



21/12/2012

Dear Sir / Madam,

Ref: Application for prior notification of agricultural or forestry development – proposed road.

In regard to the attached application, this letter lays out the answers as required to Section 5, 'Is the proposed development reasonably necessary for the purposes of agriculture?' And section 5 'Is the proposed development designed for the purposes of agriculture?'

The application has been submitted as an agreed joint application between myself as owner of The Tournerbury Woods Estate and my neighbour, Mr Graham Phillips, owner of Tournerbury Farm. Currently I am entitled to a 24 hour a day, unencumbered Right of Way through the middle of Tournerbury Farm yard for all persons and vehicles travelling to and from Tournerbury Woods. This Right of Way is causing difficulties for Mr Phillips in running Tournerbury Farm, especially in regard to his Beef livestock herd (Part of the successful local produce initiative – The Three Harbours Beef scheme).

Health and Safety and Animal Welfare –

Under the terms of the Right of Way, Mr Phillips is not allowed to prevent free passage to and from Tournerbury Woods for any reason, at any time. This causes extreme difficulties and raises Health and Safety issues, both for farm workers and for the well-being of the cattle during times of movement both to and from the barns and when veterinary procedures are taking place in the farm yard. The Right of Way in order to form a safe working corral however if a vehicle arrives in the farm yard on route to the barns, Mr Phillips is required by law to stop what he is doing, move the cattle out of the farm yard onto Tournerbury Marsh or into the barns and open the gates to the corral immediately to allow free passage.

This inevitably leads to considerable difficulties in managing cattle movements and undertaking veterinary procedures in the farm yard and tends to become a stressful situation for both farm workers and the cattle through adding complexity and unnecessary delays to what should be normal farm operations.

Security –

The terms of The Right of Way make no allowance for locking or padlocking of gates across the Right of Way. This causes Mr Phillips extreme difficulty in that he is unable to secure the farmyard during the night or when on holiday, leaving valuable equipment and livestock potentially vulnerable to theft.

The Right of Way makes no allowance even for gates to be erected; however I have not as yet taken the matter of Mr Phillips's corral gates through the legal process as we get on well as neighbours and I am sympathetic to his needs in running a small farming operation and the difficulties my Right of Way causes.

Access to the West of the farm / Disturbance to neighbours in Beech Grove / Tournerbury Lane –

Currently, when agricultural work is being undertaken in the 12 acre field to the south of Laburnum Grove and Beech Grove, heavy machinery is driven up Tournerbury Lane and down Beech Grove. Whilst this activity is not 'every day', it nonetheless causes disruption and inconvenience to the residents of Beech Road and therefore having a dedicated road that is contained within the farming unit will aid both local residents and the farming operations.

Forestry operations in Tournerbury Woods –

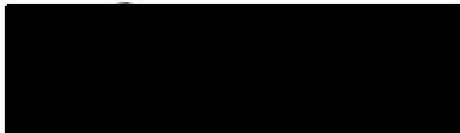
Tournerbury Woods is managed as a diverse and vibrant woodland estate and over the next few years, some of the 14,000 trees that were planted after the 1987 October Hurricane will require coppicing and felling for timber sales and healthy woodland management. Alongside this, seawall repair work is urgently required to protect the woods along our foreshore and once a plan of action has been agreed with Chichester Harbour Conservancy, a program of works will be implemented. Both of these operations will result in increased disruption in Tournerbury Farmyard over a substantial period of time and without the proposed road, will result in ongoing and increased hampering of both Farming operations in Tournerbury Farm and Forestry operations in Tournerbury Woods.

Sustainable Conservation and Protection of Scheduled Ancient Monument –

Part of Tournerbury Woods is the Tournier Bury, a scheduled ancient monument consisting of a unique earthwork fortification believed to be up to 2000 years old. The existing access road runs right across it and through it. English Heritage has recently come to inspect the monument's condition and to ensure that we are managing the environment in and around the monument to high standards of conservation and sustainability. The only negative point that came from that inspection was how much better it would be for the long term conservation of the monument if the Woods access road ceased to run through it. Given this, English Heritage fully supports this application. Please see attached letter.

I hope the above covers all relevant points and look forward to hearing from you, if necessary,

Yours sincerely,



Christopher Snell
Tournerbury Woods Estate

