

Impact on bees and quality honey production, and on geo-archaeological heritage

Purposes 1 & 2, Duty, SQ 1,3,4,6



Lambleys Lane chalkpit is described by Professor Andy Gale as quite famous geologically, as an exposure of the Charmandean Flint Layer extending to Dorset and with many fossil species of finely preserved small organisms first discovered and named here in the early C20th.

As an Estate Farm chalkpit it was developed around 1800 and in 2014 the Worthing Archaeological Society have been excavating a rare flint-wall-fronted lime kiln showing how it was used (only 3 of this type are known, two being on the Sompting Estate).

The chalkpit is being managed for control of invasive plants and reestablishment of native flora. It shelters beehives producing the Sompting Estate honey, whose flavour comes from the adjacent wildflower meadow and arable margins which Option D would destroy.

The chalkpit and surrounding land managed for wild flowers and birds are visited on guided tours of the Estate for example the Sompting Parish Walk, the North Lancing Community Association Walk, courses in flint knapping and in downland geology and archaeology at the Sompting Downs Barn Environment Education Centre.

The loss of tranquillity through road noise and the loss of sense of heritage landscape caused by a downland A27 route would put an end to the use of this part of the Estate, which uniquely has these attributes, for access and enjoyment and learning by these guided visits.

Sites further north within the Estate have ceased to be used for hives because of insufficient duration of pollen and nectar availability. So the impact in the area of the chalkpit would also harm and potentially put an end to the viable production of Sompting Estate honey.

