

Arboricultural Method Statement

*relating to development at
Green Circle,
Burgess Hill*

Client
Bellway

January 2025

2301-KC-XX-YTREE-MethodStatement-RevC

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Document history

Revision	Issue Status	Details	Approved/Date
Rev0	Final	Initial report	JK / 01 July 2024
RevA	Final	Updated Arboricultural Method Statement	JK / 03 July 2024
RevB	Final	Updated Arboricultural Method Statement	JK / 18 November 2024
RevC	Final	Updated Arboricultural Method Statement	JK / 15 January 2025

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ABSTRACT

Protective barriers are required throughout the construction process to protect the retained trees on the site.

Scrub removal and tree pruning are required.

Specialist construction of sections of pathway are required in areas as shown on the Allen Pyke drawings.

No utility installation is required within root protection areas.

1.0 Statement of purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this method statement is to demonstrate how works will be undertaken at the Freeks Lane section of the Green Circle, Burgess Hill, to avoid unacceptable arboricultural impact and provide an adequate level of protection for those trees that are to be retained.
- 1.2 This method statement has been produced for Bellway in order to inform the construction team and satisfy the requirements of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Mid Sussex District Council. The works require reserved matters approval and this arboricultural method statement has been prepared to support the submission of that reserved matters application.
- 1.3 This method statement merely considers the systems of work in relation to the health and safety of retained trees. It does not address requirements of the Health and Safety Executive that should be considered in detail by those parties involved.

2.0 Related documents and drawings

- 2.1 This method statement should be read in conjunction with the documents in Table 1 and drawings in Table 2 below.

3.0 Arboricultural issues & implications

- 3.1 Detail of the trees and their protection are discussed and detailed in the documents, and shown on the drawings, listed below and should be read in conjunction with this method statement.
- 3.2 The proposed upgrading of the route ensures a useable surface where users may embrace the surrounding landscape. Currently the route is degraded in places, including waterlogging. This is leading to alternative routes being taken that, in turn, is degrading adjoining woodland. Upgrading the route will therefore reduce impacts on adjoining woodland.
- 3.3 Sections of the proposed route will be constructed using specialist techniques (as approved by WSCC) to avoid harm to adjoining trees.
- 3.4 Small sections of scrub need to be removed and modest tree pruning to provide height clearance over the route is required.

3.5 Utility provision is not needed to serve the route.

3.6 Arboricultural advice and monitoring shall be provided during the works.

Table 1: Documents referred to

Originator	Title/Reference
British Standards Institute	<i>BS5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations</i>
West Sussex County Council	<i>Guidance Notes for Landowners – public rights of way – Equestrian Access</i>

Table 2: Drawings referred to

Originator	Drg No	Title
Allen Pyke	3034-APA-ZZ-XX-SK-L-0014 Rev P03	Green Link Path
Allen Pyke	3034-APA-ZZ-XX-SK-L-0015 Rev P03	Green Link Path
Allen Pyke	3034-APA-ZZ-XX-SK-L-0016 Rev P03	Green Link Path
Allen Pyke	3034-APA-ZZ-XX-SK-L-0017 Rev P03	Green Link Path
Allen Pyke	3034-APA-ZZ-XX-SK-L-0018 Rev P03	Green Link Path
Allen Pyke	3034-APA-ZZ-XX-SK-L-0019 Rev P03	Green Link Path
Allen Pyke	3034-APA-ZZ-XX-SK-L-0020 Rev P03	Green Link Path
Allen Pyke	3034-APA-ZZ-XX-SK-L-0022 Rev P03	Green Link Path
Allen Pyke	3034-APA-ZZ-XX-SK-L-0023 Rev P03	Green Link Path
Allen Pyke	3034-APA-ZZ-XX-DT-L-3005 Rev P02	Typical details : Section through timber bridge

WSCC	14259/1 Rev A	Footpath (Rural)
WSCC	14399/1	Bridleway
Aecom	60566220_TREE_TCP_001	Tree Constraints Plan (sheets 1 to 36)

4.0 Facilitation tree works

- 4.1 Where small sections of scrub have obscured the route they shall be removed to reinstate the surface.
- 4.2 Along the route there are several low branches that inhibit use. These can be pruned to provide 3.75m height clearance over the route in accordance with West Sussex County Council guidance (see Appendix 1).
- 4.3 Ash trees shall be inspected for Ash Dieback and works advised accordingly.
- 4.4 All tree work shall be undertaken in accordance with *BS3998:2010:Tree Work – Recommendations*.

5.0 General site care

- 5.1 To ensure that the trees to be retained are afforded an adequate degree of protection during the works, the following general precautions will be observed:
 - 5.1.1 No fires will be lit on site
 - 5.1.2 No access will be permitted within the temporarily barriered areas, unless and only where otherwise approved herein. Ground levels will not be changed within them and existing vegetation and topsoil will be left undisturbed but may be treated with approved herbicides if eradication is required.
 - 5.1.3 No materials, equipment or debris will be stored within any of the barriered areas and no chemicals, petrol or diesel will be allowed to spill where they may contaminate the root protection areas of retained trees.

- 5.1.4 All heavy plant, machinery, cranes and delivery vehicles shall be excluded from the areas demarcated for protection on the Tree Protection Plan.

6.0 Sequencing of works

- 6.1 A logical sequence of events is to be observed as follows:

Stage 1 Undertake tree works.

Stage 2 Erect protective barriers, for each work section, as shown on the drawing in Table 2 (specifications given in Section 7).

Stage 3 Implement upgrade works.

Stage 4 Relocate protective barriers as each section is complete.

Stage 5 Remove all protective barriers to open up route for use.

7.0 Protective barriers and ground protection

- 7.1 Temporary barriers will be erected around each work section to safeguard the work site and contain works in relation to adjoining trees. The specification for these barriers will be in accordance with the recommendations given in *BS5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations* Section 6.2. Heras type panels, fitted with stabiliser struts as per Figure 3 of BS5837, may be used. Clear signs will be attached at 6 metre intervals along the line of barriers stating 'Tree Protection Area – No Access'.
- 7.2 The temporary protective barriers will remain in position around each work section. As works progress so the barriers will be relocated. Once all works are complete the temporary barriers will be removed.

8.0 Treatment of existing hard surfaces

- 8.1 Where existing hard surfaces are present within the root protection area they shall be broken up and removed by machine. Final layers of surface shall be removed using handheld tools.

- 8.2 Roots often exist in the substrate below hard surfaces and extreme care must be taken to avoid damage to them.
- 8.3 Immediately after, the void left as a consequence of their removal shall be filled with good quality topsoil as a prelude to soft landscape unless a replacement hard surface is proposed whereupon it shall be completed in accordance with the instruction contained herein.

9.0 Creation of new hard surfacing within root protection areas

- 9.1 Sections of the route require no-dig surfacing in accordance with WSCC standard details. The location of these areas is shown on the Allen Pyke drawings listed in Table 2. The following approach is required.
- 9.2 Any deleterious materials and debris deposited in the area are to be taken up by a tracked 360° excavator working from the footprint of the route. Final clearance shall be undertaken by hand picking.
- 9.3 The proposed areas of 'no-dig' construction within root protection areas shall be carried out in the following manner, subject to the manufacturers and engineers instructions.
 - 9.3.1 Existing surface vegetation of grass will be cut with hand held tools/strimmer. The surface mat may be removed to a maximum of 50mm depth.
 - 9.3.2 Sharp sand is to be imported and spread over the area by hand equipment (wheelbarrows, shovels and rakes only) to bring the surface to an even level.
 - 9.3.3 A geotextile material such as Fibretex F4m is to be laid on the surface of the ground along the route.
 - 9.3.4 A 3-dimensional cellular confinement material such as Cellweb Tree Root Protection System supplied by Geosynthetic Technologies Ltd is to be laid on top of the geotextile membrane.
 - 9.3.5 Edging supports, where required, of railway sleepers or other treated timber are to be laid and pinned to the ground preferably through the cell confinement material.

9.3.6 The cells are to be filled with a no-fines aggregate commencing at the leading edge of the works and progressing forwards. Material can be imported to, and spread within, the working area by small excavators/dumpers providing they work only off the filled cells area.

9.3.7 Typical details of construction are shown on the WSCC drawings at Appendix 2.

10.0 Excavations proximate to root protection areas

10.1 Excavations are proposed proximate to the root protection area of retained trees to form bridge supports.

10.2 The supports require only small localised excavations to house a concrete pad or post. These can be dug using hand held tools. Roots over 25mm diameter shall be retained and the hole altered in shape and extent.

11.0 Reinstatement and landscaping

11.1 Final grading to marry in new levels with existing ground will be achieved using the as-dug material placed along the edge of the path.

11.2 Vegetation alongside the graded path edges shall be allowed to naturalise.

12.0 Planning, communication and supervision

12.1 A list of useful contacts is attached at Appendix 3.

12.2 A pre-commencement meeting will take place on site attended by the appointed arboricultural consultant, the tree contractor and the site manager. The purpose of this meeting is to ensure that everyone fully understands the implications of the arboricultural method statement and to agree on finer points of detail prior to any works commencing.

12.3 The appointed arboricultural consultant shall monitor the works at the following key stages:

12.3.1 Confirmation that protective measures are in place.

12.3.2 Commencement of upgrade works close to larger trees.

12.4 It shall be the duty of the client to notify the arboricultural consultant when the works are ready for inspection.

12.5 At the completion of each monitoring visit the appointed arboricultural consultant will circulate a short monitoring report to the client to confirm that works are progressing satisfactorily.

12.6 Monitoring visits will be undertaken by the arboricultural consultant at intervals commensurate with site progress, and as notified by the client, to make sure that all specialist measures are being utilised. A record of these visits will be kept and maintained for inspection on site.

12.7 Should any problems arise on site, the site manager will immediately inform the appointed arboricultural consultant who will assess the situation and make recommendations accordingly. If any modifications to the method statement are proposed, the arboricultural consultant will immediately advise the local authority arboricultural officer.

12.8 The site manager will brief all site personnel on the implications of the arboricultural method statement. A copy of this method statement will be available on site at all times. The progress reports detailed in Section 12.5 will be kept with the method statement so that both are readily available for inspection.

13.0 Transgression

- 13.1 Failure to adhere to the requirements in this method statement may result in a Stop Notice being issued by the local authority. This will bring all operations at the site to a halt until the local authority permits resumption.
- 13.2 The following measures will be required, but do not absolve the perpetrator from action, if the identified transgression occurs:
- a) Breakage of branches – the damaged shall be assessed by an arboriculturist, they shall advise on requirements and any pruning shall be undertaken in accordance with BS3998:2010 to remove the damaged section.
 - b) Damage to bark – the damage shall be assessed by an arboriculturist and they shall advise on the measures that can be taken to optimise the reparation of the damage. Some paring back of damage may be required.
 - c) Damage to roots – the damage shall be assessed by an arboriculturist and they shall advise on the pruning or reparation required.
 - d) Compaction of soil – where machinery operates outside of ground protection and hard surfaces, leading to the compaction of soil, the compaction shall be alleviated by using compressed air injected to circa 1m deep to create fissures in the ground and lift the compacted areas. The compaction shall be assessed by an arboriculturist. A specialist company (for example Terrain Aeration Ltd) shall be appointed by the contractor to undertake the work.
- 13.4 All items of transgression shall be reported to the Local Authority tree officer to consider if action should be taken.

14.0 Conclusion

- 14.1 If the provisions of this arboricultural method statement are complied with in full, the proposed works will be able to proceed without detrimental impact to retained trees.

Appendix 1

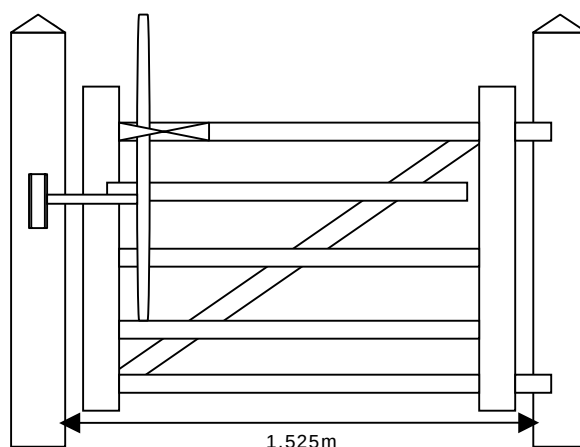
Guidance notes for Landowners – public rights
of way – Equestrian Access

GUIDANCE NOTES FOR LANDOWNERS – PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

EQUESTRIAN ACCESS

Structures

- As well as the individual, a horse-rider also has to manage a horse of independent mind, so it is important for access points such as gates on bridleways to be as user-friendly and as easy to operate as possible. Riders should not have to dismount to operate a gate.
- A minimum clear width of 1.525m must be available between the gateposts on bridleways.



- Where possible 2-way opening gates are preferred as it is far easier to open a gate in the direction of travel for both equestrians and other users.
- Gates should open to at least 90 degrees and swing easily on their hinges without need of lifting due to grounding. The lighter the gate the better.
- Self-closing devices should not sharply close any gate as this may frighten a horse. Weights should not be attached to gates to increase closure speed.
- Gates sited at a path's junction with road highways should be set back at least 4m from the road edge to allow horses room to stand without entering the road carriageway.
- The surface of the gateway should be firm and flat. Horses are not comfortable standing in a deep puddle or mud and dealing with uneven ground in the gateway increases the difficulty in operating the gate safely.

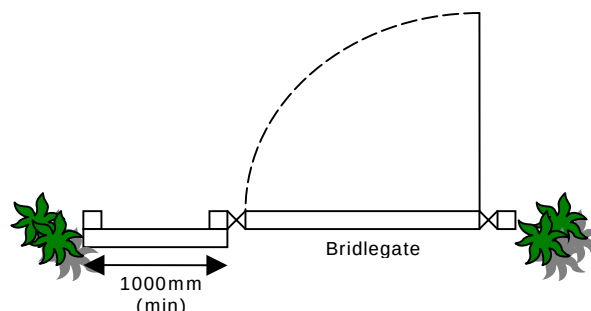
Handles, Catches and Loops

- There are various different types of handles and catches and loops found on gates with users varying in their preference.
- Ideally all should be operable with one hand, as a rider's other hand is needed to hold the reins and control the horse.
- All should be able to be operated equally easily from either side of the gate.

- Any fitting should not project into the width between gateposts as horses and riders may be injured trying to pass through the gate.
- It must be remembered that whatever fitting is used, this must be easily operable by all lawful path users including those with mobility or other impairment.

General Maintenance

- Gates are most easily operated from horseback by turning a horse parallel to the gate with its front feet by or just beyond the catch post. So as not to be in discomfort and to be able to turn its head, a minimum length of 1m should be cleared past the catch post and latch for a horse; this area, including any overhanging vegetation, may need clearance twice or more during a growing season.



- There should be no barbed wire or electric fencing capable of giving a shock inside the structure or within 1 metre of the structure or manoeuvring space.
- The entrance to a bridleway must be at least 1.525 metres wide, irrespective of whether there is a gate present, with greater width before and after the point of entry and clear of any obstructions and vegetation. An average horse needs a minimum of 2.9 metres turning space.
- Overgrowth at the sides of a bridleway should be cleared to a height of 3.75 metres to allow a rider to pass safely.

Assistance from WSCC

- WSCC is able to assist landowners in improving accessibility of existing gates on bridleways through the provision of various equestrian handles and catches free of charge; please contact the Rights of Way team for further details.

Contact Details...

✉ Public Rights of Way, West Sussex County Council, Northleigh (First Floor), Tower Street, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1RH

☎ Tel: 01243 777620

✉ prow@westsussex.gov.uk

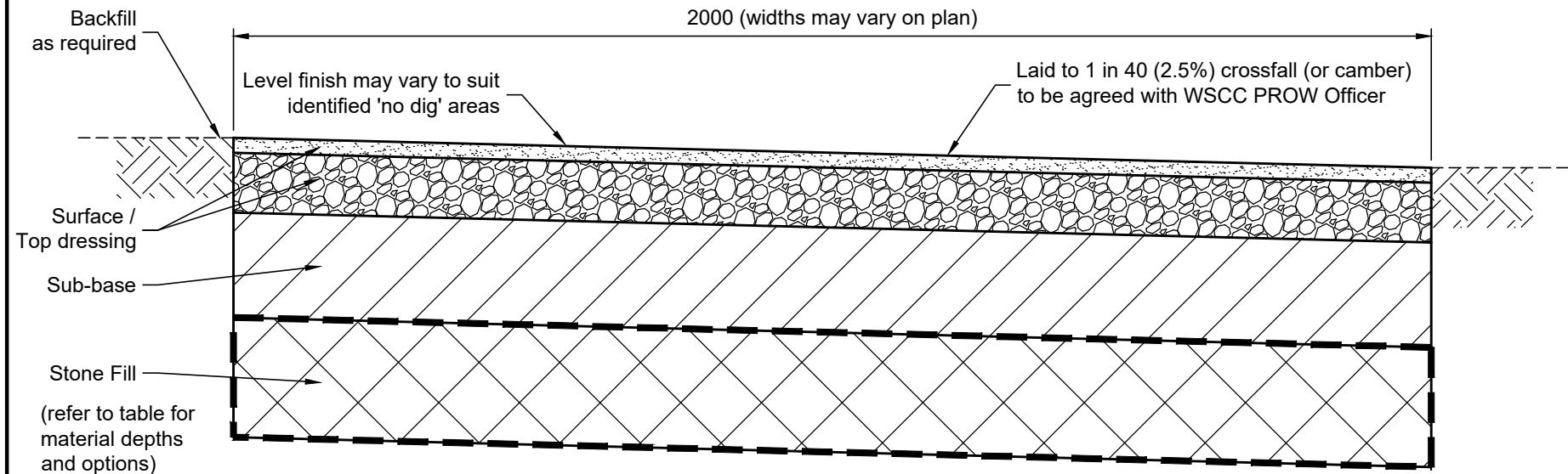
💻 www.westsussex.gov.uk/prow

Appendix 2

Typical detail of no-dig construction

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OPTION A CONSTRUCTION (WET AND POORLY-DRAINED AREAS)

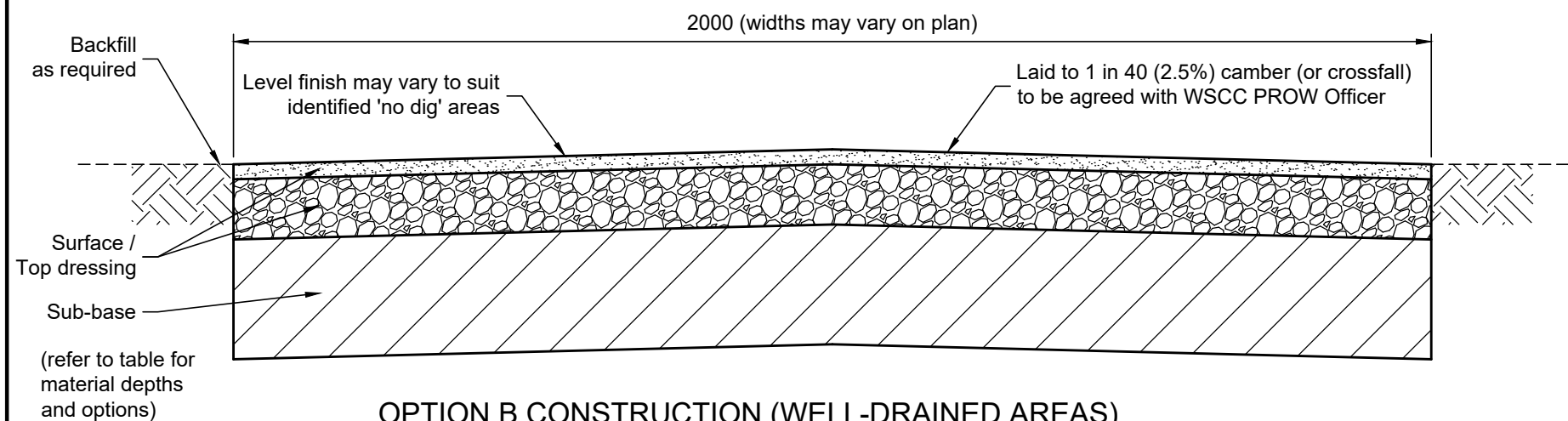


No-dig Zones:

Where it is necessary to provide a bridleway within a tree-root protection zone (TPZ), the Designer must comply with the following requirements if using this detail:

- (a) no tree roots to be severed
- (b) existing soil must not be compacted
- (c) construction must allow aeration and run-off

Specialist advice to be sought in conjunction with approvals from the WSCC Tree Officer. Cellweb, or similar approved by WSCC, may be used in accordance with manufacturer's specifications.



OPTION B CONSTRUCTION (WELL-DRAINED AREAS)

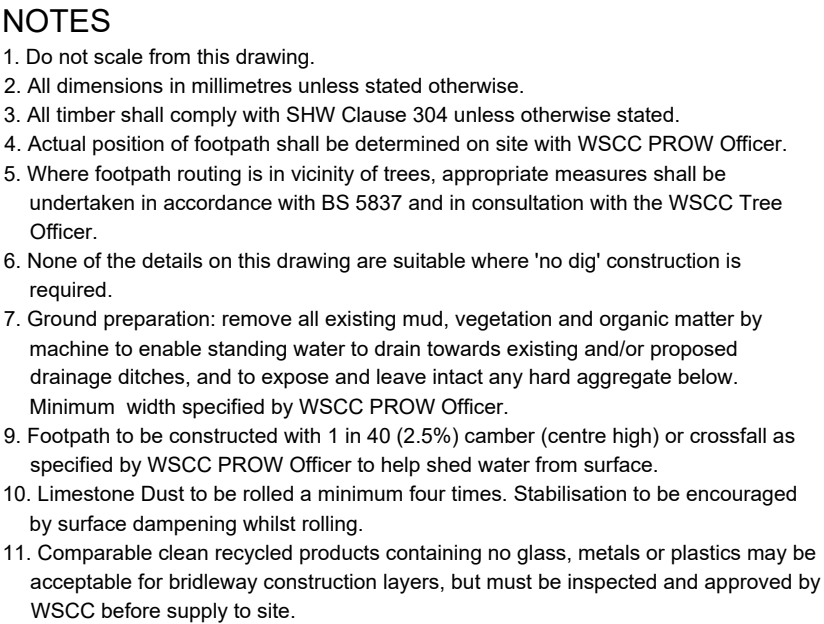
NOTES

1. Do not scale from this drawing.
2. All dimensions in millimetres unless stated otherwise.
3. All timber shall comply with SHW Clause 304 unless otherwise stated.
4. Actual position of bridleway shall be determined on site with WSCC PROW Officer.
5. Where bridleway routing is in vicinity of trees, appropriate measures shall be undertaken in accordance with BS 5837 and in consultation with the WSCC Tree Officer.
6. None of the details on this drawing are suitable where 'no dig' construction is required.
7. Ground preparation: remove all existing mud, vegetation and organic matter by machine to enable standing water to drain towards existing and/or proposed drainage ditches, and to expose and leave intact any hard aggregate below. Minimum width specified by WSCC PROW Officer.
8. Bridleway to be constructed with 1 in 40 (2.5%) camber (centre high) or crossfall as specified by WSCC PROW Officer to help shed water from surface.
9. Limestone Dust to be rolled a minimum four times. Stabilisation to be encouraged by surface dampening whilst rolling.
10. Comparable clean recycled products containing no glass, metals or plastics may be acceptable for bridleway construction layers, but must be inspected and approved by WSCC before supply to site.

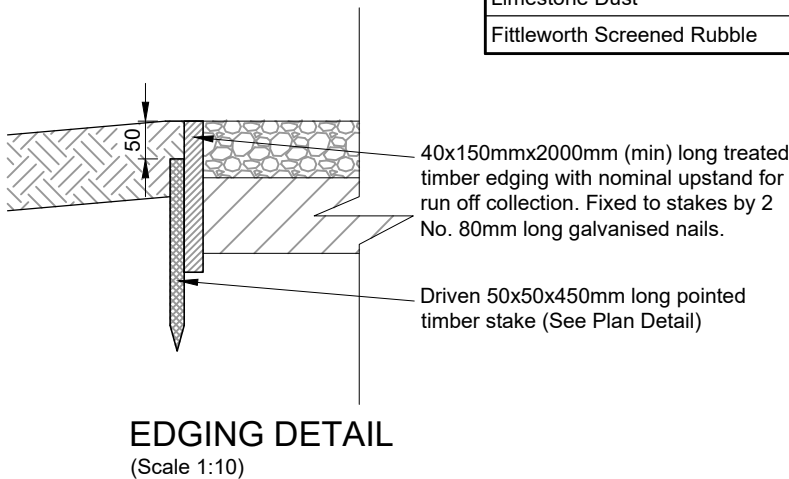
BRIDLEWAY - Alternative Construction Types

	OPTION A (poorly-drained)	OPTION B (well-drained)
Stone Fill		
Good quality clean coarse material (suitable for infilling hollows and allowing free drainage beneath the path surface) to create a continuous free-draining base for path construction (grading / size approximately 40-200mm, no fines). Geotextile membrane to base and folded over sides (e.g. Terram 1000 or similar approved by WSCC)	200-300	N/A
Sub-base		
Clean material suitable for use as a sub-base with grading approximately 75mm to dust (e.g. crushed chalk or similar quarried stone)	175-225	175-225
Surface / Top Dressing		
Type 1 Limestone	100	100
Limestone Dust	25	25

Rev	Revision details	Chkd	Appd	Date	West Sussex County Council Infrastructure Group County Hall, West Street Chichester West Sussex PO19 1RH (01243) 642105	Project Name PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY STANDARD DETAILS		
Drawn:	DNJ					Drawing Title BRIDLEWAY	Original Drawing Size : A3	
Chkd:	NS					Scale : 1:10@A3	Dimensions : -	
Appd:	NS	X				Drawing No 14399/1	Rev -	
Date:	12/01/2022							
File ref:	IWP Ref:							



FOOTPATH - <i>Alternative Construction Types</i>			
	OPTION A	OPTION B	OPTION C
<i>Sub-base</i>			
Clean material suitable for use as a sub-base with grading approximately 75mm to dust (e.g. crushed chalk or similar quarried stone)	175-225	175-225	175-225
<i>Surface / Top Dressing</i>			
Type 1 Limestone	100	100	-
Limestone Dust	25	-	-
Fittleworth Screened Rubble	-	-	75



Appendix 3

List of contacts

List of contacts

Site Address:	Green Circle, Burgess Hill	
Site Manager:	To be decided (TBD)	Tele No:
Builder:	TBD	
Address:		
Contact Name:	TBD	
Arboricultural Consultant:	Jago Keen	
Address:	Keen Consultants The Studio Timbers Gables Road Church Crookham Fleet Hampshire GU52 6QY	
Tele No:	01252 850096 (office)	(mobile) 07836 279935
Local Authority:	Mid Sussex District Council	
Address:	Oaklands, Oaklands Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 1SS	
Telephone No.:	01444 458166	