



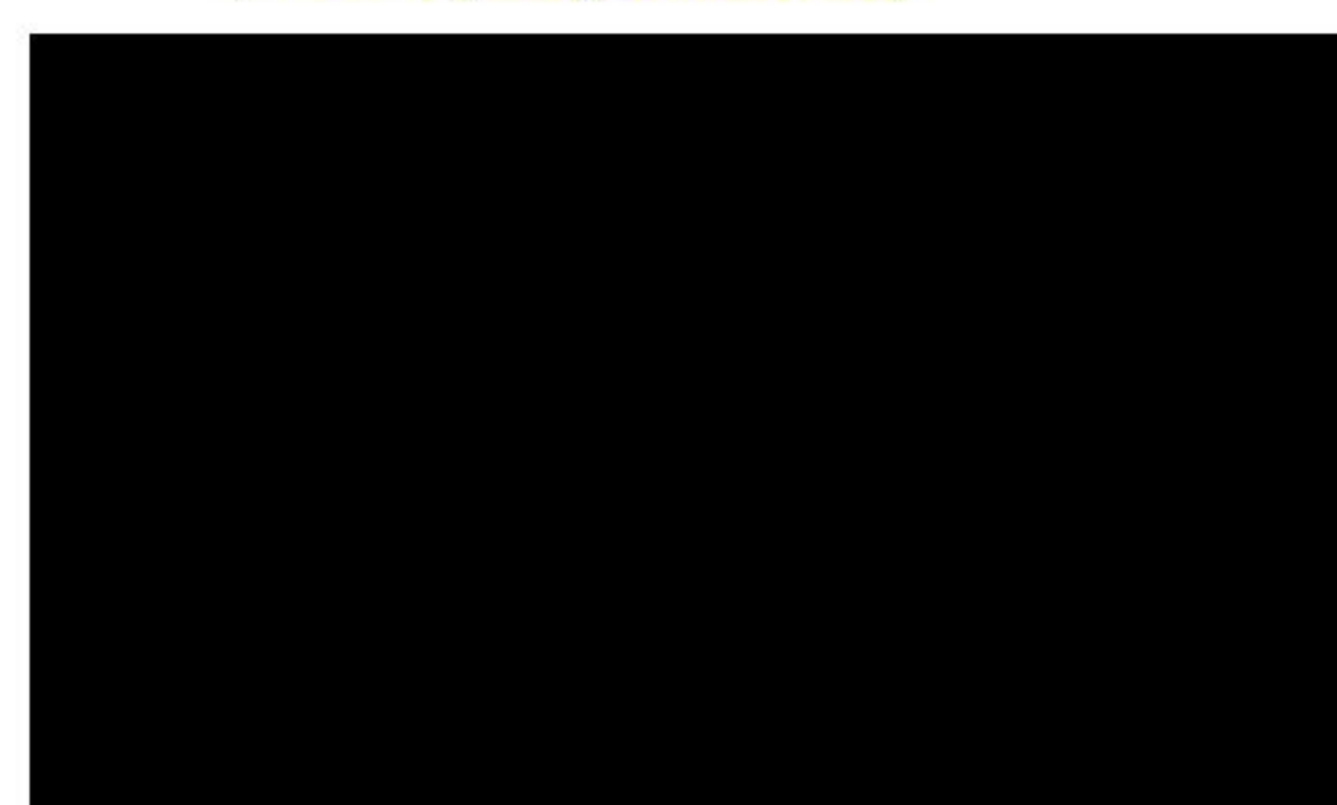


HERITAGE STATEMENT

8th May 2026

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Heritage Statement

Project: Proposed agricultural and livestock welfare works **Location:** Land Parcel to the North of Nos. 42-54 Hurst Road, Hurstpierpoint **Applicant:** Mr Alfie Deyes **Date:** May 2026

1. Introduction and Site Context

This statement is submitted to Mid Sussex District Council to support the sensitive development of a **2.1-hectare agricultural field**. The site is situated to the rear of residential properties on Hurst Road and is bounded to the west by **Belmont Lane**. The land is currently open grazing land.

2. Assessment of Heritage Assets and Significance

The application site falls within a designated **Archaeological Notification Area**. The attached ground search report indicates "No key issues found" regarding protected conservation areas, nature reserves, or listed buildings within 50 metres.

- **Archaeological Potential:** The site has historically been used for agricultural purposes. Historical mapping identifies "Unspecified Pits" approximately 53m to the southwest, indicating past localized ground disturbance.
- **Setting:** The area retains a traditional Sussex rural vernacular. The field is a component of the agricultural buffer between the historic settlements of Hurstpierpoint and Hassocks.

3. Impact of the Proposal

The proposed works are specifically designed to be low-impact and reversible, preserving the agricultural character and subsurface integrity of the land:

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- **Non-Permanent Structures:** The **three shepherd huts** and **timber donkey stable** are non-permanent, mobile, and / or low-profile timber structures. These require minimal ground penetration compared to permanent residential dwellings.
- **Surface Works:** The **tractor parking area** utilizes a weed-proof membrane and a single layer of Type 1 aggregate. This is a surface-level intervention intended to prevent mud runoff onto Belmont Lane and does not involve deep excavation.
- **Fencing:** The donkey enclosure uses traditional **cleft chestnut fencing**. The installation of timber posts involves localized, narrow-diameter ground penetration which is unlikely to significantly disturb archaeological strata.
- **Wildlife Pond:** The creation of the pond in the north-east corner involves the most significant ground works. However, this is situated away from the historical pits identified in the southwest.

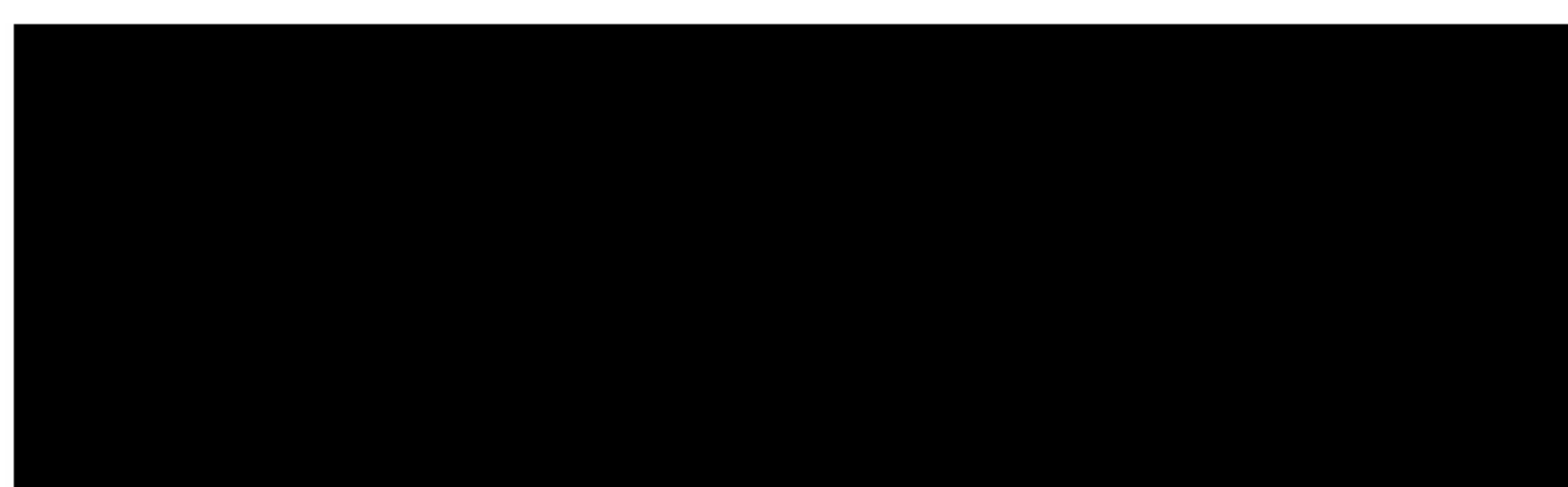
4. Preservation and Mitigation

The development has been designed to minimize "creeping urbanization" and maintain the majority of the site as open grazing land.

- **Visual Impact:** The choice of timber and traditional shepherd huts ensures the development reflects the rural vernacular, thereby preserving the setting of any nearby (unidentified) heritage assets.
- **Archaeological Mitigation:** Given the site's location in a Notification Area, the applicant is prepared to accept a planning condition for a "**watching brief**" during the excavation of the wildlife pond, should the Council deem it necessary. This would ensure any archaeological remains uncovered are properly recorded.

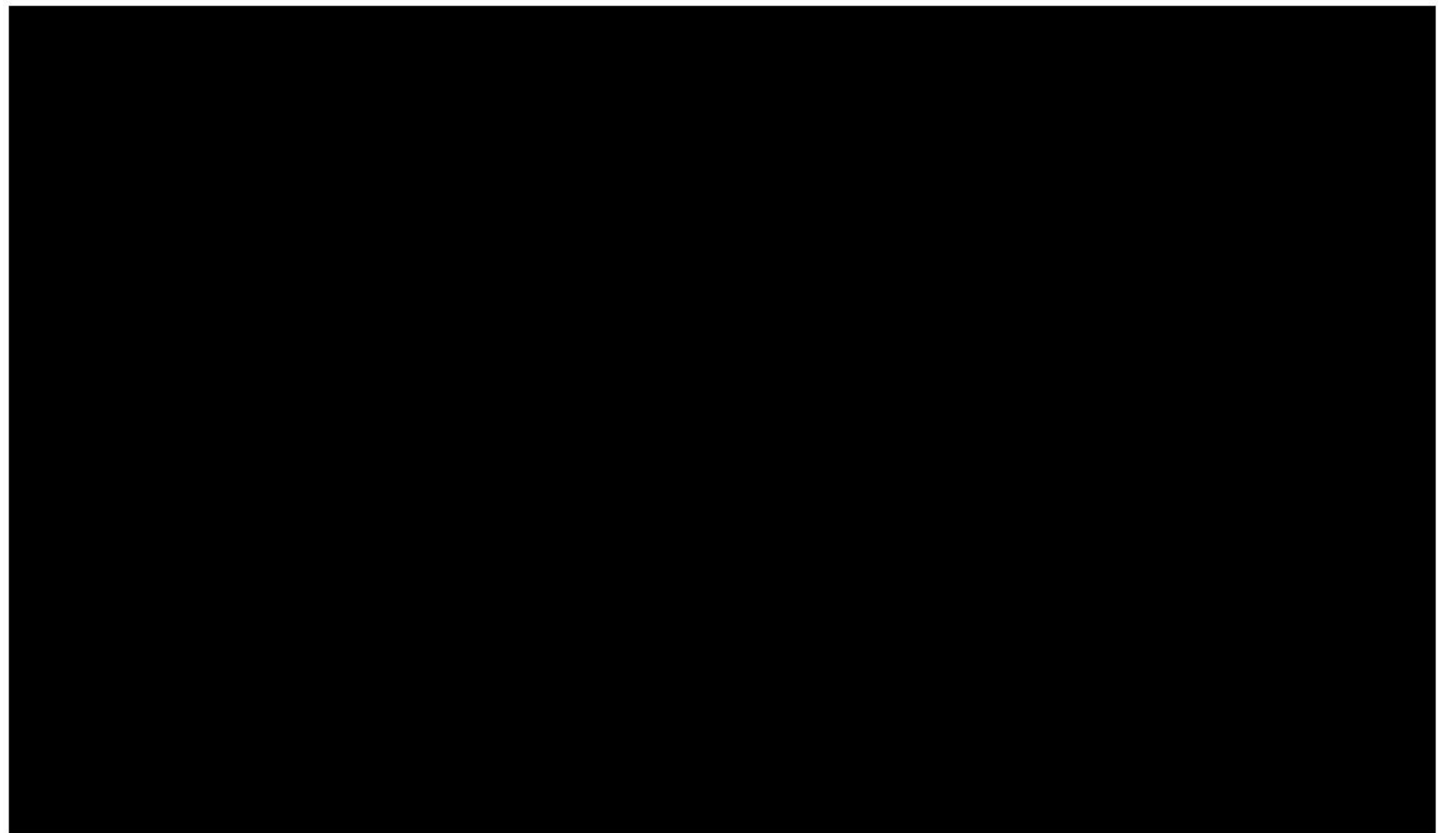
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5. Conclusion

The proposal represents a sensitive and proportionate use of agricultural land. Due to the non-permanent nature of the structures and the minimal depth of the proposed parking area, the impact on the significance of the Archaeological Notification Area is considered **negligible**. The works provide essential welfare for livestock while protecting the local Sussex landscape.



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