

Ecology and Biodiversity Net Gain response

Arun District Council, Civic Centre, Maltravers Rd
Littlehampton, West Sussex, BN17 5LF
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From: Jonathan Best <Jonathan.Best@arun.gov.uk>
Sent: 02 January 2025 14:35
To: Planning.Responses <Planning.Responses@arun.gov.uk>
Cc: Amber Willard <Amber.Willard@arun.gov.uk>
Subject: WA/102/24/PL

Longacre The Street Walberton BN18 0PY.

I have reviewed this application with regards to ecology and Biodiversity Net Gain.

Recommendation: refuse due to insufficient details on protected species, dormice and bats and further details on the BNG plans and metric are required.

The BNG metric shows an increase in habitat units of 0.18 (31.98%) and hedgerow units of 0.11 (13.68%) this above the minimum 10% required.

The figure for habitats may not be correct because there are a number of trees or groups of trees that should have been recorded within the metric as advised by the Statutory Biodiversity Metric User Guide. See Page 55.

Recording baseline trees within private gardens

Record all medium, large and very large individual trees within private gardens.

Trees with over 30cm stem diameter should be recorded in the metric and the condition assessment. Only vegetated garden has been recorded in the submitted metric. The Arboricultural implications assessment and method statement identifies 12 individual or groups of trees that are over 30cm in diameter.

Several of these are proposed for removal.

The metric should be updated as it may well show a different result once the trees have been taken into account.

Further details of the trees within the Metric are required.

The pre and post habitat plans included in the BNG metric contain insufficient detail to assess with any certainty.

The Ecological Assessment covers the main habitats and species of concern but lacks detail on dormice and bats.

It provides a good post development plan for the site showing the ecological features that will be included.

There is no detailed existing habitat plan provided in the report.

Regarding Protected Species.

Dormice

The ecological assessment states 4.17 'Dormice are known to be present locally with 4 EPSML granted within 2km of the site'

'No signs of dormice were recorded on site at the time of survey'.

4.18 states

'Dormice cannot be ruled out on site and therefore a method statement showing working practices will be adhered to in order to ensure woody hedgerow habitats are protected and retained'.

There is no mention of how the dormice survey was undertaken in section 3 Methodology.

As there is a risk of dormice being present a phase 2 protected species survey for dormice is required.

Bats

The ecological assessment states 3.3 'Buildings and trees within the footprint of the site and any areas potentially impacted by the proposals were inspected in accordance with current survey guidance (BCT, 2016) for potential access points and roosting features which could support bats. Trees were checked for ivy cover, crevices and rotten sections from ground level and using a ladder and binoculars where necessary. Buildings were checked internally and externally for any signs of roosting bats or bat activity including droppings, insect feeding remains, worn entrances and staining'.

There are no results of these inspections within section 4 apart from a list of 3 bat licences granted within 2km of the site.

Further detail of the bat site inspections is required.

Reptiles

I am satisfied with the assessment of reptiles on site and the proposed mitigation and protection.

CGN

I am satisfied with the assessment of Great Crested Newts and concur that they are unlikely to be present.

I have not made recommendations for conditions yet as further details are required.

Regards,

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