

Date: 27 October 2008  
Our ref: HW/MAR/ADV/08-09/28\_10\_08  
Your ref: RR/2474/CC (EIA)



Peter Earl  
Development Control  
East Sussex County Council  
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33 North Street  
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Dear Mr Earl



**Proposal: Construction of a new road including environmental treatment with earthworks, planting, flood and noise attenuation, wildlife compensation and facilities for non-motorised users.**

**Location: A259 Belle Hill, Bexhill on Sea to B2092 Queensway, St Leonards on Sea**

Thank you for consulting Natural England on the additional information submitted in respect of bats, dormice and impacts on Marline Valley Woods SSSI.

Natural England **wishes to withdraw its previous objection** to the above scheme, following the receipt of this information. Our additional comments are as follows:

#### **Marline Valley Woods SSSI**

Natural England are satisfied that a commitment has been made to secure a suitable area of land to compensate for the following effects on Marline Valley Woods SSSI:

- Loss of a small area of SSSI at the southern tip through shading
- Loss of connectivity potential at the southern end
- Air quality impacts to the SSSI

#### **Bats**

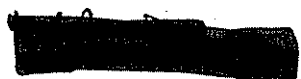
We are satisfied that the mitigation proposed for the loss of bat roosts within the zone of the scheme is suitable, in principle. Additionally we welcome the drawings showing the approximate placement of compensatory roosts. We are aware there is some uncertainty as to the exact location of the roosts due to the requirement for built environment permissions. Due to this uncertainty we would like a condition to be added to that ensures the final roosts locations, if they differ substantially from those proposed, are still located within the commuting zone of the bats.

#### **Dormice**

We welcome the letter from Dr Paul Channin confirming that he is satisfied that the dormouse mitigation is considered suitable and understand that he has been kept informed of the results of the dormouse surveys. We request that he confirms in writing that his comments are based on up-to-date survey information.

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 Marian Ashdown at the above address, or by email to [marian.ashdown@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:marian.ashdown@naturalengland.org.uk)

Yours sincerely



On behalf of Claudia Chambers  
Government Team Leader