

The 'GREEN LANE'

Dating over 150 years with veteran oaks, field maples and hawthorn, this corridor would be cut through by cable construction. There are 22 trees in the cable construction crossing here as marked in the DCO order limits, at least 11 of which are marked to be removed in the centre. 5 are significant oak trees of over 2.5M girth, but the greatest significance is the continuity of this wildlife corridor that comes directly from Buckhatch Lane which can be dated to before 1649.

Photo showing wildlife corridors of badger/deer path, ditch and bank boundary



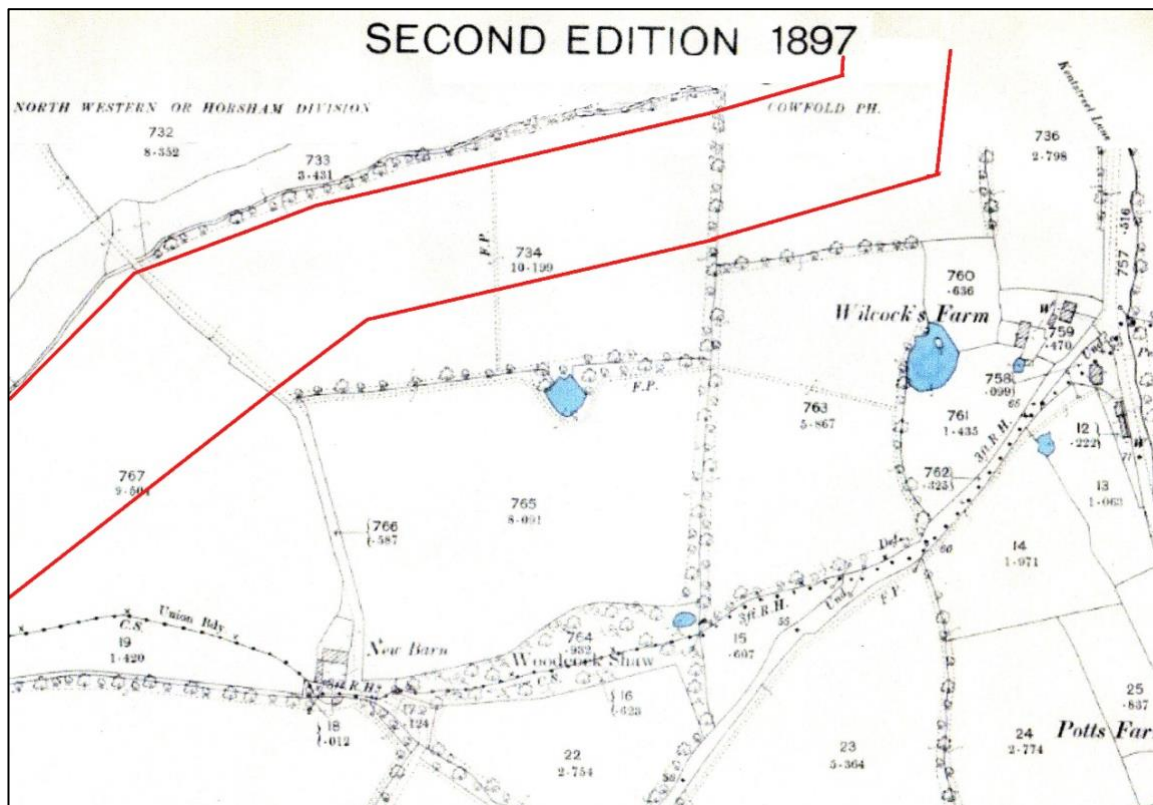
The oak to the left is in the centre of the route and will be cut down. The ditch path bisected by the cable trench.





Tree Boundary/Green Lane between Moatfield Lane and Wilcocks Farm on Kent Street, marked for tree loss

This map shows the density of trees and the wildlife corridor coming from Buckhatch Lane, across Woodcock Shaw

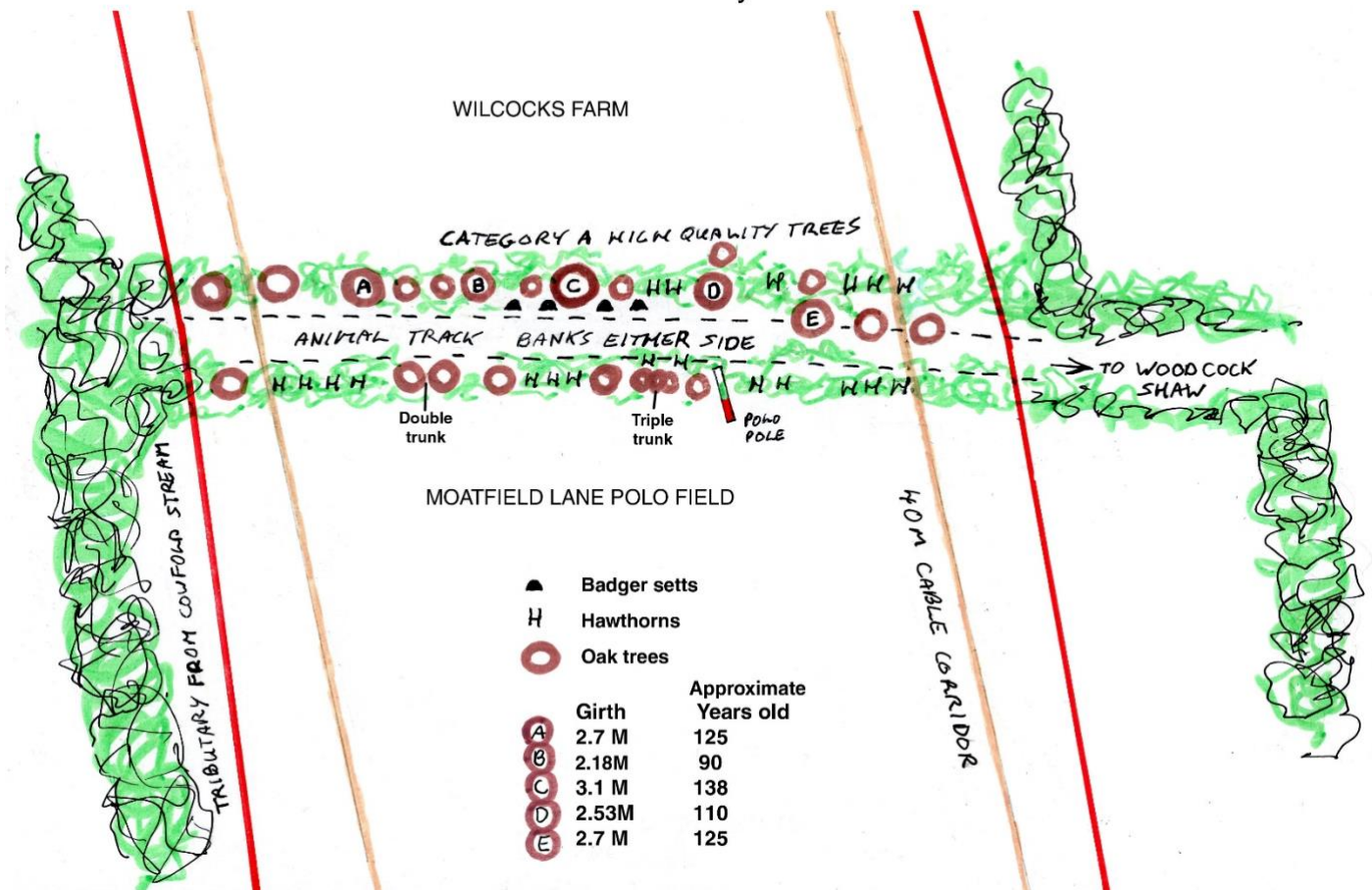


The Green Lane is on a further map in Horsham Library dated between 1843 - 1892 Map Centre Ref: 522657, 121288



Landscape character of double tree boundary, 30m of the centre would be removed

Green Lane Double Tree Boundary - 'trees to be removed'



Perry Hockin of Arborweald suggests that these trees are likely to be much older as they have all grown very close together and show many other indicators of age

The trees in the DCO documentation are group labelled as G35 and although they are ringed by a green line indicating category A 'high quality' no mature oaks or single trees are marked out which fails to draw attention to their maturity, veteran features and wildlife value. On less detailed maps they are not even indicated as being woodland.

The Woodland Trust defines a Veteran tree as: A tree with habitat features such as wounds or decay.

Evidence of decay processes, such as hollowing in the trunk, fruit bodies of fungi known to cause wood decay and cavities or rot holes (eg. where limbs have broken off or bark is damaged).
Significant amounts of dead wood: many dead limbs or branches (larger than 20cm in diameter) in the crown or fallen.'

Trees with these veteran features are shown in the photos below and are all in the cable path.

Although Rampion have surveyed the trees as category 'A' High Quality Trees in the DCO maps, no mitigation has been put forward, nor mention of its history, landscape or value as an ecological corridor.

Rampion's Tree Assessment

Rampion 2 Tree loss (with scrub damage or loss) in the Cable route from Gratwicke to Oakendene and Oakendene to Bolney Substation From Annex 2: Arboricultural Impact Plans. Inset 38, 39, 43, 44, 47 'TO BE REMOVED'							
Location of losses	Single tree High Quality	Single tree Moderate Quality	low	Tree Group High Quality	Moderate Quality	Low quality	Scrub/comments
Gratwicke		T542, T529, T530	T478	G430	G400		G349 low quality is moled under. Why?
Crateman's Farm					G251, G263 G265 G270 G271		Haul road tree boundary Drain + 6-8m thick scrub With dense scrub Scrub and 3 trees Tip of dense scrub
Moatfield Farm							Managed hedge loss only
Bakers polo field/Wilcocks Farm				G35 G27			11 trees almost all oaks Double tree boundary
Kings Lane (10 properties)			T56				Hedge and verge wildflower loss. Visible to lane at four places
Taintfield Farm				G264			Difficult to assess tree loss as grouped
Oakendene	T337, T279, T275, T271, T270, T265, T262, T259, T255, T250, T247, T329, T318	T281, T277, T261, T230, T328, T327, T326, T325, T324, T280, T303, T299	T331, T344, T340	G257 G215,	G197		13 high quality trees and 12 deemed moderate 3 poor 2 high quality tree groups 1 moderate
East of Kent Street	T296	T239, T238, T288		G132			Difficult to assess group
Eastridge Park Stud					G142, G147		Difficult to assess group
Oakfield Farm field		T224		G155	G154		Two visual boundaries of trees destroyed
West Wineham Lane					G218		Difficult to assess group
Totals	14 + 19 + 5 = 38 individual trees			8 + 11 = 19 Groups. Propose 4 each = 76 [One group known to lose 11 High quality]			Minimum loss 114 trees 46 'High quality'

Green Lane Trees with veteran features



Oak tree with double trunk, branches bending to the ground and hollows in trunks at the base



Hollows in hawthorn



Hawthorn with split and hollow trunk



Hawthorn hollow trunks

Oak with triple trunk and fungi with fruiting bodies at the base



At least 138 year old oak with dead lower branches bent to the ground but well alive at the crown



THE GREEN LANE G35/W110

During the examination period the following request was made to Rampion

Applicant to consider the significance given to the hedgerow/treeline known locally as the 'green lane' labelled as (W110) in the Outline Code of Construction Practice in Appendix B Vegetation Retention Plans and Pond Retention Plans Figure 7.2.6m [REP3-025] and justification for its removal

Response from Rampion:

The Applicant notes that the feature W110 would not be removed in its entirety but is shown on Figure 7.2.1k in Appendix B of the Outline Code of Construction Practice [REP3-025] (updated at Deadline 4) as being subject to the loss of up to 14m (one 6m notch and four 2m notches). This follows the embedded environmental measures employed on the project of notching hedgerows and treelines. Appendix 22.16: Arboricultural Impact Assessment, Volume 4 of the Environmental Statement [APP-194] (updated at Deadline 4) shows this as two features (G29 and G35). G29 shows the understorey that as a grown out hedgerow and G35 are the hedgerows standard trees (all of which are Category A status). These trees are not veteran or ancient and are akin to others that are assumed to be lost in the realistic worst-case scenario.'

*'During detailed design loss of the standard trees would seek to be avoided or minimised **as far as practicable** by following the mitigation hierarchy (as per commitment C-292) by micro-siting the cable trenches and haul road through existing gaps. This is subject to detailed design and will be confirmed in the stage specific Codes of Construction Practice to be provided pursuant to Requirement 22 of the Draft Development Consent Order [REP3-003] (updated at Deadline 4). In response to this Action Point, the Applicant has also considered application of a trenchless crossing in this area. It is noted that this would not avoid all loss as a haul road of 6m would still be required for continued access along the cable corridor. An additional trenchless crossing would be expected to result in additional traffic movements for the set up and required plant during the works using Access A-61 from Kent Street and addition of noise during the 24-hour working required which would require further mitigation. In addition, there would be additional temporary land take for the trenchless crossing beyond that identified with the landowner to date.*

***'While minor benefits would be apparent from an ecological and landscape and visual perspective, when considered alongside the additional construction costs of approximately £600,000 this is not considered proportionate given the significance of the features described above and that some loss would still occur even with the trenchless crossing'** For these reasons, no change is proposed to the design and the embedded environmental mitigation measure of a reduced maximum 14m loss will be provided.*

It appears that Rampion's answer is just a matter of financial cost and engineering inconvenience, accompanied by a threat of further disturbance to residents who are otherwise facing the destruction of the landscape and severing of the wildlife corridor permanently which does not add up!

The significance of a decades-old wildlife corridor, historic value of the bank and ditch boundary, the value of high-quality oak trees as well as others noted with veteran features, and the continuum of the canopy are again simply not assessed in any detail because of the cost and inconvenience to the Applicant.

The Applicant has determined 'minor benefits' when they do not appear to have assessed the Green Lane feature in landscape and visual, historic or connected habitat terms at all. The only assessments seem to be in terms of High Quality trees which can be offset with BNG units. This feature cannot be put back in our lifetimes, yet the turbines only last 30 years.

We presented an assessment from a professional arboriculturalist Alex Livingstone, Principal Arboriculturalist at Arborweald which stated 'The mature oak element includes veteran trees that are exhibiting numerous ecological and habitat features, including decay pockets, dysfunctional wood and larger diameter dead wood, all of which significantly increase the ecological importance of these trees.' The badger survey presented in April identified the honeycombed network of setts connected through this track. None of this has been acknowledged.

This Green Lane W110 does not even show up on the vegetation retention maps as if it were one line of no significance with no impact discernible. It is not flat land with a fence to be taken down as it appears.

Above this entry in the document, the Planning Inspectorate have asked for the justification of the loss of category A trees in TE2.6 a), b) and c) Each is met with the reason, 'Engineering complexity and increased cost' twice and 'the avoidance of the remaining category A trees is not reflected in policy and the cost'.

Oakfield Farm

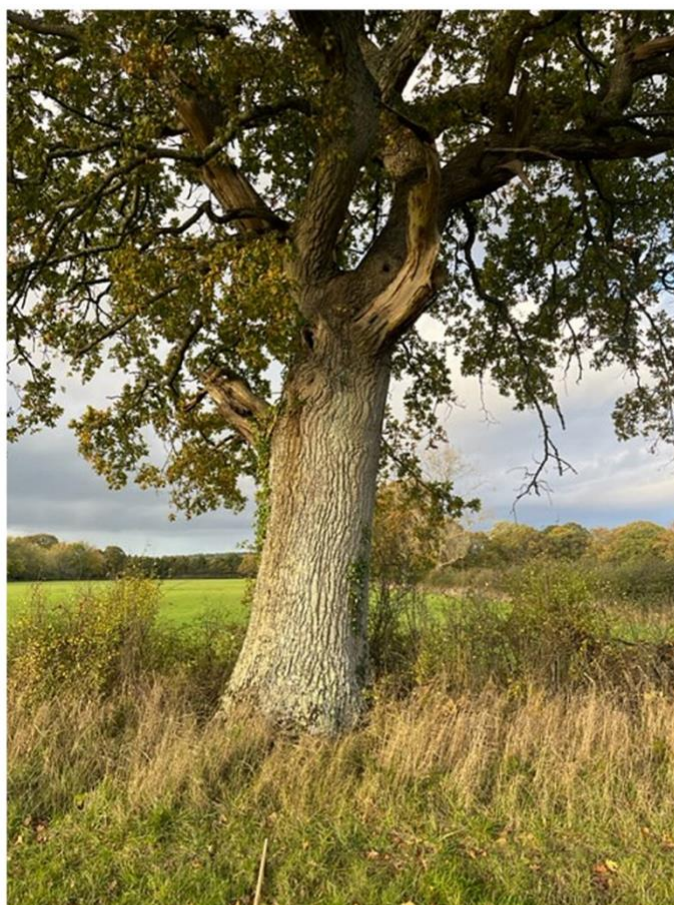
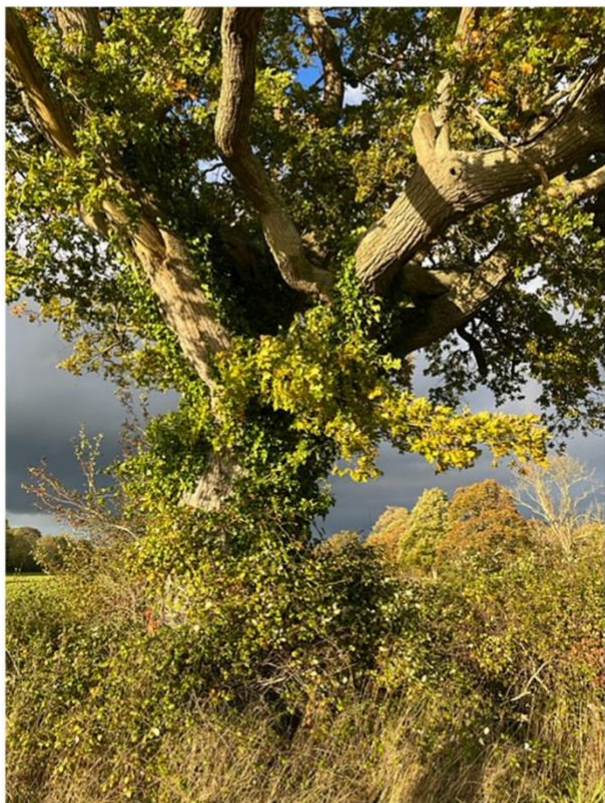


Oakfield Farm field, North boundary including oaks and horse chestnuts



Oakfield Farm, East side tree boundary oak trees

**Oakendene trees with veteran features of
hollows and dead limbs, but healthy growth**
T265 and T262



The industrialisation of Kent Street



From SA1 REP4-026
not showing ground shaping, vegetation
and tree loss or H505 cleared to 20m

The same place photographed in July 2024
H505 to be cleared to the right of gate



From the same spot: the continuous tree canopy, scrub patches and verge with borrowed views across the fields



Further north still showing H505 on the left, cleared
to 20m also showing the condition of the road structure

Kent Street Junction with A272



From SA2 REP4-026
Photo dated 2020 with layby missing
and post box long relocated to West side

Not showing any proposed changes of
trees and scrub lost in the middle of the view
for HGV access ie no screening remains

Current view of A272 from Kent Street,
On the left corner trees will be lost permanently
and scrub for more than a decade



The sides of Kent Street at the northern end
are high banks, drainage ditches and trees
with borrowed views of fields
and free access to wildlife.

Widening, clearing vegetation, adding large
structured passing places and using closeboard
fences destroys this and threatens flooding

The hazel dormice may be using
any of these verge areas - there is
hazel in the middle of this photo
and randomly throughout

Deer in Oakendene Parkland
adjacent to Kent Street 1 July 2024

