

**Theme: BHLR: Nature Conservation chapter of the Addendum to the ES.**

**Location: ECOSA offices**

**Meeting Date 15/02/08**

**Present: GH  
SC  
PC  
JB**

**Giles Hewson (MM)  
Simon Colenutt (ECOSA)  
Dr. Paul Chanin  
Julia Barrett (MM)**

**Notes Taken by: JB**

**Project Number: 244424**

Item	Text	Action	Target Date
Summary notes	<p>Following a full introduction to the scheme, the dormouse (DM) issue was discussed.</p> <p>Key issues in relation to DM identified as hedgerow removal. The Regulation 19 issues raised by Natural England (NE) for the ES addendum is in reference to DM population severance.</p> <p>PC will require an audit of the total area of DM habitat lost.</p> <p>The scope along this route for new DM habitat is to be identified.</p> <p>PC gave example of work in Cornwall where a small, isolated DM population has been located on the central reservation. DM must be crossing the road at ground level – a distance of approximately 12 metres. PC suggested potential mitigation in the form of altering design to narrow the road verge at certain points to allow for populations to cross, thus eliminating the isolation issue. However, this may not be necessary if there are enough crossing points such as road bridges and agricultural underpasses close to connected habitat. There are potentially nine crossings in a short space of perhaps three kilometres, and therefore potential for mitigating e.g. putting in linking vegetation across such passes.</p>	PC	ASAP

244424\A\February 2008\JIB

P:\Croydon\SAH\HWY\244424 - Bexhill Hasting Link Road\CA Environmental Statement Addendum\Correspondence\6.4 Meetings\ECOSA\_P.Chanin.meeting 15 02 08.doc

	<p>SC explained the scope and context of the Dormouse surveys that have been carried out. Some concern as to whether the surveys are robust enough; contractual constraints prevented ECOSA from being able to carry out a survey to the NE recognised standard, which may be questioned by NE.</p> <p>PC suggests that the survey extent is fine. The presence/ absence survey is as good as you are likely to get as measuring population density is not accurate. Assume population presence in connected hedgerows of reasonable habitat (even some poor habitat).</p> <p>PC suggests that there is a robust case that could be put forward to Natural England from the existing survey results, without the need for additional surveys. However, there is a need to ensure that the crossing points identified are good for DM crossing and/ or can be made into good crossing points.</p>		
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ PC to review existing information and advise on mitigation measures to be added to the ES addendum. JB to forward all required information in addition to figures and the ES addendum which have been given to PC today.</li> <li>➤ PC and SC to go on site together (accompanied by Nigel Marshall of East Sussex County Council (ESCC)).</li> <li>➤ PC, SC and GH (and JB), to meet with Natural England to discuss potential mitigation strategies and approaches. To be arranged prior to submitting ES addendum so as to ensure that the methodologies adopted are acceptable by NE. This will be a critical meeting.</li> <li>➤ SC to write the ES addendum for Nature Conservation, with advise from PC. Draft due mid March.</li> </ul>	<p>PC</p> <p>PC/ SC</p> <p>PC, SC, GH, JB</p> <p>SC</p>	<p>ASAP</p> <p>4<sup>th</sup>/ 5<sup>th</sup> March (TBC)</p> <p>4<sup>th</sup>/ 5<sup>th</sup> March (TBC)</p> <p>Mid-March 2008</p>

Programme

**Stage 1:** Ecology meeting - 15.02.08 - ECOSA offices.

**Stage 2:** Environmental design meeting - 20.02.08 - ESCC offices.

**Stage 3:** Site walkover and scheme discussion (environmental design) with Nigel Marshall of ESCC. 4<sup>th</sup>/ 5<sup>th</sup> March (TBC).

**Stage 4:** Consultation with Natural England (Marianne Ashdown). 4<sup>th</sup>/ 5<sup>th</sup> March (TBC).

**Stage 5:** Nature conservation chapter of the ES addendum