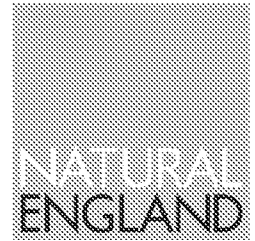


Date: 17th March 2011
Our ref: SEG.24.01.011
Your ref: LU/63/11



Mr N Crowther
Planning Officer
Arun District Council
Maltravers Road, Littlehampton
West Sussex, BN17 5LF

International House
Dover Place
Ashford
Kent
TN23 1HU

By email only, no hard copy to follow

Dear Mr Crowther

Proposal: Construction of the "Fitzalan Link Road" between the A259 Worthing Road and the East Street/Fitzalan Road roundabout

Location: Fitzalan Link Road between the A259 Worthing Road and the East Street/Fitzalan Road roundabout – The application affects a Public Right of Way

Thank you for your letter dated 4th March 2011 consulting Natural England on the above planning application.

Natural England has no objection to this planning proposal

However, we would expect the Local Planning Authority to assess and consider the possible impacts resulting from this proposal on the following when determining this application:

Protected Species

The ecological survey report submitted with the application highlights the need for further species specific ecological surveys but these have not been submitted. These surveys should be submitted by the applicant before determination of this proposal in accordance with our standing advice that can be found at

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/planningtransportlocalgov/spatialplanning/standingadvice/default.aspx>

Access and Recreation

Natural England would encourage any restoration design and after-use scheme to incorporate measures to help encourage people to access the countryside for quiet enjoyment. Measures such as reinstating existing footpaths together with the creation of new footpaths and bridleways are to be encouraged. Links to other green networks or urban fringe areas should also be explored to help promote the creation of a wider green infrastructure. To this end, relevant green infrastructure strategies put in place by local authorities should be incorporated where appropriate.

Landscape outside AONB

Natural England has considered the landscape and visual impacts of this proposal and concluded that this application does not meet our criteria for involvement with casework. We would stress that this should not necessarily be taken to indicate that the effects on landscape and visual amenity are appropriate, but are a matter for the Local Planning Authority to consider.

Local wildlife sites

If the proposal site is on or adjacent to local wildlife site, e.g. Site of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI) or Local Nature Reserve (LNR) the county ecologist and/or local Wildlife Trust should be contacted.

Biodiversity enhancements

This application may provide opportunities to incorporate features into the design which are beneficial to wildlife, such as the incorporation of roosting opportunities for bats or the installation of bird nest boxes. The Council should consider securing measures to enhance the biodiversity of the site from the applicant, if it is minded to grant permission for this application. This is in accordance with Paragraph 14 of PPS9. Additionally, we would draw your attention to Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) which states that '*Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity*'. Section 40(3) of the same Act also states that '*conserving biodiversity includes, in relation to a living organism or type of habitat, restoring or enhancing a population or habitat*'.

Yours sincerely

Rosemary Godfrey
Environmental Planning Adviser
South East (Eastern) Government Team
Natural England
International House, Dover Place, Ashford
KENT TN23 1HU

