

Suggested Unaccompanied Inspection Route for Planning Inspectorate Examining Body

**Tesco roundabout on the A1094 down
Park Road along the High Street and back
up Victoria Road**

A circular walk – on foot

TIME: Allow 1 hour

Park road is a private road with the Northern gate closed on weekends during the months of April-October and Bank Holidays. It is mainly used by residents for essential services and recreation. As you proceed down Park Road you have **Aldeburgh Library** and **the Triangle** (grass and wildflower area) on your left and **Queens' Field and the Rugby Club** on the right, with bucolic views over **King's Field** to the river. The parking area outside the **tennis courts** serves both the courts and the **allotments**. Further down is **Garrett House care home** and **Aldeburgh Hospital** both requiring constant ambulance access, and then you come to the **Primary School** - Children walk from the Tesco's Roundabout across Kings Field past the **Bowling Green**, the Allotments and the **Pump House** (event Venue) to the Primary School. Any obstruction on the A1094 or the Tesco roundabout would have a severely deleterious effect on the access to these vital town services.

At the end of Park Road, you come to Aldeburgh's vibrant High Street. Proceeding down it you will note the important local independent shops which include **the butcher, the baker, the book shop, the cinema, the two fish & chip shops, the hardware store and retailers O&C Butcher and Fleur**. The High Street is also home to **five restaurants, three pubs, the busy post office and the independent chemist** which serves the mainly elderly vulnerable permanent residents. One street over is the famous **Moot Hall** and the **Jubilee Hall**. The Town is proud to host such a wide variety of facilities serving the community and tourist alike. Again, should there be delays on the A1094 due to an increase in commercial traffic it will affect the sustainability of the Town.

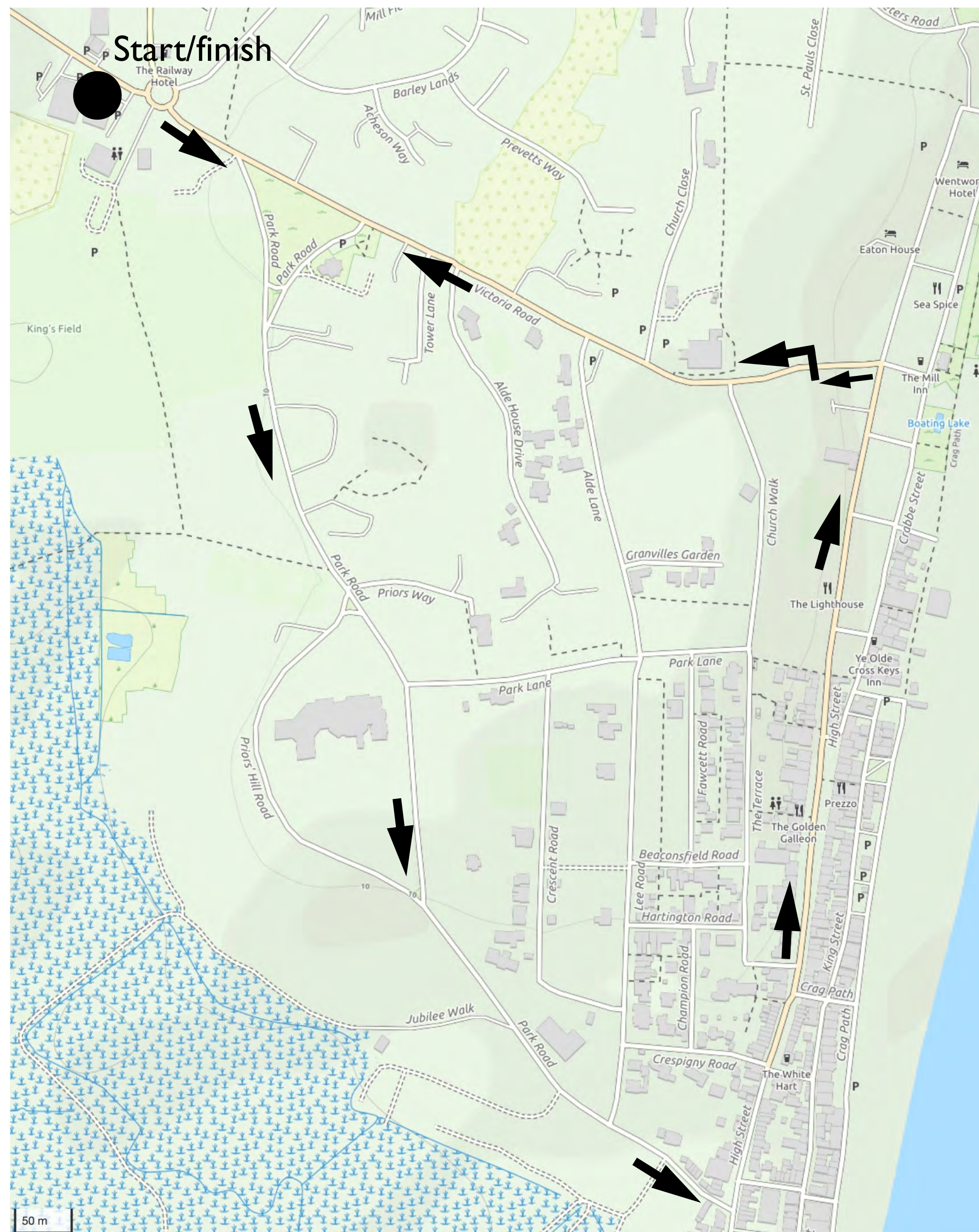
Aldeburgh is a very traditional seaside town attracting families, bird watchers and walkers. Despite the tranquillity of the area, there are estimated to be 4,167,368 trips (day & staying) per annum to the area which create a spend of £164million (DMO survey). These visitors support the largely family owned independent businesses and cultural venues (shops, cafés, restaurants and cultural arts venues) which have bucked the trend in struggling coastal towns or corporate High Streets. Many of those visitors come to the area for the reasons cited in the East Suffolk Tourism Strategy* and if they fail to visit the area, business would be unsustainable.

We are requesting this Unaccompanied Inspection to make the Examining Authorities aware of the value of the seaside town of Aldeburgh and the devastation that NGET's plans and the cumulative impact of a further 6 energy projects plus Sizewell C nuclear power station would wreak on the residents, tourism and businesses therein.

BACKGROUND

Whether you were born in Aldeburgh or just come to visit, the town holds a special place in many people's hearts. Families return every year for holidays and for new visitors it's a joy. People come to retire here, their life's work done, to enjoy the fresh sea air and open skies and contribute to a thriving community.

Nature, music and the arts are at its core. It is a precious place and being at the heart of the Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape it must remain as a place of refuge for people to find peace and well-being. The town and its High Street thrive because of the residents and large number of independent businesses but survives because of the visitors. As was seen during the coronavirus lockdown, the town shuts down when people can't come - and people are its lifeline. Any restrictions on accessibility due to traffic on the approach roads would have a material adverse effect on the town's fragile economy and internationally renowned cultural offering.



THE WALK

Park in the Co-op car park and then from the roundabout, walk a short distance east up Victoria Road before turning right into Park Road at the Triangle and Town Sign.



On the right along Park Road are the sports fields and children’s playground and beyond King’s Field you will see the view across the town marshes.



A little further on, Garrett House Care home is on your left.



The town's tennis courts and bowls club can be found on the right...



...with Aldeburgh Community Hospital a short distance up the hill, just beyond the old water tower.



Continue down the hill and on your left you will see the local Primary school. During the walk to this point, you will have observed the wide range of public services which the town offers to residents and visitors.



Many of the cottages on the way to the High Street are available to visitors and the holiday letting market brings significant income and life to the town.



Aldeburgh is well known for its Fish & Chips and long queues are a regular occurrence particularly in summer. The White Hart pub is very popular with outside seating and a Pizza take-away.



One major feature of the town's High Street is the number of independent retailers with the town able to boast a traditional baker's, butcher's, fishmonger's, chemist, wine merchant's, bookshop and jeweller's together with several clothing, gift shops and art galleries.



The town is also well known for its carnival which is thought to be at least 170 years old!



Tea shops, cafes and restaurants are also much in evidence and cater particularly for the tourist business as much as the local population.





Few small towns have such a huge variety of facilities catering for the arts. The Aldeburgh music festival is staged at Snape Maltings as well as at other local venues, and together with the Jubilee Hall and the 100 year old cinema, these provide an opportunity for residents and visitors to enjoy the town's cultural experience.



At the end of the High Street, turning left up the hill will take you up to the Parish Church but a short way up the hill, cross the road and turn to see the Moot Hall (museum) and the sea. Continue on along Victoria Road, passing the Library and then return to the roundabout.



It is hoped that this short walk will have given a brief insight into the town and its business and cultural life. Maintaining this diversity is a constant challenge for business owners and to those who spend many volunteer hours supporting the culture and history of the town.

Any threat to the town's way of life will impact on many people's livelihood and wellbeing and should the proposed energy schemes result in a reduction in the number of visitors and holiday makers, the town's future will be severely in doubt.