

From: Planning@horsham.gov.uk <Planning@horsham.gov.uk>
Sent: 17 July 2026 12:23:34 UTC+01:00
To: "Planning" <planning@horsham.gov.uk>
Subject: Comments for Planning Application DISC/26/0205
Categories: Comments Received

Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

Planning Application comments have been made. A summary of the comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 17/07/2026 12:23 PM.

Application Summary

Address:	Street Record Burnthouse Lane Cowfold West Sussex
Proposal:	Application for Approval of Details Reserved by Condition 11 to approved application DC/23/2172
Case Officer:	Nicola Pettifer

[Click for further information](#)

Customer Details

Address: 2 Westlands Farm Cottages Burnthouse Lane Cowfold

Comments Details

Commenter Type:	Neighbour
Stance:	Customer objects to the Planning Application
Reasons for comment:	- Design - Loss of General Amenity - Trees and Landscaping
Comments:	ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT COMMENTS Within the Introduction it says this method statement "has been prepared by Tree Heritage Ltd for use in the installation of the underground high voltage electric cable and associated works at Cobwood Solar Farm" Comment: Can we assume from this, that this is all the Tree and Hedge work

that will be required for the development of Cobwood Solar Farm?
Or will there be further work undertaken when it comes to the installation of the site boundary fencing, solar panels or trackways?

Within Tree surgery/Felling section it details that "all work shall be carried out prior to the start of the development process." Reading BS 3998:2010, it is recommended that tree work should ideally be undertaken in late Winter/Early Spring.

Comment:

Is the tree work detailed to be undertaken in late Winter/Early Spring as recommended within BS 3998:2010?

With Appendix 2.3 of BS 3998:2010 Wildlife habitat and plant health

It talks about the legislation that is in place to protect wildlife including bats.

Comment:

No details have been provided to show that an up-to-date survey has been carried out to understand if any of the proposed work will impact "flora and fauna including bats and birds."

Has a bad survey been undertaken and if so by whom?

If surveys haven't been completed recently, one would hope Horsham District Council Planning would require one, as a condition before approving this application.

BS 3998:2010 has been referenced within the Method statement. It's fundamental to the preservation of trees, hedgerows and wildlife within the boundaries and close proximity to the proposed Cobwood Solar Farm.

Comment:

Can Horsham District Council Planning obtain written confirmation as a condition of approving this application, that those supervising the felling and grubbing out of hedgerows (Project Arboriculturist, Project site manager and Arboriculture Supervisor etc), have read and understood BS 3998:2010

Within the key to the table survey of the Method Statement there is a column titled "Category Grading", and there are three sub categories,

1. Mainly arboricultural value
 2. Mainly landscape value
 3. Mainly cultural value
-

Comment:

What do these three Sub Categories actually mean? No definition has been included in the document.

A dead tree may on the face of it have no value but can look beautiful against a blue sky and can also support much wildlife. An updated Method Statement or an amendment added to detail what these Sub Categories mean.

Within the Method Statement Tree Survey, "Tree Ref", G4 recommends the felling of ash trees and a Black Poplar. The woodland trust describes the Black Poplar as

"Imposing, elegant, rare. The black poplar was once a staple of Britain's landscape but these days, the trees are few and far between."

Comment:

Should this tree really be felled? Could remedial work not be carried out to improve it and save it?

Within the Method Statement Tree Survey, Tree Ref. G33 it is highlighted that a hornet's nest is present.

Comment:

Obviously as the tree survey is three years old on the 31st Aug. 2026 and hornet nests only last for one summer this observation is irrelevant but

Was this nest was reported? It could have been Asian hornets nest and as highlighted by the Wildlife Trust, All Asian hornet sightings should be reported to the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology.

Within the Method Statement Tree Survey, Tree Ref. T35 is recommended to have its crown removed and stem retained for wildlife.

Comment:

Why isn't this the case for the other oaks that are to be felled?

Just a couple of paragraphs from the Woodland Trust. The UK's three native woodpeckers - greater spotted (Dendrocopos major), lesser spotted (Dryobates minor) and green woodpecker (Picus viridis) - all nest in oak. They often use deadwood as it's softer and so easier to excavate. Cavities created by the decay process are valuable shelter for a host of other species too. They make great bat roosts, squirrel dens and

nesting spots for birds, from the sparrow-sized redstart to little owl (Athene noctua) and tawny owl (Strix aluco).

Within the Method Statement it details that 108.5m of ancient hedgerows are to be grubbed out.

Comment:

There is no reference to new hedges to be planted as was detailed and discussed in the original proposal and planning application for this development.

What are the details of the new hedges to be laid? Where are they to be placed, what will be the makeup of the new hedges, i.e. will they be native British hedging, and what size of hedging whips will be used?

What aftercare will be in place for the new hedges i.e watering?

Kind regards

Telephone:

Email: planning@horsham.gov.uk



Horsham District Council, Albery House, Springfield Road, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 2GB
Telephone: 01403 215100 (calls may be recorded) www.horsham.gov.uk Chief Executive: Jane Eaton