

Request by Interested Parties to request an Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI) and to attend it.

Deadline 16th January 2024

I am aware that several Cowfold residents have contacted you to request various ASIs regarding the ecology locally and issues concerning several of the very small single-track lanes which will be adversely affected by the proposals. These various concerns could be dealt with by one visit if appropriately planned.

I am therefore writing on behalf of CowfoldvRampion (Interested party number 20045099) to request **an accompanied site visit to the Cratemans Farm area, the Cowfold Stream and to the green lane between Moatfield Lane and Kent Street, up to the Oakendene substation location, preferably in May**, as this would be the most suitable time from a meadowland and habitats point of view; the dates set aside in July would be too late. This would also require you to drive down Dragons Lane and Moatfield Lane, so would accomplish several things at the same time. We believe the site visit will give you a much better idea of how rural this location is and the issues it will face.

We are aware you have already done an unaccompanied visit to the entrance to Dragons Lane but that does not give you a true idea of how narrow and difficult it becomes further down, or how long it is.

You have also walked down the first part of Kent Street from the A272, but in order to gain an understanding of what it is like further down, and the ecological sensitivity of the area around Cratemans Farm, the Cowfold Stream and across the fields to Oakendene we believe a site visit would facilitate this. There are no farm tracks or roads there at all, only wildflower meadows, dense areas of scrub where nightingales nest, fields where adders and grass snakes live and breed, and badgers have their homes. The wildlife corridors and connectivity will be disrupted, the haul road will compact and destroy the area and will have to remain in place for the entire project, in order to avoid the AQMA in Cowfold, causing irreparable harm to habitats and species, and disturbance to residents. It would be much easier to understand the references made in our reports and people's representations if you have visited the area yourself. It would also help to better understand the heritage impacts on Oakendene Manor and its setting, and on Cratemans Farmstead.

Similarly, the reality of Moatfield/Kings Lane and it being the only access to a number of homes, and not just a bridleway/ PRow, as well as the extent of the disruption caused to these people over the years of construction would be much easier to appreciate if visited.

It would also be easy to combine the visit with a drive into the side lanes on the opposite side of the A272, such as Picts Lane and Bulls Lane, as the use of these tiny lanes as rat runs when there is congestion on the A272 has also been raised and an ASI suggested by residents there.

Much of the land is accessible/ visible from public footpaths but the consent of the relevant landowners has been sought and obtained., should it be necessary to depart from the footpaths.

Myself, Susan Davies and Janine Creaye would like to accompany you throughout, to demonstrate the ecologically sensitive sites. The Dragons Lane and Cratemans section will also be accompanied by Tim Facer, the owner of Cratemans Farm. Other landowners will accompany the relevant sections as appropriate. Mr Paul Lightburn will attend the Moatfield/Kings Lane Section.

We do hope you will agree to this visit to assist understanding of the site and the issues involved. Please let me know if you require any additional information.