

Forestry, Design and Access Statement

Applicant : E Roper & Son, Land off Four Acre Lane, Thornley-with-Wheatley, Longridge Lancashire PR3 2TD

Proposal to construct forestry track to provide for access from existing track to nearby woodland. This will be a standard conventional crushed limestone surfaced access track much like existing tracks on the holding.

Forestry Statement

The existing family business includes a number of blocks of native and commercial forestry woodland blocks. There is an existing business plan which has commenced full management to maintain and improve the woodland. The proposed route has been used historically for the same forestry purpose but without being recently surfaced.

This proposal is for a forestry track to service some of the woodland. This track will assist with the carrying out of full and proper management including thinnings throughout the summer and where possible during the spring and autumn months, weather permitting. At these times the ground is easily poached and vehicular access may be necessary for additional works. Access to the woodland will be required at all times so a firm surface is particular requirement. The proposed track is reasonably necessary for the purposes of forestry.

Design

The proposed access track will be constructed with a larger stone sub-base and finished with a standard top layer of crushed fine limestone gravel. This is the same finish as other tracks on the holding. The proposed track is designed for the purposes of forestry.

As this track will be set on land adjacent to the woodland/field boundaries the visual impact will be minimal. The siting and finish of the track has been carefully planned so as to have regard for the high standard also used in the more recent modern agricultural tracks. The design and siting of the track has been considered carefully so as to have regard for landscape, visual impact and the Area of Natural Beauty.

Transport & Access

The proposed track is more than 25 metres from any public highway. Access to the land is from the public highway/private road using the existing agricultural/forestry accesses. The existing track has been used regularly and historically for established lawful purposes including forestry, agriculture and residential use. This application does not seek to alter the use of the existing entrances. The south east end of the proposed track will access a new turning area and track which will provide access to the woodland.

Access around the woodland

Access to the woodland will be from the proposed track and utilise the existing established tracks and rides.

Appearance

The materials for the proposed forestry track are going to be similar to the completed farm track network. As described above there is minimal net visual impact from the existing situation.

Appraising the Context

The completion of the track will improve the provision of suitable access to woodland for the purposes of full management. The improved access beyond the existing surfaced track constructed many years ago will be a prudent investment at this time and the track will assist the business in preparing to weather the future pressures of the predicted market changes to woodland support mechanisms. The additional forestry track is justified above as reasonably required for forestry and designed for forestry on this existing agricultural/forestry unit.

Additional details - see application form and plans.