

Landscaping Statement for Proposed Farm Track

Applicant: Peter Blood

Site Address: Poplars Farm, Sibson

Proposal: Installation of an agricultural farm track

Date: 17/11/2025

1. Introduction

This Landscaping Statement accompanies the planning application for the installation of a farm track to support the efficient operation of the agricultural holding. The purpose of this statement is to outline how the proposal has been designed to integrate sensitively into the surrounding landscape, minimise visual impact, and protect existing ecological features.

2. Site Description

The site is located within an established agricultural setting consisting of pasture/arable land. The landscape is characterised by hedgerows, mature trees and fields typical of the local rural environment. The proposed route follows existing field boundaries wherever possible to limit disturbance and visual intrusion.

3. Track Design and Materials

The farm track has been designed to be low-impact and appropriate to a rural agricultural environment:

- Width: Approximately 3- 3.5 m
- Construction:
- Sub-base of locally sourced crushed stone/hardcore
- Surfacing of compacted type-1 aggregate or similar permeable material
- Drainage:
- Track will remain permeable; no sealed surface is proposed
- Gentle camber to ensure natural run-off into adjacent land
- No watercourses or ditches will be obstructed

The chosen materials ensure that the track will blend into its surroundings while remaining functional for agricultural vehicles.

4. Landscaping Measures

To ensure the track sits sympathetically within the landscape, the following measures will be implemented:

- **Retention of Existing Vegetation:**
All existing hedgerows, trees, and field boundaries will be retained. No mature trees will be removed.
- **Hedgerow Strengthening:**
Where the track runs alongside existing hedgerows, gaps will be infilled with native species such as hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel, and field maple.
- **Grass Verges:**
The edges of the track will be left unkerbed, allowing for natural grass regrowth. Disturbed ground will be lightly seeded with a native grass mix.

5. Visual Impact

The visual impact of the proposed farm track will be minimal due to:

- Its alignment along existing field boundaries
- The use of natural, stone-coloured aggregate

Because the track sits within an established agricultural landscape and follows existing landform, it will not materially alter the character of the area.

6. Biodiversity Considerations

The proposal avoids impacts on habitats and wildlife. Measures include:

- No removal of hedgerows or mature trees
- Maintaining green verges to provide wildlife corridors
- Native planting to enhance local biodiversity
- No disruption to watercourses or drainage channels

7. Summary

The proposed farm track is essential for the efficient operation of the agricultural holding and has been designed to integrate sensitively into the rural landscape. By retaining existing features, using appropriate materials, and adding targeted native planting, the development will have a minimal and acceptable landscape and visual impact.