

Worthing A27 Option D Downland Section:

Impact on Farmland

Loss of productive farmland Purpose 1, Duty, SQ 1,4

The fields through which Option D passes on Sompting Estate, on gentle warm south facing slopes, are among the best agricultural land on the Estate and play an important part in the economy of Estate. They include haymeadow pasture and rotational arable.



The field north of FP2074 most of which would be destroyed by Option D, earns a particularly high rental because of its productivity, benefiting from topsoil that came down in the past from the higher slopes.



Rare arable wildflowers Purpose 1, SQ 3,4

The field margins traversed by Option D east of Lambleys lane are particularly rich in arable wildflower species. Upton Farm takes pride in what is being achieved and rightly won the cup at this year's West Grinstead Ploughing Match for best conservation farm.

In an arable weeds survey undertaken by Sussex Botanical Recording Society members on 16.7.2014, the 41 species found in the East-West crop margin shown below included Least Spurge, Sun spurge, Small Toadflax, Fluellens, the fodder version of Birds Foot Trefoil and, the scarce Corn Parsley. The 74 arable weed and other wildflower species in the west side of the field just above this area, which would also be destroyed by Option D, included Sainfoin Stinking Mayweed and the very rare arable weed Corn Mignonette. See photos below.



Sussex Botanical Recording Society members noting the chalk arable and haymeadow flora, 2014



Rare, scarce and important arable wildflowers photographed on the Option D route corridor, 2014

