

Ecology response

Arun District Council, Civic Centre, Maltravers Rd
Littlehampton, West Sussex, BN17 5LF
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From: Jonathan Best <Jonathan.Best@arun.gov.uk>
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2024 9:54 AM
To: Planning.Responses <Planning.Responses@arun.gov.uk>
Cc: Leanne Richardson <Leanne.Richardson@arun.gov.uk>
Subject: AL/89/24/OUT

Land at Woodgate Nurseries Lidsey Road Woodgate.

I have reviewed this application with regards to ecology and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).

The site is within the Singleton and Cocking SAC. An appropriate assessment is required.

The Ecological Impact Assessment includes the existing BNG baseline and condition assessment of the current habitats on site. The indicative BNG metric has been submitted based upon the

indicative site layout and demonstrates that the development would exceed the minimum 10% BNG in line with the Environment Act 2021.

The Ecological Impact Appraisal submitted by The Ecology Co-op dated 1st August 2024, states a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Phase 1 Habitat survey of the site was undertaken by The Ecology Co-op on the 12th August 2020, a suite of Phase 2 ecological surveys was undertaken across 2021, 2022 and 2023 in order to provide sufficient baseline information for this assessment.

The EIA presents the findings of the protected species surveys carried out across 2021 and 2022 but not 2023,

These surveys are out of date for badgers, foraging and commuting bats, reptiles, breeding bird species and overwintering bird species. These species are highly mobile, and the situation may have changed as they may have colonised new areas. We require clear and up to date surveys for protected species to provide an understanding of the current impacts prior to determination.

Recommendation: refusal due to insufficient ecological information for this application. Further information is required for protected species is required.

Regards,

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