

Mystery of bizarre bus stop

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IN FOR A LONG WAIT: The lonely bus stop situated on a muddy track halfway between Monks Eleigh and Kettlebaston, discovered by a bemused Mark Smith

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For this stop sticks out like a sore thumb in the middle of a Suffolk country track some 800 metres from the nearest road - and one suspects that, no matter how long you waited, a bus would never pass by.

Mr Smith spotted the mysterious Suffolk County Council sign during a ride on the track, between Kettlebaston and Monks Eleigh, last Friday afternoon.



He recalled: "I was out on the mountain bike trying to get fit with a friend who said, when we went round a corner, 'look - you can stop here and catch a bus.'

"Sure enough, there it was. I assume that someone has put it up as a mickey-take but they've done a very good job on it. I can't believe that a bus company would have put it up.

"It looks official - it's in better nick than half of the real ones. When I got home I took my son Dominic down to see it because he couldn't believe it."

Mr Smith, 43, from Bildeston, added: "It's a track I use once or twice a month but because of the recent bad weather we haven't used it for about six weeks.

"The sign has appeared since the summer - it was a pleasant and intriguing surprise. There are tyre marks that go out of the tracks, go round it and then back on to the track so it seems that tractors are avoiding it.

"Grass is growing around the base and it's not moving anywhere, so whoever has put it in there has done it well.

"There's no way that a bus could go down there - you couldn't even get a car down there. If the bus company has gone down there and put it up the world really has gone mad."

A Suffolk County Council spokeswoman last night said: “We're baffled. It's obviously not a bus route.

“It is one of our bus stops, but it's an old one - they've changed since then and this one appears to be a pre-1998 design.

“If anybody has got any idea as to how long it's been there or how it got there then we'd love to know.

“Also, if anyone is missing a bus stop, we might be able to reunite them with it - but we're not aware that we've lost one.”