

The Essex County Council (Various Byways, Delfits Lane, Uttlesford)
(Seasonal Prohibition Of Driving) Order 20**

Statement of Reasons

A seasonal Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) was introduced in January 2019 to run from 01 November to 31 March each year to protect the surface of a number of byways which were recognised as being sensitive to winter damage or, as in the case of Delfit's Lane, in need of works to bring them up to a standard which could withstand winter use. The TRO was supported by partial restriction of the byway entrances.

At the time of the 2019 Order, Delfit's Lane was deeply rutted and in places had holes several feet deep across its entire width which filled with water in the winter. For much of the year it was effectively impassable to all users and at some points pedestrians were breaking through the adjacent hedge and walking on the arable field headlands to avoid the ruts, trespassing on the adjoining farmland.

Repair and improvement works were carried out in summer 2019, bringing the byway into a very good state of repair. Improved drainage means the route is less prone to the sort of water erosion which caused it to deteriorate beforehand.

The surface improvement is such that that there is no longer a need for a seasonal TRO to prohibit vehicular access.

If the revocation is implemented the lane's condition would be monitored by the Byways Working Group and should the surface not prove as resilient as currently estimated, a further TRO could be proposed to introduce a seasonal prohibition of use by vehicles in order to protect the surface.

The restrictions on the remaining Byways will remain in force by virtue of the 2022 Order.