



Marshes: highway threat lifted

Road upgrade pulled despite crash problem

Proposals for a dual carriageway through the Norfolk Broads were scrapped in favour of updated safety measures last week.

The Highways Agency wanted to upgrade the 13km A47 Acle Straight to a dual carriageway, cutting across the broads and Halvergate Marshes. The £56 million plan was intended to reduce deaths caused by cars crashing into roadside dykes.

But the scheme was opposed by the Council for National Parks (CNP) because it would harm protected sites. The independent panel on the East of England Plan also rejected the idea. The Highways Agency will now spend £1.6 million on safety measures.

CNP Transport campaigner Rachel Reeves said: "Road building schemes in important landscapes must pass a national need test and be without alternative. They dualling of the Acle Straight failed on both counts." But the agency has not ruled out widening the road in the future.