC are included in Tourism Fund meetings by the Tourism Fund manager Alexis Corlis (ESC) to ensure any value-added opportunities can be achieved.

PRow Draft Communication Plan

- SZC confirmed the communications team have assisted with the draft plan, which was shared with the group in advance of the meeting.
- Some typographical and technical adjustments to the document were made by the group whilst the draft plan was shared on screen during the meeting.
- AW sought feedback on use of the Wild Aldhurst site. MEG noted that there is significantly positive feedback given anecdotally at the information office in relation to the Wild Aldhurst site.
- MEG noted that they have tourists dropping into the information office asking about the project, and the new shared (SZC/SZB) visitor centre will be opening shortly – January 2026.
- District and County Councilors added as stakeholders in the Communications Plan.
- AR queried how SZC information is shared onto other websites, rather than just SZC platforms. Importance of sharing communications across other platforms for increased reach.
- Document will be updated as required over time by JP/SZC and shared with the group in such an eventuality

ACTION – JP to include list of external media platforms to be shared with communications.

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ACTION – Confirmation of data requested by group to be clarified to SZC. SZC can then provide data on numbers of enquiries and complaints in relation to Public Rights of Way

ACTION – Feedback from monthly coordination meetings with Scottish Power, SZC and other colleagues to be added to roles and responsibilities for communication and community relations.

ACTION – SCC and ESC will feedback any other comments to the group following further time to review the document.

Leiston Walking and Cycling Project Fund

- AR queried effectiveness of signage encountered on FP6 and FP10 Leiston. Noted the requirement of context and clarity of diversion signage. Importance of including full maps of the routes. Example shared with the group was hard to interpret and identify without context. SZC acknowledged the sign could be improved with an OS background and to be shown in context of wider network.

ACTION - SZC to replace noted diversion sign with an improved notice, ideally with OS background and to show diversion within context of wider network.

- General updates provided in relation to the initiatives
- Skein 8 improvement work has been delivered (Red House Lane area) and has improved width and surfacing

ACTION – SCC to share photographs and information of recent improvement with ESC to share with members as good news story.

PRoW Implementation Plans

- No additional matters arising than previously raised in meeting

Horizon scanning

- For information: Sizewell Link Road and Two Village Bypass construction due to start. Temporary routes currently being reviewed where Rights of Way need to be closed and alternative routes sought. A number of paths affected which may need Public Path Orders next year.
- Public Path Order application for permanent diversion of FP28 for Friday Street Roundabout attenuation pond has commenced formal consultation, ending 26th December.

Any other business (AOB)

- None raised

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Key Decision: Confirmation of no objections from the PRow Working Group to the proposed temporary closure and diversion to the Coast Path.

Date of next meeting – 4th March 2026

Actions agreed in meeting:

Date Raised	Ref.	Description	Lead	Date Due
02/12/2025	1	SCC to identify resource with time allocation to help deliver PRow Fund.	SCC	Next meeting
02/12/2025	2	SZC to introduce list of external media platforms for information to be shared with.	SZC	Next meeting
02/12/2025	3	Confirmation of data requested by group to be clarified to SZC. SZC can then provide data on numbers of enquiries and complaints in relation to Public Rights of Way	RoWWG members with data request	Next meeting
02/12/2025	4	Feedback from monthly coordination meetings with Scottish Power, SZC and other colleagues to be added to roles and responsibilities for communication and community relations.	SZC	Next meeting
02/12/2025	5	SCC and ESC will feedback any other comments on comms plan to the group following further time to review the document.	SCC/ESC	Next meeting
02/12/2025	6	Leiston Walking and Cycling Fund – SZC to replace diversion sign shared with an improved notice to show diversion within context of wider network.	JP	ASAP
02/12/2025	7	SCC to share photographs and information of recent improvement with ESC to share with members as good news story.	AR	Next meeting

Key Decision:

The ROWWG members confirmed no objections to the proposed temporary closure and diversion to the Coast Path as presented.