

**Draft Proposals for Section 5a of “Riverside Walk”**  
Report by Lesley Marsden, Principal Landscape Architect  
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**Summary:** Engineering and landscape design work for section 5a of the Riverside walk is currently being undertaken by Norwich City Council and their consultants for a proposed new section of the “Riverside walk”. The design is at an early stage and Norwich City Council are using this presentation to seek the views of the Navigation Committee on a series of options prior to submitting a planning application for the scheme later this year.

1. There are two riverside walks in Norwich – the original walk along the River Wensum (known as the “Riverside walk”) and the more rural Yare Valley Walk. The provision of public access alongside these two rivers has been a long-term aim of Norwich City Council. Already extensive stretches of both rivers have, through the development of other sections, been opened up to public access. Both riverside walks will be extended as far as practicable, as opportunities occur.
2. Section 5a of the “Riverside walk”, lies between land currently being developed by Broadland Housing Association and land in the ownership of Network Rail. It will, in time, constitute a key link between the city centre, the Deal / Utilities sites and Whitlingham Country Park.
3. Norwich City Council has undertaken to deliver section 5a on behalf of the Norwich River Gateway group in anticipation of the build out of the above developments. The current project is phased. The aim of Phase 1 is to secure of planning approval for the scheme. We are aiming to achieve this by the end of 2016. Phase 2 will be the construction phase period. Its programming will depend on the progress of the adjacent developments.
4. The purpose of the presentation to the Navigation Committee is to obtain its view on options for the river frontage produced at the sketch design stage. The consultants brief has required them to consider a range of solutions as the City Council is keen to explore options that will derive multiple benefits including recreational, enhanced landscape and biodiversity.
5. There are a number of constraints which relate to the site. These include:
  - The width of land available for the proposal. Normally the width required from those private developers is in the order of 8-9 metres. At this location we are currently limited to 7 metres.

- Power cables – three separate power cables which traverse the river at different locations and different depths.
- The presence of the rail bridge
- The flood defence constructed by Laurence Scott within the site.
- Very poor condition of the frontage

6. The views of the Committee are sought on these options prior to the development of the detailed design and landscape proposals which will form part of the proposed planning application.

Background papers: None

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Broads Plan Objectives: None

Appendices: None