

Arun District Council
Arun Civic Centre
Maltravers Road
Littlehampton
West Sussex
BN17 5LF

Our Ref: SDNP/21/04790/ADJAUT
Contact Officer: Richard Ferguson

26th October 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

Neighbouring Authority Consultation

Applicant Name: Arun District Council

Proposal: Adjacent Authority Consultation - A/184/21/PL - Construction of a weir upstream of the culverted road access to the Land South of Water Lane Development, Angmering as Phase 1 of the Angmering Flood Alleviation Scheme. This application is subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment & is in CIL Zone 1 & is not CIL Liable as other development.

Address: Land South of Water Lane , Angmering,

Thank you for your correspondence received 17 September 2021, consulting us as a neighbouring authority on the above noted development proposals.

Although the application site is located outside of the National Park, the Council has a statutory duty to consider the Purposes of the National Park when making its determination. The statutory purposes and duty of the National Park are:

- **Purpose 1:** To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area.
- **Purpose 2:** To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park by the public.
- **Duty:** To seek to foster the social and economic wellbeing of the local communities within the National Park in pursuit of our purposes.

The National Park's comments on the development are as follows:

The SDNPA wish to make the following comments, having reviewed the application documentation.

The SDNPA primarily supports naturalised river systems by removing culverts and bypassing weirs elsewhere in the National Park, rather than such new features being introduced as in this instance. Culverts restrict flows and can lead to additional flood risk in high rainfall periods.

South Downs National Park Authority, South Downs Centre, Midhurst, GU29 9DH

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However, It is acknowledged that there is a risk of flooding to properties in the Angmering area, as a result of peak river flows and existing constraints. The circumstances here are very specific as the water enters a major culvert under the village of Angmering and it is therefore necessary to hold water back upstream to prevent serious flooding of property. We note that the Environment Agency have no concerns over fish passage and overall no objection to the scheme is raised in terms of managing flood risk given the local circumstances.

The red line area of the application includes land within the National Park (the Black Ditch south and East of the A280) and it appears that this agricultural land would be used for flood water storage. No details on the potential impacts upon this agricultural land is evident in the application. In this regard, please consider our guidance on the use of natural flood management measures for this upstream section of land, which is within the National Park. A link to this guidance is below:

<https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/SDNPA-Natural-Flood-Management-Measures.pdf>

We wish to raise concern regarding the ecological information provided, namely the preliminary ecological appraisal based on survey work of the whole catchment by Mott MacDonald in August 2018 and ecological surveys and a landscape and ecological management plan for Barratt homes development adjacent to the weir site.

The latter surveys are specific to the development site for Barratt homes and do not include impacts upstream of the proposed weir within the National Park and within the red line area. The Mott MacDonald report recommends further surveys of the catchment area for Bats, Badgers, Breeding birds, Dormice and Great crested newt. None of these surveys are included with the application and appear to be absent.

We would, therefore, recommend seeking further ecological consultee advice regarding undertaking this additional survey work to determine the impact of the scheme on ecology within the red line area inside the National Park.

Yours faithfully

TIM SLANEY

Director of Planning
South Downs National Park Authority

Contact Officer

Richard Ferguson
