

3.2 Ecological assessment

The assessment of ecological impact should be undertaken in relation to as detailed a layout for the proposal as is possible. Use of an experienced ecologist at an early stage can inform the design process making the avoidance of impact more easily achieved. The assessment must identify and describe:

- The significance of the ecological interest present.
- Potential development impacts likely to harm the protected species and/or their habitats identified by the survey (these should include both direct and indirect effects both during construction and afterwards).
- Conclusions and recommendations including if a development licence for the relevant species will be required from Natural England in order for the proposed development to proceed?

Where harm is likely, evidence must be submitted to show:

- How alternative designs or locations have been considered;
- How adverse effects will be avoided wherever possible;
- How unavoidable impacts will be mitigated or reduced;
- How impacts that cannot be avoided or mitigated will be compensated.
- The significance of residual impacts having considered all of the above.

Recommendations should be made in respect of, but not limited to, habitat retention, working practices, locations of structures and working areas.

Proposals are encouraged that will enhance, restore or add to features or habitats used by protected species. The assessment should also give an indication of how species numbers are likely to change, if at all, after development e.g. whether there will be a net loss, gain or no change.

3.3 Exceptions for when an ecological survey and assessment may not be required

The checklist aims to identify when protected species, habitats and species of principal importance are reasonably likely to be present and as such focuses on the main protected species and habitats which have tended to be found on development sites in the District.

If it is clear that no protected species are present, despite the checklist indicating that they are likely, evidence should be provided with the planning application to demonstrate that protected species are not reasonably likely to be present.

<http://www.arun.gov.uk/documentHandler.cfm?dld=20118&pflag=docm93jjim4n20118>.

If the statements in column 1 and 2 of the LVL apply to your development you **MUST** provide the information required. You **MUST** indicate on the Validation Checklist that you have provided the information and where it is located within your submission (document name, file name, drawing number, page/section number etc). If you are not required to provide information in a particular category you should complete the Validation Checklist (put NO in the box) so that it is clear to us that you have carefully considered the LVL.

If the statements in column 1 and 2 of the LVL apply to your scheme, i.e. information is required and you have entered YES in the box, but you are not providing the information requirement you must enclose with your application a short written justification as to why the requirement is not appropriate in the particular circumstances.