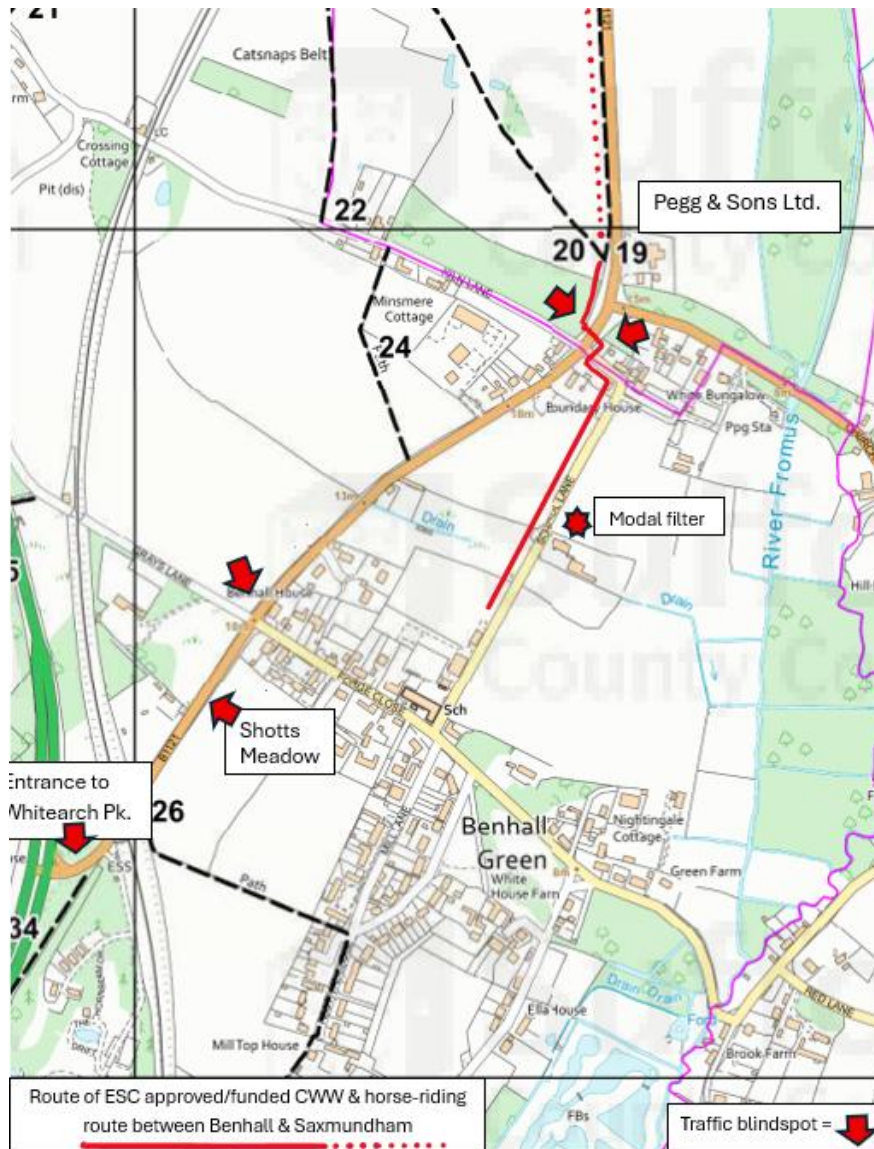


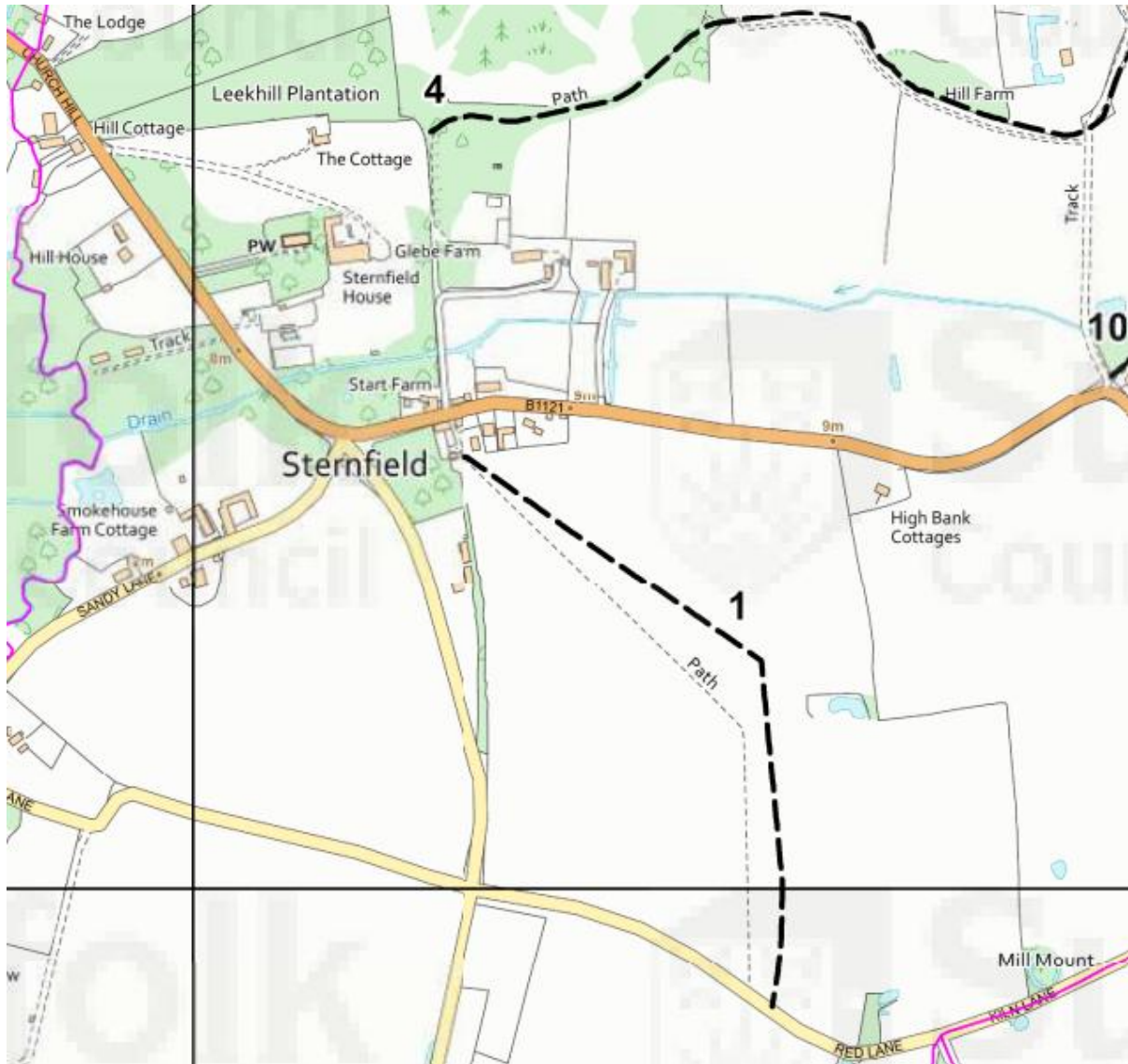
**Benhall and Sternfield Parish Council Site Inspection Proposals: to be considered by the
Examining Authority as part of the Sea Link DCO - EN020026.**

Benhall and Sternfield Parish Council (the PC) would like to propose an Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) along the B1121 through Benhall from the A12 to Pegg and Sons Ltd in order to highlight several serious safety concerns that the PC has with this route:



The PC would also like to propose two Unaccompanied Site Inspections (USIs):

- 1) Along Public Right of Way (PRoW) number 4 on the map below in order to make the Examining Authority aware of a Remembrance Bench considered to be of significance to many local residents.
- 2) Along PRoW number 1 in a Northerly direction from Red Lane in Sternfield to where the footpath changes direction in the middle of the field because the PC feels that the dominance of the Sea Link converter station over the Sternfield landscape can be most clearly appreciated from this particular point.



Finally, the PC would like to endorse the USI along PRoW number 26 to Whitearch Park as proposed by Suffolk Energy Action Solutions (SEAS) because this USI is highly relevant to local residents, especially those living at Whitearch Park and Shotts Meadow.

Accompanied Site Inspection of the B1121 as it runs through Benhall:

The PC and local residents are concerned that the increases in vehicle movements, especially HGVs, along the B1121 between the A12 and Saxmundham that are predicted to occur as a result of the construction of Sea Link (and any further converter stations) pose significant safety concerns that have not been properly addressed.

There are multiple junctions onto the B1121 as it passes through Benhall from the A12, many of which are difficult to traverse and this stretch of road is thus already identified as being dangerous. In view of these safety concerns and in an attempt to reduce car dependency, the

PC has been working on a Flagship Project with East Suffolk Council's Cycling, Walking, Wheeling (and Horse-riding) Working Group since 2024 in order to design a safe active-travel route between Benhall and Saxmundham. The route is seen as essential for maintaining connectivity between Benhall, Sternfield and Saxmundham and for promoting physical and mental health and wellbeing of local residents. The fear is that safety concerns currently being experienced – especially at the junction with School Lane and Kiln Lane – will surely be exacerbated by the addition of construction vehicles to the route and proper attention needs to be given to residents' needs when accessing their market town without fear.

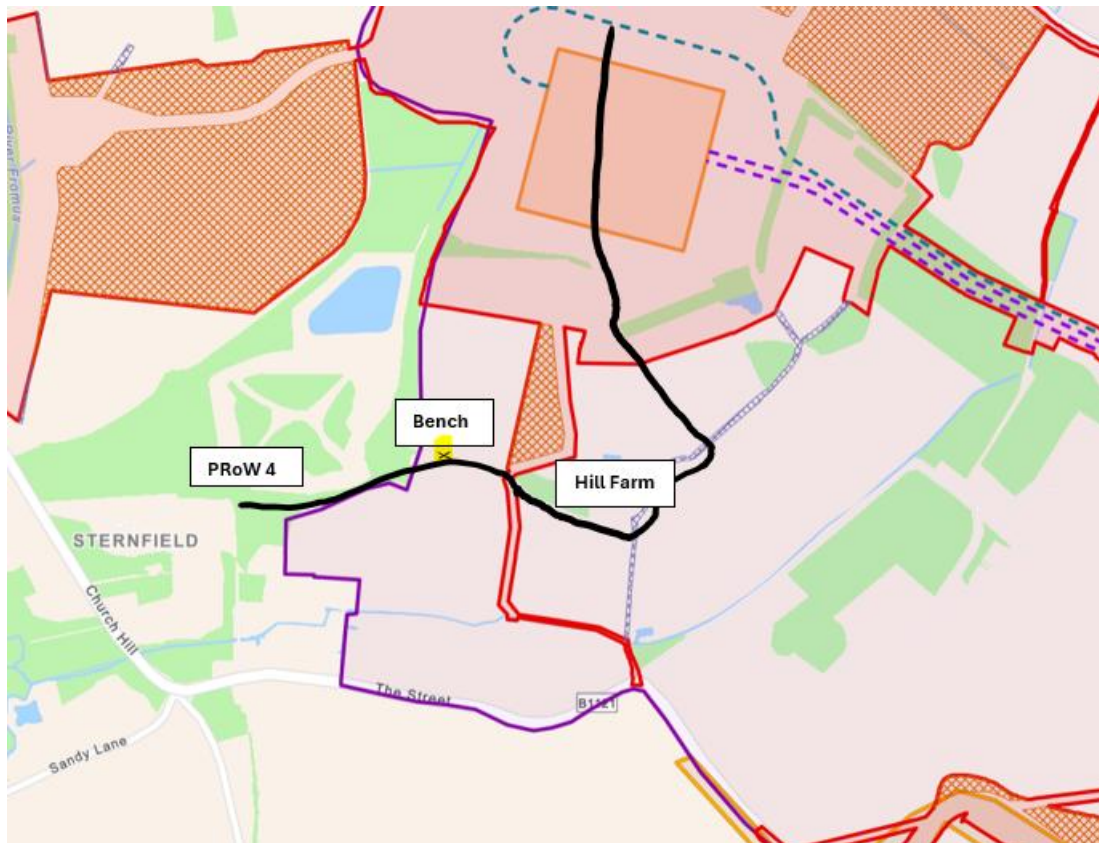
The PC would therefore like to propose an ASI in order to help the Examiners understand what the issues with this stretch of the B1121 are, which junctions are particularly challenging and the concerns that local people share when driving, walking, wheeling or horse-riding from where PRoW number 14 intersects with the A12 to the start of the proposed haul road beside Pegg and Sons Ltd. The PC feels that the route needs to be walked, not driven and needs to be accompanied rather than unaccompanied so that all the challenging points along the route can be properly pointed out and reinforced with first-hand information.

Two Unaccompanied Site Inspection Proposals:

- 1) The PC would like to bring the location of a Remembrance Bench of local significance to the examiner's attention. This old oak bench – at the point marked Bench on the map below (*what3words* = leave.atom.repaying) – is to the memory of a local man who was killed at the age of 18 whilst serving with the Grenadier Guards in Northern Ireland in 1978. Many local people enjoy the tranquillity of walking from PRoW 1 via Smuggler's Lane to PRoW 4 past this bench which, although weathered, remains perfectly sturdy to sit on. They then like to continue on to PRoW 5 towards Saxmundham or on local footpaths towards Friston. The PC would like the location of this memorial bench to be acknowledged by the examiners and would propose a USI that involves walking along PRoW 4 from Hill Farm to view its location.



Glen Ling's bench on PRoW 4.



- 2) The PC would like to propose that the examiners take a USI from Kiln Lane, Sternfield, Northwards along PRow 1 to where the footpath changes direction at the telegraph pole – ID No 105962 (what3words young.aged.foreheads), from which point the PC feels that the dominance of the Sealink converter station (and future developments) over the Sternfield landscape can be most clearly observed.



View from Telegraph Pole 105962 on PRow 1 towards the Converter Stations Site

Benhall and Sternfield Parish Council are grateful to the Examiners for considering these three Site Inspections.

Thank you.