

Report to Thurston PC – February 4th 2026.

Multi Use Path – Thurston to Rougham Estate - Fishwick Corner to Windmill Cottage

Background

At the March 2025 Thurston PC Open Meeting, there was a request for a link path, from Fishwick Corner on to the Rougham Estate. An off road, multi-use path that would help provide a safer access for Thurston residents, to link with the wide public access network on the Rougham Estate. There is currently no path running south from Thurston.

The 2019 Thurston NDP includes Policy 4e, ‘to promote active travel walking and cycling’ and Objective I2, ‘to encourage the uptake of sports/fitness/leisure/wellbeing activities in the village by providing facilities that are open for all to use’.

Progress

Through Autumn 2025, there have been several meetings with George Agnew, owner of Rougham Estate and Oliver Wastell, Sam Bye and Hannah Potter of SCC ProW Department.

A route has been agreed, as shown red on the attached plans for walkers, runners, families with pushchairs, wheelchair users and cyclists.

We have kept the Parish Clerk, Vicky Waples, Chair, Chris Dashper and Councillor Julian West informed on progress.

SCC Highways have now confirmed that the route is viable, subject to a Road Safety Audit, to be carried out in February 2026, for the Mount Road and New Road Crossings.

Proposal – Timing, Costing and Maintenance

Subject to a satisfactory RSA, the aim is to see a 2 – 2.5m wide path created during May/June 2026, ideally ready for use from August onwards.

Rougham Estate have confirmed that they will undertake the limited tree felling in Twenty Acre Wood, with their Forestry Team and employ contractors to create the permissive path, from Mount Road to the verge opposite Windmill Cottage, circa £40,000, at their cost.

SCC PRoW have confirmed that they will use contractors to create the crossings at New Road, Mount Road and Rougham Road, with appropriate drop kerbs, surfacing on the verges, rumble strips and waymarking, costing circa £12,000, ideally from SCC Active Travel budgets.

Ongoing maintenance of the route will be the responsibility of SCC for the crossings and Rougham Estate, for tree safety and the permissive path through Twenty Acre Wood.