



The countryside charity
Sussex

CPRE Sussex
Brownings Farm
Blackboys
East Sussex TN22 5HG
Telephone 01825 890975
info@cpresussex.org.uk
www.cpresussex.org.uk

Horsham District Local Plan 2023-40 Consultation (Regulation 19)

CPRE Sussex response to:

STRATEGIC POLICY 13: THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

1. We recommend that Strategic Policy 13: The Natural Environment and Landscape Character:2, which stipulates that proposals will be required to 'Maintain and enhance the Green Infrastructure Network, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and National Nature Recovery Network and, where practicable, help address any identified needs and deficiencies in these networks across the District', be reinforced by stipulating:

- i. Development proposals which reduce, block or harm the functions of green infrastructure should be avoided. Any loss or impact will be required to be adequately justified, minimised, mitigated or, as a last resort, compensated for, to ensure the integrity of the blue and green infrastructure network is maintained;
- ii. The strategic green network is afforded the highest protection due to its high value from existing or identified potential multiple functions, for example recreation, routeways, access to the countryside, wildlife and climate mitigation.
- iii. Development proposals should maximise the opportunity to maintain and extend green infrastructure links to form a multi-functional network of open space, providing opportunities for walking and cycling.
- iv. Cross-boundary matters relating to green infrastructure should be considered and incorporated at the early stage of an application.
- v. Large development proposals will be required to provide new and/or create links to green infrastructure as well as take into consideration the use of SuDS and methods that incorporate blue infrastructure into development designs to improve the visual amenity of the development and to aid in reducing surface water run-off,
- vi. Where possible, Natural England's Accessible Natural Green Space Standard recommendations and the Woodland Trust's Woodland Access Standard should be used to assess a development proposal's location in relation to existing accessible natural green space and woodland.

And applications should secure benefits for the purpose of pollination and biodiversity as part of their on-site landscaping schemes, including green roofs and green walls, where soft landscaping at ground level is limited.

To promote, enhance and protect a thriving countryside for everyone's benefit

President: Lord Egremont

Campaign to Protect Rural England Sussex Branch CIO | Registered charity number: 1156568

Facebook : www.facebook.com/CPRESussex | Twitter : @cpresussex

2. The Local Nature Recovery Strategy cited at Strategic Policy 13:2 is presumably the West Sussex Nature Recovery Strategy. This strategy is a work in progress with an expectation that it will be published in the summer of 2025. This should be stated in the policy.

3. The National Nature Recovery Network, cited in the policy, is (apparently) yet to be published. This should also be stated in the policy.

Dr R F Smith

Trustee CPRE Sussex