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Sent: 12 May 2026 10:39

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Cc: Nicola.Pettifer [REDACTED]

Subject: Planning Application DC/26/0530 - Hornbrook Farm, Horsham

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,



Riparian Landowner adjacent to Hornbrook Farm

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