



HORSHAM DISTRICT COUNCIL CONSULTATION

TO:	Horsham District Council – Planning Dept
LOCATION:	Top Paddock, Kerves Lane, Horsham
DESCRIPTION:	Prior notification for the creation of a new agricultural access track between two farm holdings
REFERENCE:	DC-26-0525
RECOMMENDATION:	Advice / Modification
SUMMARY OF COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATION:	
Arboricultural concerns are limited to the impacts on the woodland habitat (ecology) and the key rooting area of one hedgerow oak. Alterations to the specification and routing of the engineering works should be considered to limit impacts on the adjacent landscape features of merit.	
MAIN COMMENTS:	
The route of the agricultural access includes sections that pass both through and in relatively close proximity to a section of woodland shaw that clothes the banks of the local stream and is designated as Ancient Woodland (AW).	
The woodland strip is comparatively narrow in width however due to the sloping topography, it appears to have been undisturbed by agricultural ploughing for a distance of almost 1 kilometre in length (N-S) and thus in combination with the local agricultural hedgerow network provides valuable landscape/habitat connectivity. As well as the seasonal herbage layer being in full bloom, other indicator species (including mature Crab apple trees) were noted on the site visit.	
Where the track is proposed to be laid through the woodland, a longstanding agricultural accessway (low grade/unsurfaced/compacted) and associated stream culvert is already in situ.	
No large mature trees were evident along the Eastern edge of the AW where the track is proposed however it is proposed within the recommended minimum 15m buffer for new development. Due to the slope of the land down into the stream, any engineering within or close to the recommended buffer to the woodland will need to be compliant with requirements to ensure the ecology/habitat is not potentially adversely affected in the longer term.	

The use of chalk (high PH) as a sub base for the track may have negative implications for existing species within the woodland. I recommend that the make up and route for any improved access through/adjacent to the AW receive ecological consideration and approval to ensure prior acceptability in these terms.

One hedgerow oak in the hedge to the North of the track has a crown spread and recommended root protection area that would be transgressed by the submitted route. I recommend that routing/engineering for the track be revised to respect the trees minimum recommended root protection area (12 – 15m) if viable/reasonable to do so within the agricultural context.

ANY RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS:

N/A

NAME:	ANDY CLOUT – ASST. ARBORICULTURAL OFFICER
DEPARTMENT:	STRATEGIC PLANNING - SPECIALISTS
DATE:	06/05/26