

Date: 23 September 2026
Our ref: 559569
Your ref: F/40/26/PL



Arun District Council
planning.responses@arun.gov.uk
BY EMAIL ONLY

Hornbeam House
Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

Dear Sir/Madam

Planning consultation: Replacement of existing Portacabin with new single storey modular cabin for use as an ancillary building to the existing site. Excavate grounds of mixed material to create trench for new power, water and drainage. Install drainage pipework and associated items, including connection to existing, new or planned network. Install electrical meters, transformers and associated items as required. Excavations to be finished in concrete to match existing hardstand. New planters, wildlife houses and greenspace. Is in CIL Zone 3 (Zero Rated) as other development.
Location: Environment Agency, Ford Depot Station Road Ford BN18 0BH

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 18 September 2026 which was received by Natural England on 18 September 2026

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

SUMMARY OF NATURAL ENGLAND'S ADVICE

NO OBJECTION

Based on the plans submitted, Natural England considers that the proposed development will not have significant adverse impacts on statutorily protected nature conservation sites or landscapes.

Natural England's generic advice on other natural environment issues is set out at Annex A.

Priority habitats and Species

Priority habitats and Species are of particular importance for nature conservation and are included in the England Biodiversity List published under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. Most priority habitats will be mapped either as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, on the Magic website or as Local Wildlife Sites. A list of priority habitats and species can be found on [Gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk).

Natural England does not routinely hold species data, such data should be collected when impacts on priority habitats or species are considered likely. Consideration should also be given to the potential environmental value of brownfield sites, often found in urban areas and former industrial land, further information including links to the open mosaic habitats inventory can be found [here](#).

Sites of Special Scientific Interest Impact Risk Zones

The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015

requires local planning authorities to consult Natural England on “Development in or likely to affect a Site of Special Scientific Interest” (Schedule 4, w). Our SSSI Impact Risk Zones are a GIS dataset designed to be used during the planning application validation process to help local planning authorities decide when to consult Natural England on developments likely to affect a SSSI. The dataset and user guidance can be accessed from the data.gov.uk website

Further general advice on the consideration of protected species and other natural environment issues is provided at Annex A.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

For any queries regarding this letter, for new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to [REDACTED]

Yours faithfully

Mr Beemal Brahmhatt
Consultations Team

Annex A – Natural England general advice

Protected Landscapes

Paragraph N4.1 of the [National Planning Policy Framework - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/national-planning-policy-framework) (NPPF) requires great weight to be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty within Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (known as National Landscapes), National Parks, and the Broads and states that the scale and extent of development within all these areas should be limited. Paragraph N4.2 requires exceptional circumstances to be demonstrated to justify major development within a designated landscape and sets out criteria which should be applied in considering relevant development proposals. Section 245 of the [Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2023/1/section/245) places a duty on relevant authorities (including local planning authorities) to seek to further the statutory purposes of a National Park, the Broads or a National Landscape in England in exercising their functions. This duty also applies to proposals outside the designated area but impacting on its natural beauty.

The local planning authority should carefully consider any impacts on the statutory purposes of protected landscapes and their settings in line with the NPPF, relevant development plan policies and the Section 245 duty. The relevant National Landscape Partnership or Conservation Board may be able to offer advice on the impacts of the proposal on the natural beauty of the area and the aims and objectives of the statutory management plan, as well as environmental enhancement opportunities. Where available, a local Landscape Character Assessment can also be a helpful guide to the landscape's sensitivity to development and its capacity to accommodate proposed development.

Wider landscapes

Paragraph N2.1 of the NPPF highlights the need to protect and enhance valued landscapes through the planning system. This application may present opportunities to protect and enhance locally valued landscapes, including any local landscape designations. You may want to consider whether any local landscape features or characteristics (such as ponds, woodland, or dry-stone walls) could be incorporated into the development to respond to and enhance local landscape character and distinctiveness, in line with any local landscape character assessments. Where the impacts of development are likely to be significant, a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment should be provided with the proposal to inform decision making. We refer you to the [Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment \(GLVIA3\) - Landscape Institute](https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/resources/guidelines-for-landscape-and-visual-impact-assessment-glvia3/) for further guidance.

Biodiversity duty

Section 40 of the [Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/14/section/40) places a duty on the local planning authority to conserve and enhance biodiversity as part of its decision making. We refer you to the [Complying with the biodiversity duty - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/complying-with-the-biodiversity-duty) for further information.

Designated nature conservation sites

Paragraphs N2.2, N6.1(a&b) and N6.2 of the NPPF set out the principles for determining applications impacting on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and habitats sites (Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs)). Both the direct and indirect impacts of the development should be considered.

A Habitats Regulations Assessment is needed where a proposal might affect a habitat site (see [Habitats regulations assessments: protecting a European site - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/habitats-regulations-assessments-protecting-a-european-site) and Natural England must be consulted on 'appropriate assessments' (see [Appropriate assessment - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/appropriate-assessment) for more information for planning authorities).

Natural England must also be consulted where development is in or likely to affect a SSSI and provides advice on potential impacts on SSSIs either via the [SSSI Impact Risk Zones \(England\) \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com) or as standard or bespoke consultation responses. Section 28G of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 places a duty on all public bodies to take reasonable steps, consistent with the proper exercise of their functions, to further the conservation and enhancement of the features for which an SSSI has been notified ([Sites of special scientific interest: public body responsibilities - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sites-of-special-scientific-interest-public-body-responsibilities)).

Annex A – Natural England general advice

Air Quality

Natural England has produced [‘Air pollution and development: advice for local authorities. How to assess sector-specific planning applications that could affect air quality on a protected site’](#). This standing advice is to help planning authorities understand the impact on statutory protected sites from particular developments that emit specific air pollutants. The advice covers emissions of ammonia (NH₃), nitrogen oxides (NO, NO₂ or NO_x), nitrogen deposition, acid deposition and sulphur dioxide (SO₂).

The standing advice is Natural England’s formal statutory advice and is a material consideration. It provides decision makers with the information needed to fulfil their statutory duties when making decisions on planning applications with potential air pollution impacts.

Note that this advice cannot be used to assess Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) or local plans.

Protected Species

Natural England has produced [Protected species and development: advice for local planning authorities - GOV.UK](#) (standing advice) to help planning authorities understand the impact of particular developments on protected species.

Natural England will only provide bespoke advice on protected species where they form part of a Site of Special Scientific Interest or in exceptional circumstances. A protected species licence may be required in certain cases. We refer you to [Wildlife licences: when you need to apply](#) (www.gov.uk) for more information.

Local sites and priority habitats and species

The local planning authority should consider the impacts of the proposed development on any local wildlife or geodiversity site, in line with paragraphs N2.1 and N6.1(c) of the NPPF and any relevant development plan policy. There may also be opportunities to enhance local sites and improve their connectivity to help nature’s recovery. Natural England does not hold locally specific information on local sites and recommends further information is obtained from appropriate bodies such as the local environmental records centre, wildlife trust, geoconservation groups or recording societies. Emerging [Local nature recovery strategies - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) may also provide further useful information.

Those habitats and species which are of particular importance for nature conservation are included as ‘priority habitats and species’ in the England Biodiversity List published under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. Most priority habitats will be mapped either as Sites of Special Scientific Interest on the Magic website or as Local Wildlife Sites. We refer you to [Habitats and species of principal importance in England](#) (gov.uk) for a list of priority habitats and species in England. You should consider priority habitats and species when applying your ‘biodiversity duty’ to your policy or decision making

Natural England does not routinely hold priority species data. Such data should be collected when impacts on priority habitats or species are considered likely.

Consideration should also be given to the potential environmental value of brownfield sites, often found in urban areas and former industrial land. We refer you to the [Brownfield Hub - Buglife](#) for more information and Natural England’s [Open Mosaic Habitat \(Draft\) - data.gov.uk](#) (Open Mosaic Habitat inventory), which can be used as the starting point for detailed brownfield land assessments.

Biodiversity and wider environmental gains

Development should provide net gains for biodiversity in line with the NPPF paragraphs 17(c) N1.2 and N2.3. Unless exempt all new Town and Country Planning Act development are also required by law to deliver a biodiversity gain of at least 10% from 12 February 2024 and this requirement was extended to minor development from April 2024. This legal requirement will be extended to all new nationally significant infrastructure projects (NSIPs) development consent order (DCO) applications from 2nd November 2026.

Annex A – Natural England general advice

[Biodiversity Net Gain](#) guidance (gov.uk) provides more information on biodiversity net gain and includes a link to the [Biodiversity Net Gain Planning Practice Guidance](#) (gov.uk) and the recently updated list of [BNG exemptions](#).

The statutory biodiversity metric must be used to calculate biodiversity losses and gains for terrestrial and intertidal habitats and can be used to inform any development project. We refer you to [Calculate biodiversity value with the statutory biodiversity metric](#) for more information. For minor development sites, [The Small Sites Metric](#) may be used where these sites meet the criteria to use this Small Sites Metric. This is a simplified version of the statutory biodiversity metric and is designed for use where certain criteria are met.

The mitigation hierarchy as set out in paragraph N2.2 of the NPPF should be followed to firstly consider what existing habitats within the site can be retained or enhanced. Where on-site measures are not possible, provision off-site will need to be considered.

Where off-site delivery of biodiversity gain is proposed on a special site designated for nature (e.g. a SSSI or habitats site) prior consent or assent may be required from Natural England. More information is available on [Sites of Special Scientific Interest: managing your land](#)

Development also provides opportunities to secure wider biodiversity enhancements linked to Local Nature Recovery Strategies and wider environmental gains, as outlined in the NPPF (paragraphs N2.1(a-g), N3 and N6). Opportunities for enhancement might include incorporating features to support specific species within the design of new buildings such as swift or bat boxes or designing lighting to encourage wildlife and incorporating trees into development. Development should also take account of nationally and locally protected sites.

[The Environmental Benefits from Nature Tool - Beta Test Version - JP038 \(naturalengland.org.uk\)](#) may be used to identify opportunities to enhance wider benefits from nature and to avoid and minimise any negative impacts. It is designed to work alongside the statutory biodiversity metric.

[Natural environment - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) provides further information on biodiversity net gain, the mitigation hierarchy and wider environmental net gain.

Ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees

The local planning authority should consider any impacts on ancient woodland and ancient and veteran trees in line with paragraph N6.2 of the NPPF. The [Natural England Access to Evidence - Ancient woodlands Map](#) can help to identify ancient woodland. Natural England and the Forestry Commission have produced [Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) (standing advice) for planning authorities. It should be considered when determining relevant planning applications. Natural England will only provide bespoke advice on ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees where they form part of a Site of Special Scientific Interest or in exceptional circumstances.

Best and most versatile agricultural land and soils

Local planning authorities are responsible for ensuring that they have sufficient detailed agricultural land classification (ALC) information to apply NPPF policies paragraph N2.1. This is the case regardless of whether the proposed development is sufficiently large to consult Natural England. Further information is contained in the [Guide to assessing development proposals on agricultural land - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#). [Find open data - data.gov.uk](#) on Agricultural Land Classification or use the information available on [MAGIC \(defra.gov.uk\)](#).

The Defra [Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#) provides guidance on soil protection, and we recommend its use in the design and construction of development, including any planning conditions. For mineral working and landfilling, we refer you to [Reclaim minerals extraction and landfill sites to agriculture - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#), which provides guidance on soil protection for site restoration and aftercare. The [Soils Guidance \(quarrying.org\)](#) provides detailed guidance on soil handling for mineral sites.

Annex A – Natural England general advice

Should the development proceed, we advise that the developer uses an appropriately experienced soil specialist to advise on, and supervise soil handling, including identifying when soils are dry enough to be handled and how to make the best use of soils on site.

Green Infrastructure

For evidence-based advice and tools on how to design, deliver and manage green and blue infrastructure (GI) we refer you to [Green Infrastructure Home \(naturalengland.org.uk\)](https://naturalengland.org.uk/green-infrastructure) (the Green Infrastructure Framework). GI should create and maintain green liveable places that enable people to experience and connect with nature, and that offer everyone, wherever they live, access to good quality parks, greenspaces, recreational, walking and cycling routes that are inclusive, safe, welcoming, well-managed and accessible for all. GI provision should enhance ecological networks, support ecosystems services and connect as a living network at local, regional and national scales.

Development should be designed to meet the 15 [GI How Principles \(naturalengland.org.uk\)](https://naturalengland.org.uk/gi-how-principles). The GI Standards can be used to inform the quality, quantity and type of GI to be provided. Major development should have a GI plan including a long-term delivery and management plan. Relevant aspects of local authority GI strategies should be delivered where appropriate.

The [Green Infrastructure Map \(naturalengland.org.uk\)](https://naturalengland.org.uk/green-infrastructure-map) and [GI Mapping Analysis \(naturalengland.org.uk\)](https://naturalengland.org.uk/gi-mapping-analysis) are GI mapping resources that can be used to help assess deficiencies in greenspace provision and identify priority locations for new GI provision.

Access and Recreation:

Natural England encourages any proposal to incorporate measures to help improve people's access to the natural environment. Measures such as reinstating existing footpaths, together with the creation of new footpaths and bridleways should be considered. Links to urban fringe areas should also be explored to strengthen access networks, reduce fragmentation, and promote wider green infrastructure.

Rights of Way, Access land, Coastal access and National Trails:

Paragraphs N2.1, N5.1 and TR8 of the NPPF highlight the important of public rights of way and access. Development should consider potential impacts on access land, common land, rights of way and coastal access routes in the vicinity of the development.

Consideration should also be given to the potential impacts on any nearby National Trails. We refer you to [Find your perfect trail and discover the land of myths and legend - National Trails](https://nationaltrails.gov.uk/) for information including contact details for the National Trail Officer.

The King Charles III England Coast Path (KCIIIECP) is a National Trail around the whole of the English Coast. It has an associated coastal margin subject to public access rights. Parts of the KCIIIECP are not on Public Rights of Way but are subject to public access rights. Consideration should be given to the impact of any development on the KCIIIECP and the benefits of maintaining a continuous coastal route.

Appropriate mitigation measures should be incorporated for any adverse impacts on Rights of Way, Access land, Coastal access, and National Trails.

Further information is set out in the Planning Practice Guidance on the [Natural environment - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/natural-environment).

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Arun District Council, Civic Centre, Maltravers Rd, Littlehampton, West Sussex, BN17 5LF
www.arun.gov.uk

To register to receive notification of planning applications in your area please go to
<https://www1.arun.gov.uk/planning-application-finder>



From: SM-NE-Consultations (NE) [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 September 2026 16:26
To: Planning.Responses <Planning.Responses@arun.gov.uk>
Subject: F/40/26/PL NE RESPONSE

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. You should take extra care when clicking links or opening attachments - if you are unsure the content is safe contact the IT Helpdesk before clicking or opening.

Please find Natural England's response in relation to the above mentioned consultation attached herewith.

Kind Regards

Beemal Brahmabhatt

Operations Delivery
Consultations Team
Natural England, Oak House, Bridgwater Road, Worcester, Worcestershire, WR4 9FP

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

www.gov.uk/natural-england



Natural England offers two chargeable services - the Discretionary Advice Service, which provides pre-application and post-consent advice on planning/licensing proposals to developers and consultants, and the Pre-submission Screening Service for European Protected Species mitigation licence applications. These services help applicants take appropriate account of environmental considerations at an early stage of project development, reduce uncertainty, the risk of delay and added cost at a later stage, whilst securing good results for the natural environment.

For further information on the Discretionary Advice Service see [here](#)

For further information on the Pre-submission Screening Service see [here](#)

From: planning.responses@arun.gov.uk <planning.responses@arun.gov.uk>
Sent: 18 September 2026 16:04
To: SM-NE-Consultations (NE) [REDACTED]
Subject: Planning Consultation on: F/40/26/PL

To: **Natural England**

NOTIFICATION FROM ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Articles 16 & 18 Consultation before the grant of permission

Planning Permission

Application No:	F/40/26/PL
Registered:	18th September 2026
Site Address:	Environment Agency, Ford Depot Station Road Ford BN18 0BH
Grid Reference:	500253 104272
Description of Works:	Replacement of existing Portacabin with new single storey modular cabin for use as an ancillary building to the existing site. Excavate grounds of mixed material to create trench for new power, water and drainage. Install drainage pipework and associated items, including connection to existing, new or planned network. Install electrical meters, transformers and associated items as required. Excavations to be finished in concrete to match existing hardstand. New planters, wildlife houses and greenspace. Is in CIL Zone 3 (Zero Rated) as other development.

The Council have received the above application.

[Click here to view the application and documents](#) The website is updated once a day in the evening, so you may need to wait until the day after this notification to view the documents.

Should you have any comments to make, these should be sent by replying to this email by 22nd October 2026 . You can also monitor the progress of this application through the Council web site:

<https://www.arun.gov.uk/planning-application-search>

Please be aware that any comments you may make will be available on our website so please do not insert personal details or signatures on your reply.

Should the application go to appeal the Planning Inspectorate will publish any comments made to the Council on their website: <https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/> but they will protect personal details.

In the absence of a reply within the period stated, I shall assume that you have no observations to make.

Yours sincerely

Kathryn Welch

Planning Officer- Arun District Council

Telephone: 01903 737789

Email: kathryn.welch@arun.gov.uk

PLCONSULT (ODB) 2020

<https://www.arun.gov.uk>

DX 57406 Littlehampton

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