Estate Office & Environment Education Centre

Impact on Downs Barn Estate Office & Environment Education Centre

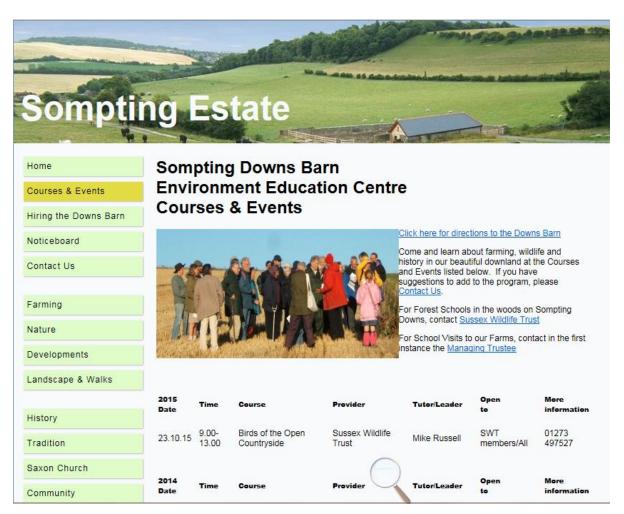
_Purpose 2, Duty, SQ 1,2,4,5,7

The Sompting Downs Barn (formerly Coombe Barn) is the centre for Sompting Estate's agricultural and conservation management. It is regularly used for meetings and equipment storage and as a base for the Estate's Forestry contractors and volunteers, and for the Estate family's engagement with the land. Access to the Downs Barn using Lambleys Lane is now vital for the functioning of the Estate.





The Downs Barn is also the home for the Downs Barn Environment Education Centre.



12.10.2014

Up to 25 people at a time come to learn about the downland environment, its geology wildlife history and cultural heritage. Some of the courses and events are run by the Estate directly, for others the Barn is hired by conservation organisations to host their own training events as can be seen on the website www.somptingestate.com; in-barn talks are combined with field study walks including to quieter parts of the Estate not normally accessible by the public.

- Access using Lambleys Lane is essential to this estate management, conservation and educational activity.
- Even if this severance were overcome, the quality of visitor experience at the Downs Barn and environs would also be adversely affected by Option D. Leaving the built up areas, the sense of rural character and remoteness grows throughout the drive up Lambleys Lane from the present A27, to a climax at the top with views over to Steepdown and the top of the north scarp. By dividing Lambleys Lane in two, Option D would severely curtail this build-up of remoteness, thereby diminishing the visitor experience.

12.10.2014