

From: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Planning Application DC/26/0530 - Hornbrook Farm, Horsham  
Date: 12 May 2026 at 10:38

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**URGENT: Formal Request for Statutory Intervention and Comprehensive Ecological Survey regarding the Hornbrook Riparian Corridor**

Dear Natural England Consultations Team,

I am writing to you as a concerned resident and a neighboring landowner holding **riparian rights** over the Hornbrook stream, which directly borders the proposed development site at Hornbrook Farm (Ref: DC/26/0530). I am formally requesting that Natural England intervenes to require a robust, multi-season ecological survey before this application is permitted to proceed further.

The proposed development of 180 houses sits on arable land adjacent to a wooded semi-ravine. This specific section of the Hornbrook has remained largely undisturbed for hundreds of years, dating back to the historic Wealden iron industry. It serves as a vital, ancient ecological corridor that is currently under-represented in the developer's submissions.

**Critical Ecological Concerns:**

**Protected Species Presence:** I have direct, frequent sightings of Kingfisher (Schedule 1 protected) and Heron. Furthermore, the habitat is highly suitable for Water Voles, yet the developer's reports claim a non-existence of such species without providing evidence of a physical, bank-side inspection of the ravine.

**Riparian Integrity:** As a riparian owner, I maintain the health of this corridor. The introduction of 180 dwellings will create significant light pollution, domestic noise, and potential chemical runoff that will degrade this "untouched" habitat.

**Inaccuracy of Current Reports:** The existing ecological documents on the Horsham planning portal appear to be based on desk-studies or limited "walk-over" surveys that did not access the difficult terrain of the ravine where biodiversity is most concentrated.

Under the **Precautionary Principle**, and given the potential presence of Schedule 1 species, it is imperative that a "desk-based" assumption of low biodiversity is not accepted. The absence of evidence in the developer's report should not be mistaken for the absence of protected species in this ancient habitat.

I urge Natural England to issue a holding objection until a comprehensive **Phase 2 Habitat Survey** and species-specific assessments for Kingfishers and Water Voles are conducted by independent ecologists during the appropriate seasonal windows.

Yours sincerely,

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[REDACTED]  
Riparian Landowner adjacent to Hornbrook Farm

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