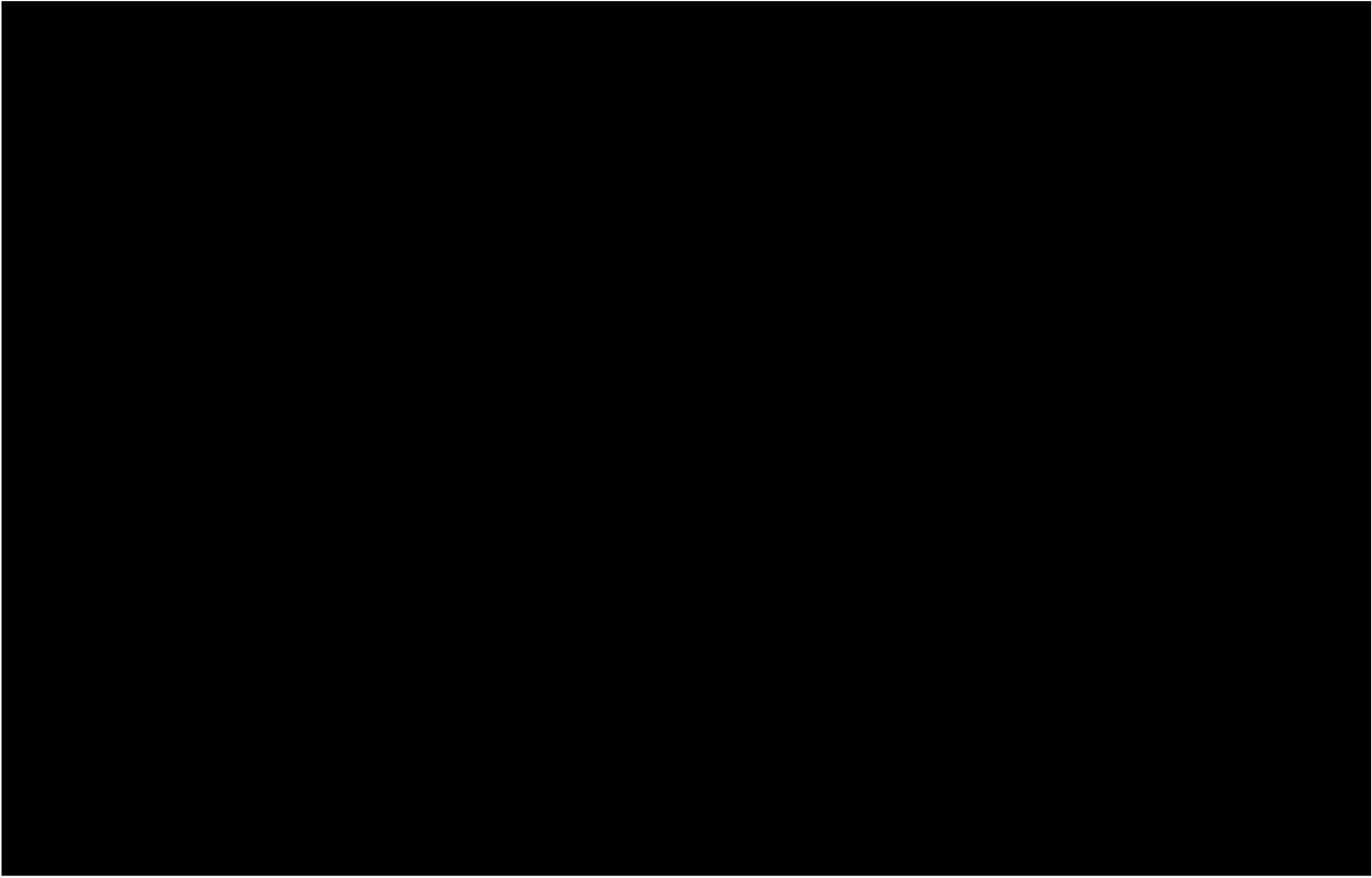




From: Nick Scott [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 January 2014 13:53
To: Cian Cronin
Cc: Katrina Harper
Subject: Comments further to Planning Application. Ref: Y/87/13 (Installation of solar farm on land south west of Drove Lane Farm) FP155

Dear Cian,

Further to a recent email from Adrian Hunter regarding the above named planning application I am responding with comments from the public rights of way team within WSCC.

Having looked at this application there is a considerable effect on the public footpath that runs along Drove Land, south from Bonhams Farm, that is proposed to be used for construction traffic. Having discussed this issue with the local ranger it seems that this route is a made up route with the majority being concrete track and then a short section up to the proposed access into the site being made up of hardcore. This is at present considered suitable for vehicular use and it is stated that it may require improvement to accommodate construction traffic along this route in the design and access statement and it would be important that WSCC are consulted and specifications are agreed before any works take place as we are the highways authority and this route does carry a public footpath. If the surface is not improved however any damage done to this route by construction traffic must be reinstated to its original state, prior to access that may have damaged it, so pedestrian access for lawful users is not interrupted or restricted in any way.

The issue of construction traffic using this route is in itself another issue as this will inevitably lead to an increase of vehicles using this public footpath. Firstly it is important that strictly speaking any private vehicular rights of access must give precedent to the public right of

access on foot as public rights do take precedent over private rights. Secondly signage would also be required informing both path users and vehicular users of the dual use of this route.

Due to the whole of Drove Lane included in this application being public footpath it should not be restricted or blocked at any stage without a legal temporary closure order which can be sought from the public rights of way team at WSCC. Having said this a process of using banksmen can be employed when vehicles are using the route if necessary so path users are not put at any undue risk when exercising their public right.

Finally on Drawing No. 2563_101_REV F it is shown that footpath resurfacing is proposed for the section south, from the vehicular access into the site opposite the "existing trees", south to the Ryebank Rife. This of course would be a benefit to the existing route as I have been informed that this is currently an unmade surface. There is no specific legal width reported for this stretch of footpath but I would ask for a minimum useable width of 2m to made available to accommodate the public right of pedestrian access and ideally a rolled stone surface to be laid to a specification agreed with WSCC prior to works beginning. The only other point I wish to make on this is that the legal line is shown to run south from the access into the site on the western side of a ditch and then crosses over to the eastern side of this ditch approximately half way down toward the Ryebank Rife. I am still awaiting confirmation of this from the local access ranger for the area which she should be able to confirm later next week. If it does cross over then there may be issues with the current structure however I will update you on this at my nearest convenience after my colleague has visited the site.

If you require any further information then do please get in touch otherwise I will be back in touch sometime next week to clarify the legal line and possible crossing of the drainage ditch.

Kind regards,

Nick Scott

Senior Rights of Way Officer

Nick Scott (Senior Rights of Way Officer, Public Rights of Way, Countryside Services, West Sussex County Council)
Location: 1st Floor Northleigh, Tower Street, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1RH



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