

Protected Species and Site Survey Report

1. Introduction

Purpose of the Report: This report aims to inspect the site for any evidence of Berwick Swans (*Cygnus bewickii*), which are classified as endangered species and migrate to the area during the winter months (November to January). The survey is conducted to inform the planning application for the proposed change of use at The Mill Studio, Ford Lane, Ford, BN18 0EF. The application seeks to convert part of the current commercial building to residential use.

Project Description: The proposed development involves a change of use at The Mill Studio, a building complex currently used for mixed live to work commercial purposes. The application seeks to extend the building's residential use.

2. Survey Methodology

A thorough visual examination of the proposed development site was conducted. The survey involved direct observation of the site, as well as any signs of the presence of Berwick Swans or their associated behaviours, such as feeding, roosting, or migratory activity. The survey was carried out to coincide with the swans' migratory period.

3. Site Description

The site is located within a complex of converted farm buildings in a rural area, close to the town of Arundel. The property consists of a central courtyard surrounded by buildings, hedges, and two small gardens. The gardens are primarily laid to lawn, with a mix of shrubs and potted plants in the courtyard. The total area of the site is approximately 1 hectare.

The site is bordered by a road to the northeast, fields to the southwest, and other converted farm buildings. The site is not directly adjacent to large bodies of water, which would typically serve as important habitats for Berwick Swans during their migration period.

4. Results

Species Identification

No Berwick Swans were observed on the site. There were also no signs of their feeding, roosting, or migratory activity within or around the site.

5. Potential Impacts

Given the absence of Berwick Swans or any evidence of their activities within the survey area, it is concluded that the proposed development will not have any direct or indirect impacts on the species.

6. Conclusion

The survey findings confirm that no evidence of Berwick Swans was found within the site or its immediate surroundings. As such, the development of the site, as proposed, will have no impact on this endangered species.