

WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULTATION

TO:	Arun District Council FAO: Hannah Kersley
FROM:	WSCC Highways - Public Rights of Way
DATE:	16 February 2026
LOCATION:	Phase 6a Hampton Park Littlehampton
SUBJECT:	LU/249/25/RES Approval of reserved matters following LU/47/11/ (amended by LU/182/15) comprising 288 No residential dwellings, the formation SUDs features, children's play space, landscaping, car parking, roads, landscaping and public access to the northern extent of the Black Ditch Open Space.
DATE OF SITE VISIT:	n/a
RELEVANT PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY NUMBER(S):	Footpath 3096
RECOMMENDATION:	Objection
S106 CONTRIBUTION TOTAL:	n/a

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above numbered planning application. This proposal has been considered by means of a desktop study, using the information and plans submitted with this application, in conjunction with other available WSCC map information. In respect to the above planning application I would provide the following comments.

As stated in the NPPF, para 104, Planning policies and decisions should protect and enhance public rights of way and access, including taking opportunities to provide better facilities for users, for example by adding links to existing rights of way networks including National Trails.

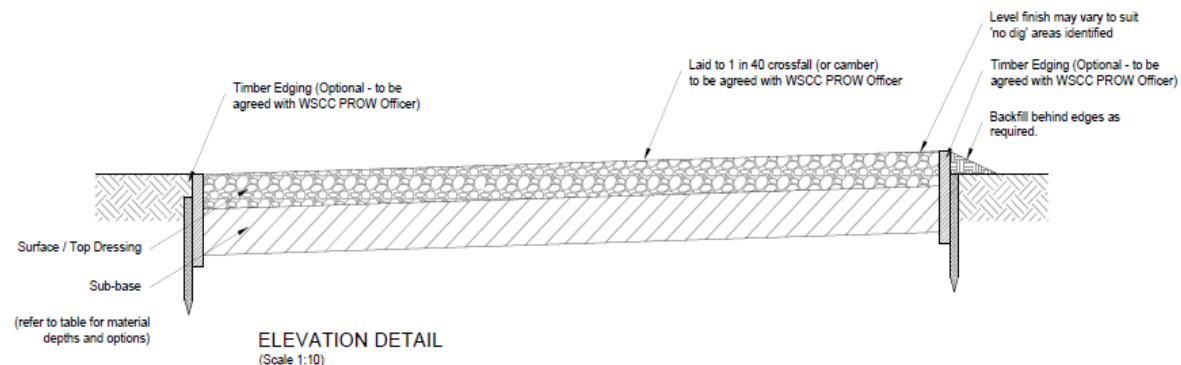
Defra Rights of Way Circular (1/09) states The effect that a proposed development will have on Public Rights of Way is a material consideration for planning authorities when deciding whether or not to approve a planning application. The potential consequences on Public Rights of Way must be taken into account. Information supplied by an applicant should therefore explain how the potential development will impinge on Public Rights of Way.

Bearing the above in mind, my comments are as follows:

Plans show that the section of Footpath (FP)3096 within this reserved matters application area is to be a shared cycle / pedestrian use path and constructed as a crushed limestone path with gridforce ground reinforcement. My objection is made on both these grounds.

Given there is no continuity for cyclists at the northern end of the path within this area, the path should remain for pedestrian use only. Cyclists approaching this section of the Footpath from the development to the south will be able to go east or west but informed via signs that they should dismount at that point if they wish to continue northwards.

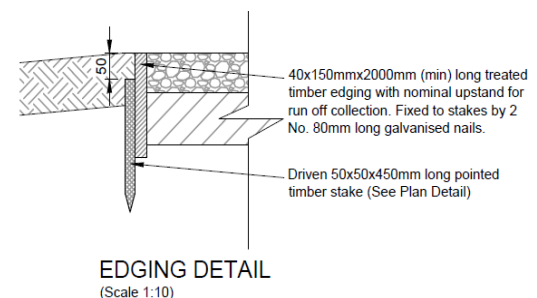
The surface should therefore be made up to the specification for pedestrians which we are able to maintain given that we are responsible for it, and in line with our rural footpath specification, shown below.



NOTES

1. Do not scale from this drawing.
2. All dimensions in millimetres unless stated otherwise.
3. All timber shall comply with SHW Clause 304 unless otherwise stated.
4. Actual position of footpath shall be determined on site with WSCC PROW Officer.
5. Where footpath routing is in vicinity of trees, appropriate measures shall be undertaken in accordance with BS 5837 and in consultation with the WSCC Tree Officer.
6. None of the details on this drawing are suitable where 'no dig' construction is required.
7. Ground preparation: remove all existing mud, vegetation and organic matter by machine to enable standing water to drain towards existing and/or proposed drainage ditches, and to expose and leave intact any hard aggregate below. Minimum width specified by WSCC PROW Officer.
9. Footpath to be constructed with 1 in 40 (2.5%) camber (centre high) or crossfall as specified by WSCC PROW Officer to help shed water from surface.
10. Limestone Dust to be rolled a minimum four times. Stabilisation to be encouraged by surface dampening whilst rolling.
11. Comparable clean recycled products containing no glass, metals or plastics may be acceptable for bridleway construction layers, but must be inspected and approved by WSCC before supply to site.

OPTION A	
<i>Sub-base</i>	
Clean material suitable for use as a sub-base with grading approximately 75mm to dust (e.g. crushed chalk or similar quarried stone)	175-225
<i>Surface / Top Dressing</i>	
Type 1 Limestone	100
Limestone Dust	25



General Notes

Safe and convenient public access is to be available at all times across the full width of the PROW, which may be wider than the available and used route – advice on the legal width can be provided by the WSCC PROW Team.

The path is not to be obstructed by vehicles, plant, scaffolding or the temporary storage of materials and / or chemicals during any works. These will constitute an offence of obstruction under the Highways Act 1980.

No new structures, such as gates and stiles, are to be installed within the width of the PROW without the prior consent of the WSCC PROW Team. These will constitute an offence of obstruction under the Highways Act 1980.

Any down pipes or soakaways associated with the development should discharge into an existing or new drainage system and away from the surface of the PROW. No drainage system is to be installed through the surface of the path without the prior consent of the WSCC PROW Team.

Where the ground levels adjacent to the PROW are to be raised above existing ground levels, this could increase the potential to flood the path. A suitable drainage system

must be installed adjacent to the path to a specification agreed with the WSCC PROW Team prior to development commencing.

Any alteration to or replacement of the existing boundary with the PROW, or the erection of new fence lines, must be done in consultation with the WSCC PROW Team to ensure the legal width of the path is not reduced and there is no unlawful encroachment.

Access along a PROW by contractors' vehicles, deliveries or plant is only lawful if the applicant can prove it has a vehicular right; without this an offence under the Road Traffic Act 1988 section 34(1) is being committed.

It is an offence to damage the surface of a PROW without the prior consent of the WSCC PROW Team. The applicant must supply a specification and secure the approval of the WSCC PROW Team before works affecting the PROW begin, even if the surface is to be improved. Where a PROW surface is damaged and there was no prior consent, the applicant will be liable and required to make good the surface to a standard satisfactory to the WSCC PROW Team.

Where it is necessary to undertake works within the legal width of a PROW, e.g. install utilities, (or for development works immediately adjacent to a PROW that can not reasonably be managed through different Health and Safety practice) the applicant must be advised to apply to WSCC PROW Team for a temporary path closure. The applicant must be advised there is no guarantee an application will be approved; that a minimum of 8 weeks is needed to consider an application.

Consented development is often subject to various environmental requirements, which can impact on the availability of PROW. For example, Great Crested Newt fencing has often been known to be laid across a PROW, which is either subject to installation of unauthorised stiles or gates, or unlawfully diverted around the site edge. The applicant must be advised that any environmental licence, such as from Natural England, does not negate the need to provide the legal line of a PROW without additional structures.

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Rights of Way information is not definitive.

Donna Trethewey
Planning and Communities Officer
Public Rights of Way
West Sussex County Council

Please do not reply directly to this email.

Any formal reconsultation on the application should be directed to [REDACTED] but the responding officer can be contacted directly via email if there are any questions relating to this response.

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