

The Chair and Members of the Planning and Environmental Committee

I am writing to express my concern about the importance of protecting this ESA. ESA's are not parks. Building a bridge and a hardened surface in this area threatens the ecological integrity of the area. This is an area that is the habitat of a rare spring plant. It will be impossible to protect a species at risk if there is an increase in the number of visits and dog walkers in this area. I agree it is important for people to be able to visit natural areas of our city but it is also important to weigh this against the damage that increasing numbers is likely to do. I sincerely hope that you do not adopt this plan to build a bridge and hardened path in the Medway Valley Heritage Forest ESA.

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