

Application reference: *DC/25/1023*

Danefold House, Littleworth Lane, Partridge Green, West Sussex

Planning Application:

*'Relocation of existing farm yard manure storage, construction of a silage clamp and construction of a slurry lagoon incorporating importation and use of materials and all associated engineering works'*

**Landscape Character and Visual Statement in response to HDC correspondence dated 20<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

By Nick Harper BA (Hons) DipLA (Hons) CMLI (95)  
On behalf of the Applicant, Danefold Farms

Ref: *h/a 619 R102*  
8<sup>th</sup> December 2025

## 1.0 Landscape Character and Visual Matters in response to HDC correspondence dated 20<sup>th</sup> November 2025

1.1 Harper Landscape Architecture LLP (HLA) prepared a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) (ref: HLA 619 R01) and Appendix 1 LVIA Viewpoints 1 to 12 (ref: HLA 619 R02) in April 2025. This included a Landscape Strategy on page 33, quoted below:

### *“6.8 Landscape Strategy*

#### *6.8.1 The Landscape Strategy includes the following.*

- New native planting (with a high percentage of evergreens) around the earthworks of the proposed clamps.*
- New native planting to be implemented in the planting gaps to the boundaries.*
- New native (with a high percentage of evergreens (or dense)) planting to supplement the existing boundary hedge and tree lines to the north and south of the Site.*
- The scheme may also consider more organically shaped proposed contours (to the landform and the lagoon) to sensitively blend the development in to the local landscape.”*

1.2 The Ecology Co-op were also involved at this stage and assisted in informing the planting details that were proposed and issued by HLA on 27 October 2025, which included the following:

- Planting Plan hla 619 101;
- Planting Specification hla 619 102; and
- Planting Schedule hla 619 PS01.

1.3 The aim of the planting work was to:

- Blend the proposals into the local landscape character;
- Mitigate views of the new silage clamp and enhance views of the existing large-scale dilapidated agricultural buildings, as seen from public locations (specifically Public Right of Way (PRoW) 1824 as it sweeps around the western and southern flanks of the Site); and
- Enhance the habitat biodiversity and meet BNG requirements.

- 1.4 The proposals impose certain constraints on planting. The steepness of the banks up to the silos (1:3 in some places) precludes planting, although they can be seeded with grass and wildflower mixes. To ensure views are most effectively mitigated, new scrub planting has been located closer to the PRow and visual receptors to restrict views of the new steep slopes and clamps in the longer term.
- 1.5 The planting includes the following:
- Native scrub mix, area = 3,728m<sup>2</sup>;
  - Standard General Purpose Meadow Mixture (Emorsgate EM2 or similar approved), area = 17,902m<sup>2</sup>; and
  - General Purpose Wild Flowers (Emorsgate EM1F or similar approved), area = 1,319m<sup>2</sup>.
- 1.6 With this information in mind, each of the points listed in the HDC correspondence 20th November 2025 are responded to as follows.
- In the first seven paragraphs and the last paragraph of their letter, Horsham District Council acknowledge that although some landform changes, particularly from the south-east, would be more apparent, the resulting gradients are generally in keeping with the wider landscape character, and the visual effects would be mitigated through the location of the development in relation to the existing tall boundary hedgerows and the proposed scrub planting.
  - Paragraph 8 is quoted as follows.

*“We would however advise that the native scrub mix is removed from the higher elevation land within the centre of the site, as this will emphasise the change in landform. We advise that the native scrub is focused along the eastern edge to reduce views of the landform changes. We would also advise that the native scrub is reduced towards the north of the site to allow for open views of the grassland character and woodland beyond which is characteristic of this site and surroundings.”*

In response to this the following comments are made

- The native scrub mix at the higher elevation will ensure that the more engineered slopes, together with the existing tall utilitarian barn beyond, are screened or obscured in views from the north (specifically PRow 1824 and as far as the A272). Long distance views towards the South Downs would remain open, as the proposed planting would not materially interrupt these. Indeed, views from these directions would be framed by planting rather than the utilitarian character of the existing barn, which represents a beneficial visual outcome. On this basis, it is preferred that the planting remains as originally proposed.

- The native scrub mix follows the eastern and northern sides of the Site for reasons given above and this seems to be in alignment with HDC's comments.
- The native scrub mix follows the eastern and northern sides of the Site for reasons given above and this seems to be in alignment with HDC's comments. There is a small gap towards the south east corner of the Site where the slopes are steep and scrub planting would be hard to establish. As such the scrub planting has been located closer to the visual receptors on the flatter ground adjacent to PRow 1824 (as noted above).
- The scrub planting to the north is required for: BNG; it offers good separation between grazing cattle and users of the PRowS; it would be managed to screen views of the new silage clamps and lagoon whilst retaining the long distance views to the South Downs. It is therefore preferred that the scrub planting shown along the northern edge of the Site is retained as proposed.