



**Eastleigh**

2 Pavilion Close, Fair Oak,  
Eastleigh, Hampshire  
SO50 7PS

Email: [eastleighrambler@aol.com](mailto:eastleighrambler@aol.com)

Web Site <http://www.eastleighramblers.org.uk>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/EastleighRamblers>

28 December 2023

Dear Ms Errington,

**RE Application No: F/23/96527**

**Address - land between Allington Manor Farm, Roddington Forge & Chalcroft Farm, Allington Lane, West End, SO30 2HU**

**Description: Development of Solar Farm and Battery Storage with combined maximum grid export capacity of 27 MW, including solar panels, containerised battery storage, security fencing, CCTV cameras, internal access tracks, underground cabling, inverters, substations, grid connection, environmental enhancement measures and other ancillary development.**

Thank you for your Council's email of 21 December 2023 consulting the Eastleigh Ramblers on the above planning application and below is our response.

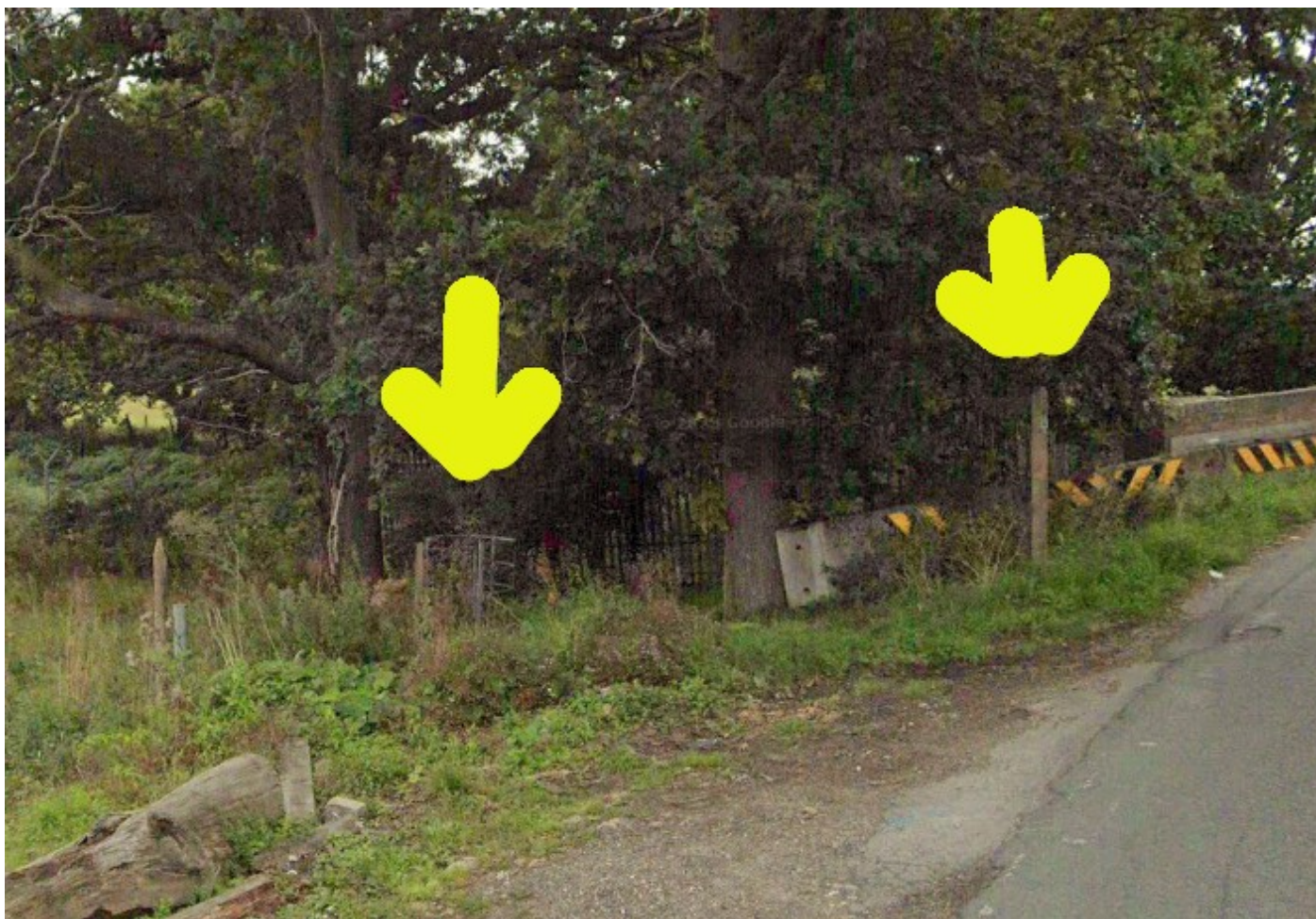
The only recorded right of way affected is Footpath No 3 West End where it emerges onto the east side of Allington north of the railway. It is correctly shown on the Ordnance Survey base used for the Layout Plan. It is currently temporarily closed until 3 May 2024 because of the works going on at One Horton Heath. Under that development there is a proposal to upgrade it to a bridleway. Consideration needs to be given to how this section will look if fencing is to be erected to the north of it to avoid an unsightly section between the existing fencing to the south and the proposed fencing. Where it emerges onto Allington Lane there is a kissing gate and signpost and a detail of how this will look needs to be provided (see photo below).

The local planning authority needs to be thinking about how future development in the Allington Lane area will connect from a sustainable transport point of view to Eastleigh other than by going north via Fair Oak and Bishopstoke or south all around the airport. A cycleway route following either side of the railway has been thought about and this proposed development should not provide an obstacle to that objective. That proposal is set out in Policy S12 (e) of the Local plan recited in Pages 42 and 43 of the applicants Planning, Design and Access Statement.

Allington Lane is not equestrian, cycling or pedestrian friendly and there have been fatalities including a cyclist recently. A solution should be planned for before any options are closed down by developments coming forward. There is currently considerable potential for a bridleway along the east side on the field side of the roadside hedge. We request Eastleigh Borough Council to create and dedicate such a route where

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the development abuts Allington Lane from Footpath No 3 West End to the northern limit of the development and back onto the road again in the short term until it can be extended northwards.

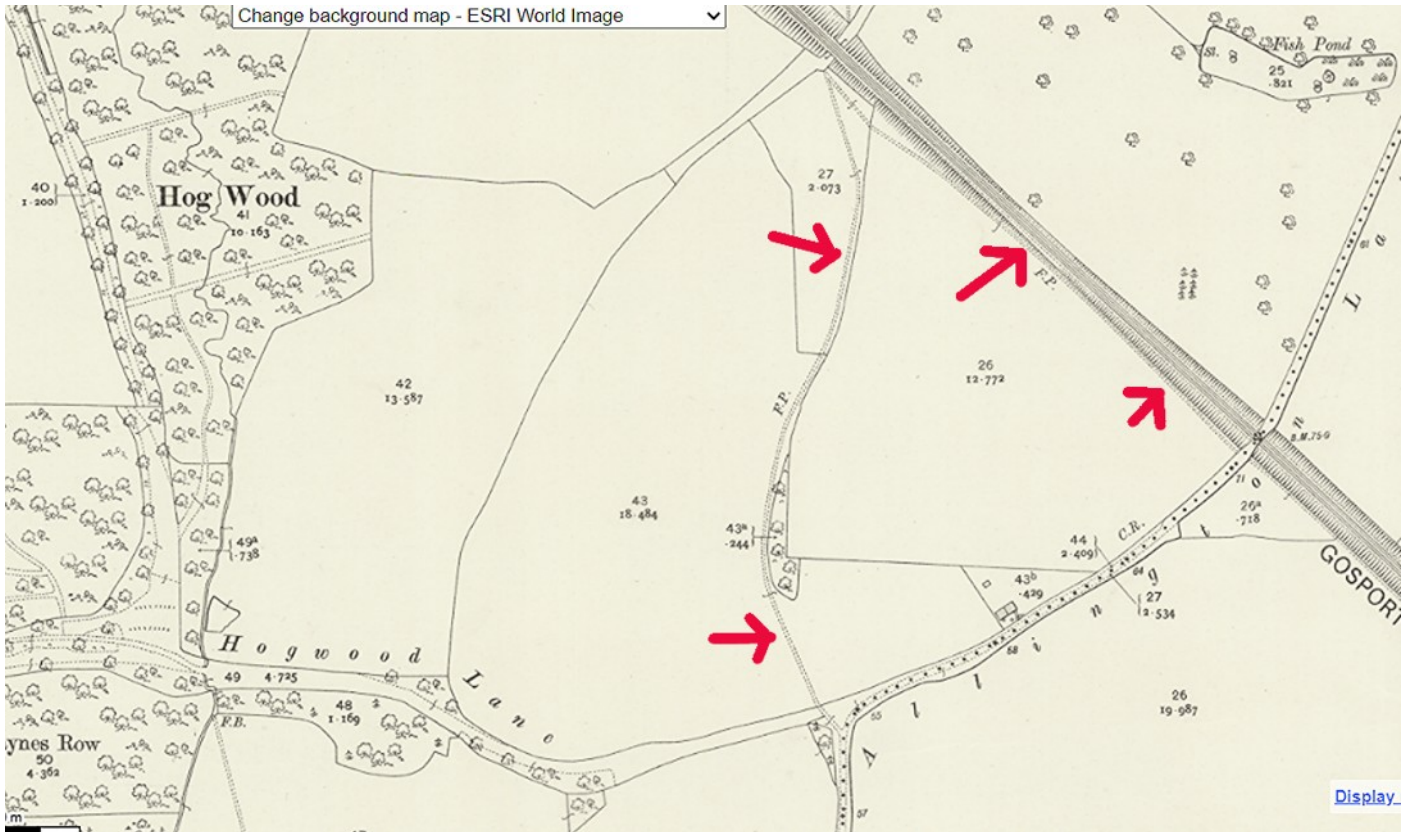


Kissing Gate on left signpost on right in this extract from Google Street View.

In the short term there is an opportunity along many sections of Allington Lane to create a gravel path within the verge and where possible this should be implemented as a priority to enable pedestrians to get off the carriageway easily.

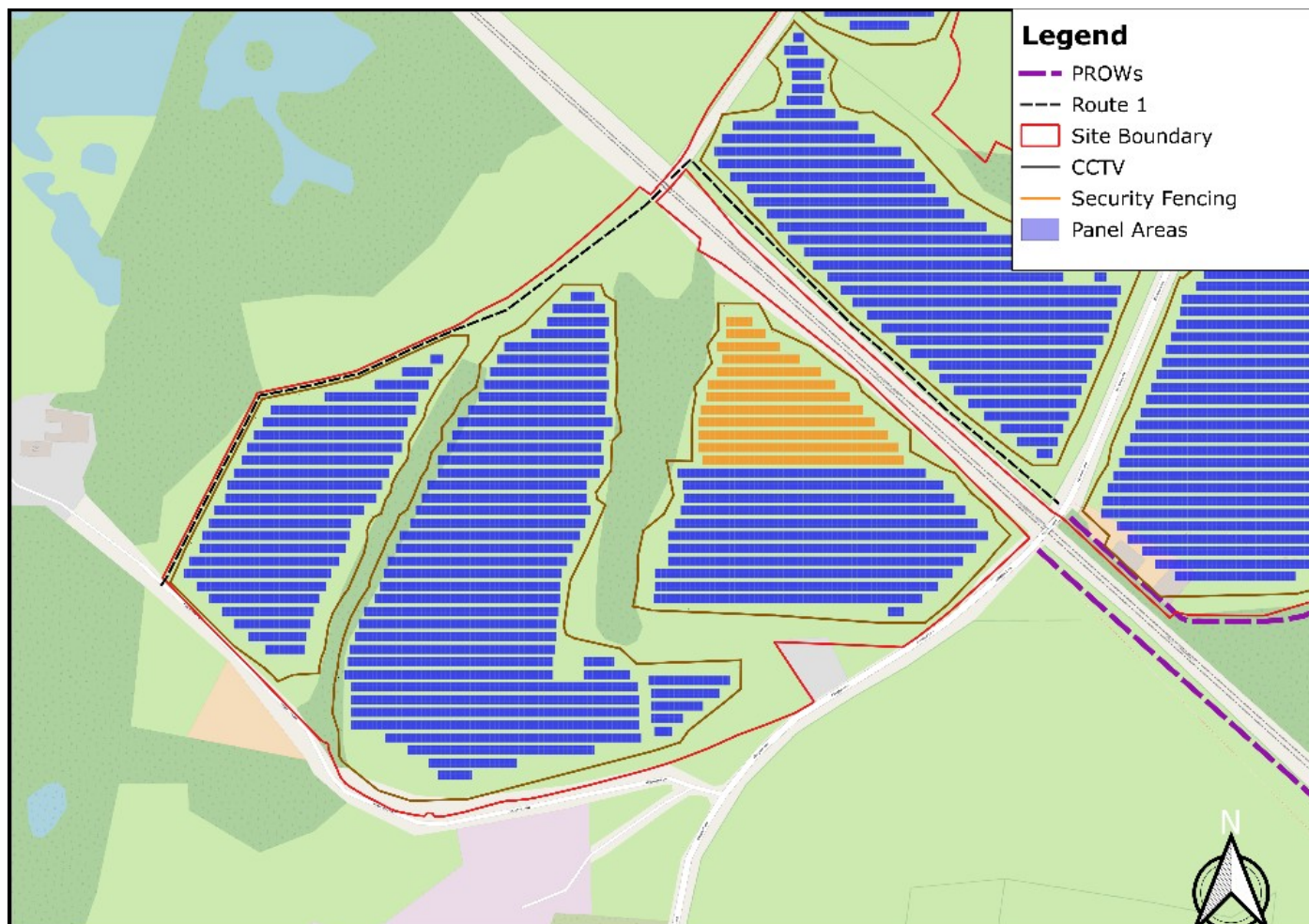
Now to deal with the section of the land south west of the railway. Hogwood Lane is not recorded on HCC's mapping system as an adopted route. Neither are two "footpath routes" that have been shown on Ordnance Survey Sheets – see the extract below from the 25" 1892-1914 series. There may be historical evidence to support a claim that these should be included on the Definitive Map but we have not investigated this area.

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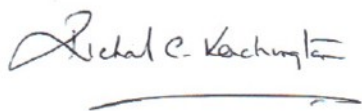


The proposal to upgrade the footpaths in One Horton Heath to bridleways means that there will be sustainable transport routes across the Borough from Botley. Creating the route in Policy S12e would extend that to Eastleigh. Connecting the route to and through the Itchen Valley Country Park could produce another bridleway route right through to where it emerges onto Allington Lane again at the southern entrance to the Country Park avoiding the need to use the narrow Allington Lane along a long section. We therefore strongly urge and support the proposed route set out as Option 1 of the Planning, Design and Access Statemeny at Page 25 and shown on the plan included and reproduced below.

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Yours faithfully



Richard C. Kenchington FRICS IRRV (Hons),  
Footpath Secretary, EASTLEIGH RAMBLERS

To

Dawn Errington, Planning Department, Eastleigh Borough Council by email to  
[dawn.errington@eastleigh.gov.uk](mailto:dawn.errington@eastleigh.gov.uk)

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