

WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULTATION

TO:	Horsham District Council FAO:
FROM:	WSCC Highways - Public Rights of Way
DATE:	15 July 2025
LOCATION:	Stonehouse Farm Handcross Road Horsham RH13 6NZ
SUBJECT:	<p>DC/25/0403</p> <p>Full Planning Application to form a comprehensive masterplan including: 1. Rationalisation and enhancement of existing commercial facilities (Use Classes E(g) B2 and B8 at Stonehouse Business Park including demolition of two buildings and their replacement with new Class E(g), B2 and B8 facilities. Extension of existing building to form a new office and wardens' accommodation. Existing mobile home removed. 2. Decommissioning of the Anaerobic Digester and re-use of the existing 2no buildings for storage and office uses (Class E (g) and B8) and the diversion of a public footpath. 3. Residential redevelopment of the Jacksons Farm site including the demolition of existing barns to provide 3no. dwellings with access, parking, and landscaping.</p> <p>Additional information received.</p>
DATE OF SITE VISIT:	01/11/2024
RELEVANT PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY NUMBER(S):	Footpath 1708
RECOMMENDATION:	No Objection
S106 CONTRIBUTION TOTAL:	n/a

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above numbered planning application. This proposal has been considered by means of a desktop study, using the information and plans submitted with this application, in conjunction with other available WSCC map information. In respect to the above planning application I would provide the following comments.

My initial comments were made on 29/04/2025 and were an objection on the basis that more information was required.

Following direct liaison with the Applicant and the submission by them of the document 'Lot 8 Public Rights of Way' dated 01/07/2025, I am now happy to submit a recommendation of 'No Objection'. This is made on the proviso that the measures discussed and laid out in the above document are fully implemented.

I would also request the Applicant consider the following comments:

Any alteration to or replacement of the existing boundary with the PROW, or the erection of new fence lines, must be done in consultation with the WSCC PROW Team to ensure the legal width of the path is not reduced and there is no unlawful encroachment.

No new structures, such as gates and stiles, are to be installed within the width of the PROW without the prior consent of the WSCC PROW Team. These will constitute an offence of obstruction under the Highways Act 1980.

The applicant is advised that a public access right has precedence over a private access right. Where a PROW runs along or crosses a route also used for private access purposes, usually for private vehicle access, this shared use has the potential for accident or injury – the applicant must consider how access is managed so the public is not endangered or inconvenienced.

Where it is necessary to undertake works within the legal width of a PROW, e.g. install utilities, (or for development works immediately adjacent to a PROW that can not reasonably be managed through different Health and Safety practice) the applicant must be advised to apply to WSCC PROW Team for a temporary path closure. The applicant must be advised there is no guarantee an application will be approved; that a minimum of 6 weeks is needed to consider an application.

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Rights of Way information is not definitive.

**Steve Alexander
Access Ranger
Public Rights of Way
West Sussex County Council**