

Bexhill to Hastings Link Road
Note of meeting
10.5.05

Wildlife Issues

Present

Janyis Hyatt (SWT) – JH

Kristoffer Hewitt (NE) – KH

Philip Masters – PM

Debbie Mallard (ESCC) – DM

Virginia Pullan (ESCC) – VP

Nigel Marshall (ESCC) – NM

The meeting was arranged to discuss some of the requirements for wildlife studies associated with the road scheme.

The outcome of the meeting is summarised in the notes from Philip Masters below:-

NOTES ON SURVEYS FOR ES FOR BEXHILL-HASTINGS LINK ROAD 2005

Detailed Botanical Survey of the Route Corridor

NVC mapping plus maps at 1:1000 scale with species lists and target notes for each compartment within the road corridor, subdividing NVC stands as necessary. Species in each compartment recorded as DAFOR with notes on habitat structure. Depending on the habitats, present most sites will need visiting at least twice.

Detailed Survey for Rare and Uncommon Submerged Plants

Rare or uncommon plants would generally be picked up in the above survey, but particular attention needs to be given to submerged aquatics, which are probably best sampled separately in late summer. The recorded sites for the only Nationally Scarce plant are well away from the route.

Badgers

A badger survey using the Mammals Society method is required within the route corridor to update existing information and to identify precisely what the effects on badgers will be. This will need to consider not just

direct effects in setts etc but also the effects of severance from feeding areas.

Bats

A full bat survey is required which must commence in early June and be completed by late August. At this time bat activity is at a peak and summer roosts are more readily detected providing reliable survey results. All buildings will be subject to an internal survey with access gained to all roof spaces. Emergence checks and dawn surveys will then be carried out with at least four visits to all suitable locations. This work must be carried out by workers with English Nature bat licenses.

Dormice

A dormouse survey is required in all areas of woody vegetation along the route. In view of the extensive coverage needed. Hair-tubes as described in *The Dormouse Conservation Handbook* are probably the best method of survey, although nest boxes may be used.

Water voles

The water vole survey will be carried between now and June when territorial activity is at a peak and vegetation growth does not inhibit the survey. Because of the steep nature of the banks it would be an advantage to either survey with waders or from a dingy, the latter is often more practical. In addition artificial latrine sites may be positioned on site. These consist of floating wood or polystyrene that are readily adopted by the species to create latrines on and have been found to be an efficient way to locate the species.

Water Shrews

A water shrew survey will be carried out in areas of suitable habitat along the route. Hair-tubes, as for the dormice, are probably the best method of survey.

It should be sufficient to look for otter spraints in the course of the water vole survey.

5.11 **Birds**

A survey of the route corridor in accordance with BTO common bird census method with up to 5 visits will be made. This has started

5.12 **Reptiles**

There are extensive areas of potential reptile habitat and survey is required. Survey using the normal method of refugia will be sufficient because most of the areas are grazed. The areas of suitable habitat will be mapped and refugia placed in sample locations where positions can be agreed with landowners.

Amphibians

All waterbodies within the road corridor are being sampled for amphibians using standard approaches including torchlight surveys.

Invertebrates

Wetlands will be sampled for aquatic beetles as indicator species and this will be combined with the BMWP method of water quality assessment. A dragonfly survey will be carried out in summer using standard approaches.