

Consultation

Hassocks – Proposal to create a new permissive bridleway along part of Footpath 5k

1. The existing path and background to the proposal – see plan numbered

On 13 December 2021 the Planning Inspectorate confirmed a diversion order made by Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) for the diversion of part of footpath 5K which runs east from A273 London Road, on the northern side of Hassocks. The diversion was necessary to enable the development of 130 new dwellings on land east of London Road. A copy of the confirmed MSDC diversion order plan which details the extent of the diversion can be found below for information.

As part of the public rights of way improvements associated with the development, the developers agreed to allow permissive bridleway use of the diverted path, from London Road until the eastern edge of the development site as shown by way of a red line on the attached plan numbered 12212/111 below.

With the agreement from Network Rail to upgrade the newly constructed underpass at Woodside Crossing to bridleway and the ongoing discussions with the developers of land east of the railway line, it is hoped that in the future there will be for continuity for non-motorised users (pedestrians, equestrians and cyclists) from London Road to Ockley Lane.

By entering into a formal permissive agreement with the County Council, the future of the path, for use by equestrians and cyclists (in addition to the existing pedestrian use) can be secured for an agreed period, in this case 10 years. After the initial 10-year period, permissive bridleway rights will continue until such time that either party give the required notice as set out in the permissive agreement. Existence of the permissive agreement will enable it to be waymarked as a permissive bridleway and to receive inspection and maintenance attention as part of the County Council's routine path maintenance cycle.

2. Consultations

On 21 June 2023 a copy of this consultation report was sent to the relevant user groups and other interested parties with the request that any comments be submitted by 19 July 2023. Notice of the consultation was also included in the Members' Bulletin. Before proceeding with any legal order, careful consideration will be given to all comments received.

3. West Sussex Rights of Way Management Plan, Human Rights Act 1998, Equality Act 2010 and Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Implications

In considering this application the County Council's responsibilities under the provisions of the above have been taken into account.

4. Costs and works

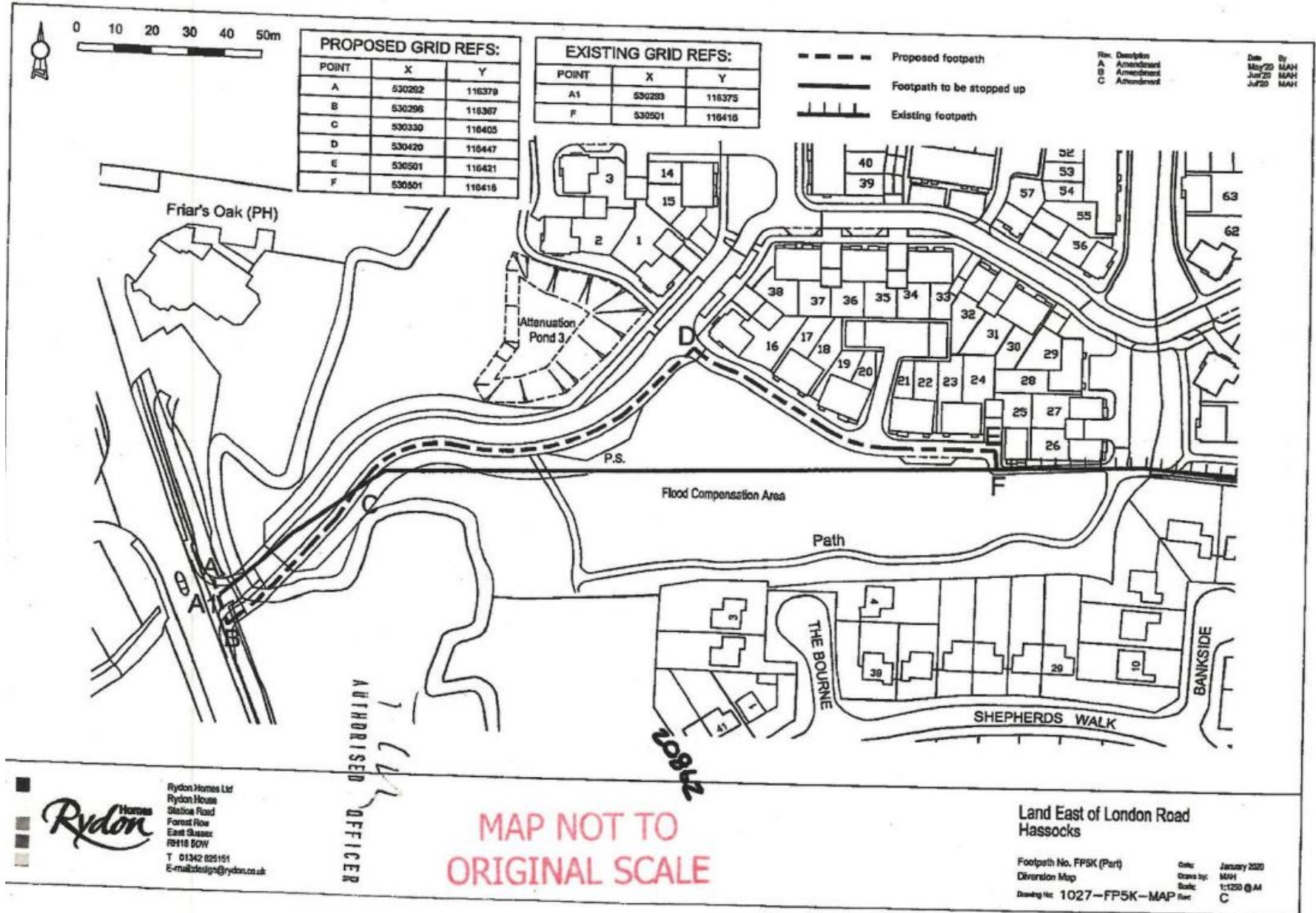
The developer has agreed to cover all costs associated with the construction of the permissive bridleway to a standard and specification that is acceptable to the County Council. All works carried out will be subject to inspection and certification by Rights of Way Officers prior to the agreement being brought into effect. WSCC will be responsible for the waymarking cost.

7. General conclusion

This permissive bridleway, together with future proposals to deliver further bridleways in the surrounding location will provide a range of non-motorised users an extensive off-road route between London Road and Ockley Lane. The co-operation of the relevant landowners is very much appreciated.

Ami Dye
Senior Rights of Way Officer

MSDC confirmed Section 257 Diversion Order plan.



Extent of permissive bridleway ---



PROV Route • 1:500



PROV Build-up • 1:500

LEGEND

- 1. Indicated on right and identified existing routes that are to be shown or altered on the drawing have been proposed to the planning authorities, subject to approval of the relevant planning authorities, which may be subject to conditions and for the purposes of an order of the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.
- 2. Areas with a green background are to be used for the purposes of the proposed development.
- 3. Areas with a yellow background are to be used for the purposes of the proposed development.
- 4. Areas with a purple background are to be used for the purposes of the proposed development.
- 5. Areas with a blue background are to be used for the purposes of the proposed development.

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Existing path and location

