RAMBLERS Sussex

[redacted]
45 Cissbury Gardens
Worthing
BN14 0DZ

24 November, 2023

Shazia Penne, Case Officer

Planning Department

Horsham District Council

Planning ref: Planning Application No. DC/23/2092

Dear Shazia,

Location of application: Land North of Bramble Barn Bramble Lane Thakeham

Details of application: Prior Notification for the erection of an agricultural barn for storage

I am submitting this objection to planning application DC/23/2092 for and on behalf of the Ramblers in my role as West Sussex Area Footpath Officer. The objection relates specifically to the impact on a Public Right of Way that crosses the application site.

The Ramblers works to help everyone enjoy the pleasures and benefits of walking, and to enhance and protect the places where people love to walk. We are committed to encouraging and supporting walking, protecting and expanding public rights of way and access land, and protecting the beauty of the countryside and other areas.

A Public Right of Way (PRoW) in the form of footpath 2475 passes immediately adjacent to, and possibly through, the boundary of the application site. Footpath 2399 passes to the west of the site.

Ramblers
13 Dirty Lane, London SE1 9PA
020 3961 3300 | ramblers@ramblers.org.uk | **ramblers.org.uk**

The Ramblers' Association is a registered charity (England & Wales no 1093577, Scotland no SC039799) and a company limited by guarantee, registered in England & Wales (no 4458492). Registered office, c/o Bates Wells, 10 Queen St Place, London EC4R 1BE.

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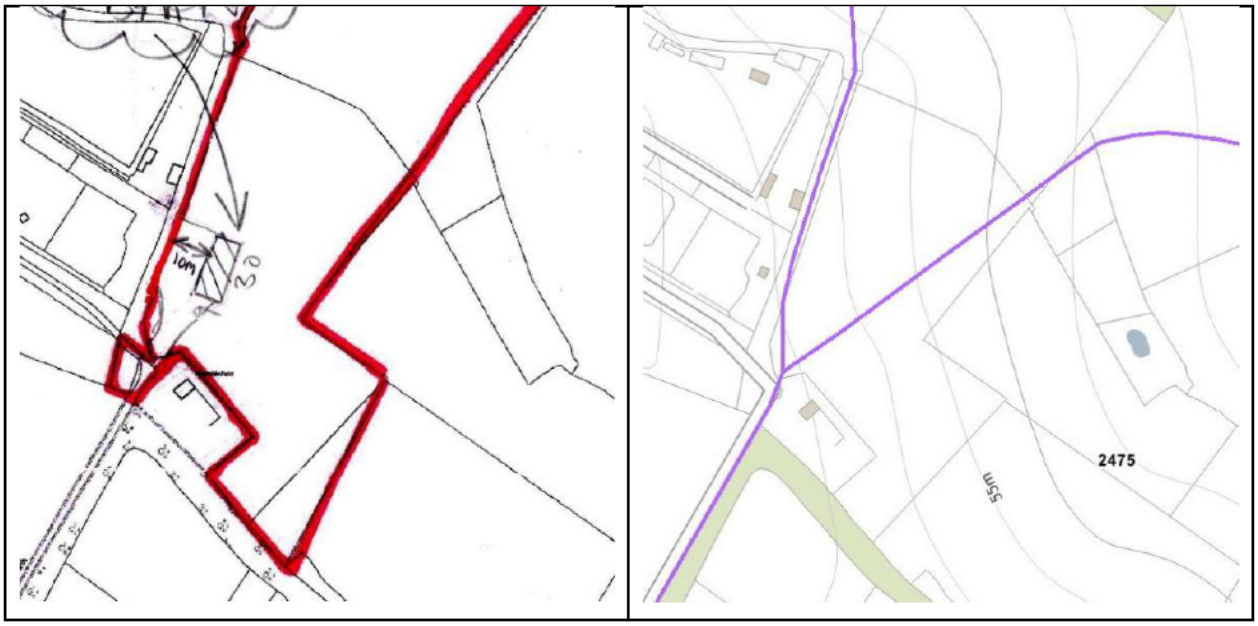
Footpath 2475 runs up Bramble Lane before heading north east through the field in which the barn is to be constructed. Footpath 2399 starts at the end of Bramble Lane at a junction with 2475 at the edge of the site and heads roughly north.

We object to the planning application for the following reasons:

- the applicant has not acknowledged the existence of the PRoW within the application
- there is no mention of how public safety will be managed during the construction phase, which may require a temporary closure of the footpath. Such a closure must be approved in advance by the Highways Authority (WSCC PRoW tea, prow@westsussex.gov.uk).

I appreciate that the site plan provided as part of the application is essentially a sketch and therefore the precise alignment and positioning of the barn with respect to the legal line of public right of way 2475 is difficult to determine with any precision.

The images below show a side-by-side comparison of an extract of the layout provided by the applicant (left) and an extract from WSCC iMap showing the route of footpaths 2399 and 2475 (right, footpaths shown in purple), showing an equivalent area in each case.



The image below is a merge of the two separate extracts aligned based on key features in the landscape. This clearly shows a potential conflict between the location of the barn proposed in this application, and the route of the footpath 2475.

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In view of the above, we urge the planning authority to refuse the application in its current form until such a time as the position of the barn wrt the PRoW has been clarified, and the management of public safety during construction has been specified.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

David Purcell

West Sussex Area Footpath Officer, Ramblers

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