

**From:** George Shortman <[gshortman@duchyofcornwall.org](mailto:gshortman@duchyofcornwall.org)>

**Sent:** 08 April 2025 09:45

**To:** Hardwick, Heloise <[heloise.hardwick@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:heloise.hardwick@herefordshire.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** RE: 251025 - Land between Barretts Hill & Frog Hill Woods, Burnt Wood and Rushen Wood, Peterchurch, Herefordshire

OFFICIAL

Good morning Héloïse,

Thank you for your timely response. Having checked the designation, the adjacent Duchy-owned woods are listed as 'Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site' (PAWS). The primary reason for adjusting the track design (requiring a new GPDO) was to allow for improved management in the adjacent PAWS. Because the track now runs along the top of the wood, access can be gained from above as well as below, reducing future soil disturbance.

Currently, with the land in arable management, there is an issue with soil erosion and deposition in the PAWS. Being a plantation on ancient woodland site, the most important feature of this habitat from a conservation/restoration point of view is the ground/soil. The road will be constructed during suitable ground conditions to prevent further soil erosion. Suitable drainage will be installed alongside the road to prevent it from being eroded. The new ditches will reduce the volume of soil deposited in the woodland below during periods of high rainfall. At each harvesting intervention (primarily thinning), timber needs to be felled and extracted from site in a viable manner, which often means a harvester and forwarder. Having an access track either side of the woodland parcels means the distance travelled on forest soils by the harvester and forwarder are minimised.

I hope you find my explanation adequate.

Kind regards,

George



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