

Appendix 2: Chichester District Council's Comments:

General:

The Council is pleased to see WSCC's early consultation for this corridor's improvement. We support WSCC's proposed improvement to the corridor which is congruent with the Council's adopted Climate change Action Plan and Air Quality Action Plan and supports the emerging Local Plan's evidence base's modelled 5% modal-shift across the plan period.

The Council is keen to see walking, cycling and wheeling infrastructure of the highest quality that delivers the best achievable standard within the DfT design guide note LTN1/20 subject to the constraints on the corridor. The Council urges WSCC to bring the scheme forwards at the earliest time and that WSCC is optimally resourced to bring this to reality.

Protected Habitats and Species

Due to the scale of the project we would recommend that an Ecological Impact assessment is undertaken by a trained ecologist to determine the impact the project would have on any protected sites, habitats or species within the site and surrounding environment. Following this survey if any further surveys are recommended we would require these to also be undertaken and any mitigation required to be considered and included within the planning application.

SAC Bat species

Due to the sites location within the buffer zone** for the Singleton and Cocking Tunnel SAC consideration will need to be given to any SAC bat species which may be using the project area for foraging and commuting. This will include undertaking bat activity surveys using both transect and static bat detectors over a period of months. A Habitat Regulations Assessment will need to be undertaken for the proposal and if SAC bats were found to be utilising the site an Appropriate Assessment will also need to be completed.

Wildlife Corridors

As part of the corridor is within an area identified as a potential Strategic Wildlife Corridor as identified in the Strategic Wildlife Corridors Background Paper we will require that the proposal does not adversely affect the potential or value of the wildlife corridor. The ecological survey will need to address and investigate ways that any impact can be mitigated. We would ideally like to see a sensitive lighting scheme produced taking light sensitive bat species into consideration with directional lighting away from any hedgerow or treelines. We also would like to see reasonable buffer areas between any ecological features within the corridors including any hedgerows, treelines and water course.

****Note:**

The SAC buffers are a circular buffer surrounding the SAC and the known SAC flightlines. There are two buffers a 6.5km inner buffer zone and a wider 12km buffer zone. For this site it is just within the 12km buffer zone for the Singleton and Cocking Tunnel so we will need to do a HRA and AA (if barbastelle or Bechstein bats are found commuting through the site).