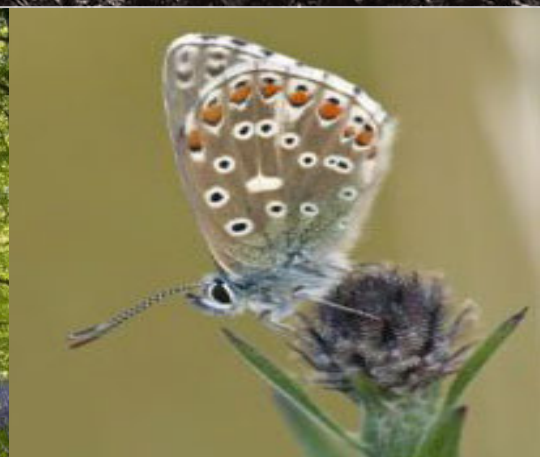


Advice to Homeholders & their agents

Assessing Impacts on the
Landscape, Wildlife and Cultural Heritage
of the South Downs National Park

August 2012



South Downs Integrated Landscape Character Assessment (Updated)

Figure 8.1: The South Downs Landscape Classification

Key

- South Downs National Park Boundary (confirmed 2009)

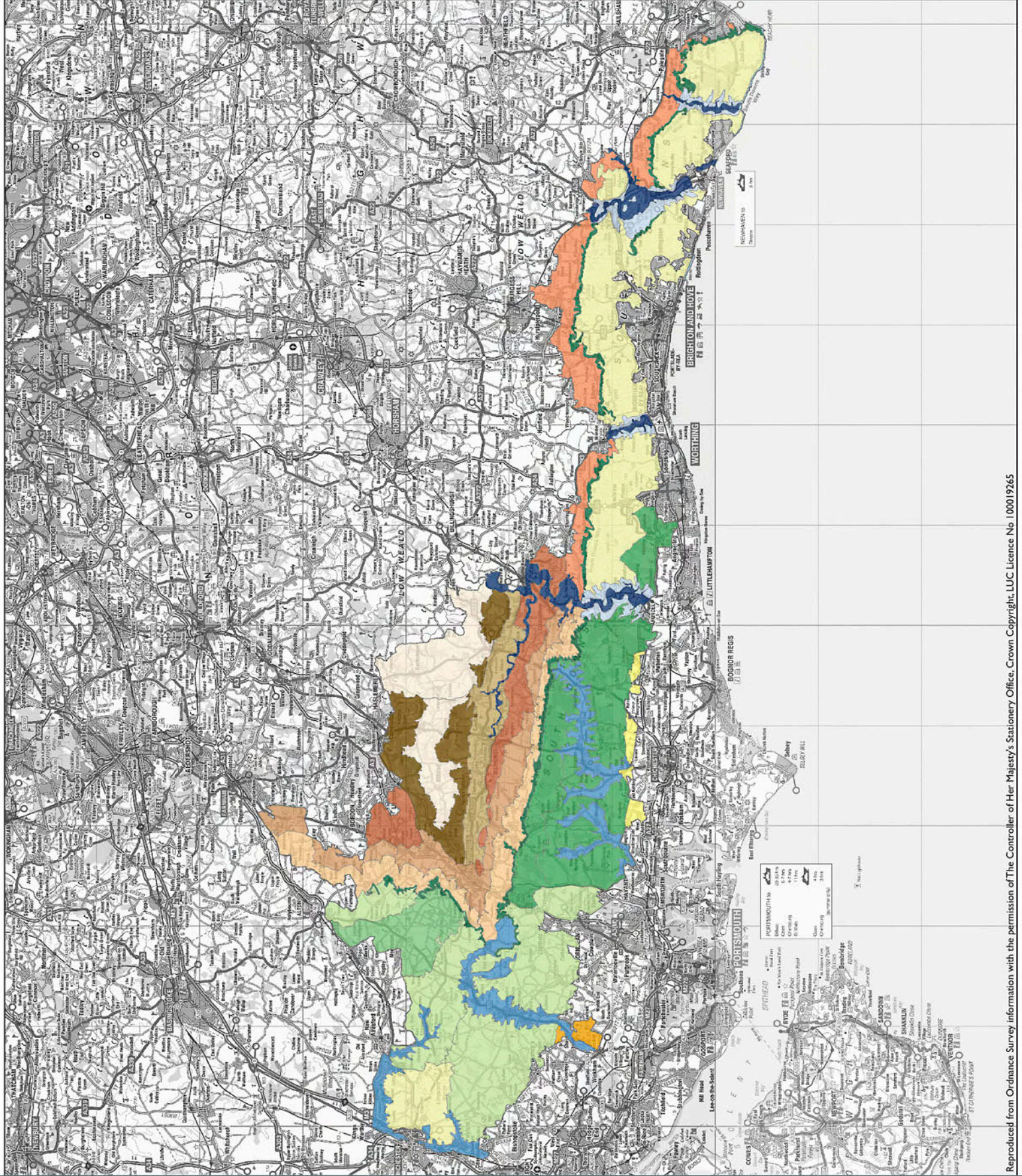
Landscape Types

- A: Open Downland
- B: Wooded Estate Downland
- C: Clay Plateau
- D: Downland Mosaic
- E: Chalk Valley Systems
- F: Major River Floodplains
- G: Major Valley Sides
- H: Major Scarps
- I: Scarp Footslopes
- J: Greensand Terrace
- K: Mixed Farmland and Woodland Vale
- L: Wealden Farmland and Heath Mosaic
- M: Sandy Arable Farmland
- N: Greensand Hills
- O: Low Weald
- P: Wooded Claylands
- Q: Upper Coastal Plain
- R: Shoreline

Note: See fold-out maps at the back of this report for more detailed boundaries



Date Prepared: 22/09/2011



Landscape means an area, as perceived by people,
whose character is the result of the action and
interaction of natural and/or human factors.

European Landscape Convention
(Council for Europe, 2000)

Contents

1.0	Introduction	
1.1	The purpose of this advice	4
1.2	Design Principles	5
2.0	Baseline Assessment	
2.1	What is a Baseline Assessment	6
2.2	Baseline Assessment - what matters and why?	6
2.3	Baseline Assessment Checklist	8
3.0	Further Assessments and Surveys	
3.1	Introduction	20
3.2	Tree Survey and Impact Assessment	20
3.3	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment	21
3.4	Biodiversity Survey	22
3.5	Heritage Statement	23
3.6	Mitigation and Landscaping	24
4.0	Checklist	25
	Glossary of Terms	27
	Appendices	
Appendix 1	Wildlife Designations and Types of Assessment	29
Appendix 2	Wildlife Surveys	30
Appendix 3	Where to Find Specialists	31

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this advice

1.1.1 This Advice Note sets out how to assess the possible impacts of your home improvements on the landscape, wildlife and cultural heritage of the South Downs National Park.

1.1.2 It includes a checklist of things to consider when developing proposals for different types of work on your home such as adding conservatories, loft extensions, out buildings, fencing and walls, greenhouses, and domestic renewable energy schemes and which will be taken into account if you need to submit a planning application.



1.2 Design Principles

1.2.1 The South Downs National Park has been designated for its outstanding landscapes; the rich variety of landscape character creates its distinct sense of place. These variations in character have been mapped and described in a publication called the **South Downs Integrated Landscape Character Assessment** (see the map on the inside cover and page 10 for further details).

1.2.2 The South Downs Integrated Landscape Character Assessment also describes qualities such as 'tranquillity', wildlife interest and historic character for each landscape in the South Downs National Park. It provides useful information about your area which will help you to design your development so that it:

- is of **high quality, attractive** and **sits comfortably** within its site and setting;
- responds to the **scale and character** of the existing building and/or neighbouring buildings;
- makes a **positive contribution to local character**;
- **conserves and enhances key views**;
- **conserves and enhances local wildlife**;
- **conserves and enhances local cultural heritage**; and
- maintains **opportunities for recreation** and provides new opportunities for **enjoyment and understanding of the special qualities** of the National Park.



2.0 Baseline Assessment

2.1 What is a Baseline Assessment

2.1.1 The first step to integrating your proposal into the South Downs National Park in a way which conserves and enhances its scenic beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage is to understand what is there now, before you make additions and alterations. This is called a **baseline assessment**.

2.2 Baseline Assessment - what matters and why?

2.2.1 Even small-scale external changes to your home can have wide ranging effects on the environment. A baseline assessment will help highlight what aspects are most sensitive to change, as well as opportunities for keeping the National Park a special to live.

2.2.2 A baseline assessment helps you and those considering your planning application to understand the existing character, condition and special qualities of your home and its surroundings. It combines a **'desk-top study'** (i.e. an analysis of historic and contemporary maps, photographs, historic records, special designations, wildlife records, archaeological evidence etc.), with observations 'on the ground' and discussions with officers of the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) and the opinions of other experts. It establishes what is there now and helps to identify view points from where your house and proposed development may be seen.

The purpose of a Baseline Assessment is to establish what matters and why. It is a factual description of what is there now which can be used to inform the design of the proposed changes to your home - ensuring that the special qualities of the National Park are protected and enhanced.



2.3 Baseline Assessment Checklist

2.3.1 This checklist is designed to be filled in by you or your agent and there should be no need to employ a specialist to complete it. Whilst it will require a little research in most cases especially for small-scale works, you will have no need to undertake any further work such as commissioning specialist surveys.

2.3.2 Once you have completed the checklist, it should be submitted with your planning application and will satisfy the validation requirement for a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Ecology/Biodiversity Survey or Heritage Statement provided no landscape, ecological or cultural heritage impacts have been identified.

2.3.3 For details of the other information you need to provide with your planning application (including plans), please consult the South Downs National Park website:
<http://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning>



Baseline Assessment Checklist

Please answer all of the questions below and provide a written description and supplementary reports/drawings as required. If you are unsure about how large an area to consider as part of your baseline assessment please contact your local planning authority except in Arun, Brighton and Hove, Eastbourne and Wealden where information can be obtained directly from the SDNPA. Tel: +44(0)1730 234417 or by email to planning@southdowns.gov.uk

Topography (i.e. the levels and lie of the land).

Does the topography of the site have an effect on the design of your scheme or make your proposals more or less visible from the surrounding area?

YES NO Description

Current Land Uses

Will your proposal change the current land use of your site, the appearance of the landscape or adjoining land uses?

YES NO Description

Existing trees, hedges, woodland blocks and belts

For information on Tree Preservation Orders and group preservation orders please consult your Local Authority except in Arun, Brighton and Hove, Eastbourne and Wealden where information can be obtained directly from the SDNPA.

Tel: +44(0)1730 234417 or by email to: planning@southdowns.gov.uk

Are there existing trees with a trunk diameter of more than 75 mm (measured at 1.5 metres above ground level) hedgerows, woodland blocks/belts or scrub connected to woodland or hedgerows on your site?

YES NO Description

Are any of the trees on site veteran trees or protected by Tree Preservation Orders and Group Preservation Orders?

YES NO Description

Are any trees and hedgerows described above to be removed or is there likely to be building activity within 15 metres of a tree with a trunk diameter of more than 75mm (measured at 1.5 metres above ground level)?

YES NO Description

.....

Do the trees and hedgerows on your site contribute to local landscape/townscape character, and wildlife interest currently?

YES NO Description

.....

Water-bodies and ditches

Are there any water bodies such as ponds or ditches that are important for site drainage and wildlife which may be affected by your proposals?

YES NO Description

.....

What is their general condition?

Man-made features

Will your proposal retain features in or adjacent to your home that are visually intrusive and have a 'negative impact' e.g. pylons ?

YES NO Description

If your proposed development is within 15 metres of a tree with a trunk diameter of more than 75mm (measured at 1.5 metres above ground level) you will need to undertake a Tree Survey and or a Biodiversity Survey - see sections 3.2 and 3.4.

Views

Are there key views to your property from the surrounding area?

YES NO Description

.....

Is your proposed development likely to be visible, and therefore likely to alter, these views?
(please consider alterations to the existing building but also any changes to property boundary, access or vegetation).

YES NO Description

Is your proposed development likely to make your property visible from areas where there are currently no views?

YES NO Description

If you answer yes to any of the above questions on views please indicate views described on an **Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 base map** and attach this to your baseline assessment.

Landscape Character

Information on landscape character can be found at:
<http://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning/integrated-landscape-character-assessment>
or on the CD of the Integrated Landscape Character Assessment which can be requested from **planning@southdowns.gov.uk** Tel: +44(0)1730 234417

There may be other local landscape assessments as part of Local Area Plans, Parish Plans, Village Design Statements or Local Landscape Character Assessments. Consult your local planning authority to establish if any exist for your area. If they do exist then please refer to them when answering the questions below.

Where your proposal is located within open countryside or a small settlement please describe the character area and type it sits within or adjacent to?

Description

What does the character assessment tell you about the key features and special qualities of your area?

Description

Are there different character areas and types nearby that may be affected by your application?
(e.g. by changing views)?

YES NO Description

.....

Is there a historic pattern of field boundaries, woodland and/or settlement in the area
surrounding your site?

YES NO Description

.....

Settlement Character

Please refer to Parish Plans, Village Design Statements, local area plans,
townscape assessments which are adopted by the relevant local planning
authority as Supplementary Planning Advice (SPA) to assist with this.

Where your proposal is located within or adjacent to an existing settlement
please describe the character of the settlement (including village/ town, predominant type
building type terraced/ detached houses, number of storeys, architectural style, age, typical
materials).

Description

.....

.....

Are there key views from the settlement to the wider landscape which may be affected by your
development?

YES NO Description

.....

Are there local landmarks which may be affected by the proposed development?

YES NO Description

.....

.....

Where an application is located on the edge of a settlement describe the following:
Character of the settlement edge e.g. wooded/vegetated

Description

Character of approach roads and paths into the settlement in the vicinity of your application

Description

Gateways/points of arrival e.g. point at which there is a sense of arriving into the settlement

Description

If your proposed development is likely to affect a wide area of landscape/townscape and or important views you will need to undertake a landscape and visual impact assessment - see section 3.3.

Habitats

Information on relevant priority habitats at national and local level can be found in the Local Biodiversity Action Plans for Hampshire and Sussex - please consult Hampshire County Council, West Sussex County Council or East Sussex County Council for further details.

Does your application or adjacent land include areas of unimproved chalk grassland, heathland, wetland which could be 'priority habitats' for wildlife?

YES NO Description

Geology and Wildlife Designations

Certain geological sites and wildlife habitats are afforded various levels of legal or policy protection in the form of designation (refer to Appendix I for full list of designations).

To determine if your site is designated or lies adjacent to a designation, please refer to the following links:

MAGIC: <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/>

Nature on the Map: <http://www.natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk/>

Is your application located in or within 400 metres of a geological or wildlife designation?

YES NO Description

Is your proposed development likely to indirectly affect a geological or wildlife designation? (e.g. by affecting a water supply or severing a connecting wildlife corridor such as woodland or hedgerows).

YES NO Description

.....

Protected Species

For information on protected species please refer to the following links:

Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre

<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/biodiversity/hbic>

Sussex Biodiversity Records Centre <http://sxbrc.org.uk/>

National Biodiversity Network (NBN Gateway) <http://www.nbn.org.uk>

Wildlife surveys (e.g. carried out by volunteers) may also be available through the above local record centers.

Is your application (including re-roofing works, replacing shiplap boarding or tile hangings or works to attics) likely to affect a protected species?

YES NO Description

.....

Have you seen any evidence of protected species using the application site, including bat droppings or roosts, birds' nests or sightings of species such as bats, badgers, dormice, adders, slow worms and nesting birds?

YES NO Description

.....

Locally Important Geology and Wildlife

Local Geological Sites are selected by voluntary geoconservation groups on the basis of their value for education, study of earth science, historical value and or aesthetic value.

Local wildlife sites (LWS), may also be known as Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCIs or SINCS).

For information on locally important wildlife and geological sites refer to the following links:

Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/biodiversity/hbic>

Sussex Biodiversity Records Centre <http://sxbrc.org.uk/>

Is your proposal located within or adjacent to a locally important geological or wildlife site?

YES NO Description

Is your proposal likely to affect a locally important geological or wildlife site?

YES NO Description

Is your proposal likely to affect a water supply or sever a connecting wildlife corridor?

YES NO Description

If protected species are present or suspected of being present, specialist surveys are required- refer to Appendix 2 on page 30 for details of the best times of year to carry out these surveys.

If your proposed development is likely to affect protected species, priority habitat or wildlife designations you may need to undertake a Biodiversity Survey and report. See section 3.4.

Designated Heritage Assets

These include Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks And Gardens, Registered Battlefields, Protected Wreck Sites, Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings.

Information on **nationally designated heritage assets** (all those listed above except conservation areas) can be found at: <http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/>

Conservation Areas are designated by local planning authorities and information can be found on the relevant Local Authority websites.

Where a Conservation Appraisal has been carried out and/or there is a Conservation Area Management Plan or Action Plan published on the Local Authority web site this should be taken into account in developing your proposal and referred to in your application submission.

Is your application located within or adjacent to a Scheduled Monument, Registered Park and Garden, Registered Battlefield, Protected Wreck Site or Conservation Area?

YES NO Description

It is important to take into account the physical extent, the quality/ significance and the overall group value of designated heritage assets.

Is your proposed development likely to affect the setting of a Scheduled Monument, Registered Park and Garden, Registered Battlefield Protected Wreck Site or Conservation Area?

YES NO Description

Is your house or any building on your property a listed building?

YES NO Description

Will your proposal alter a listed building or its setting?

YES NO Description

Non designated heritage assets including above and below ground archaeology

Buildings, land, or features with a historic, architectural, community or archaeological interest can be considered as heritage assets even though they are not nationally designated.

Archaeological interest may apply to all heritage assets whether designated or not eg the development of a building and its history may only be revealed through archaeological investigation during or after the removal of modern features and additions.

Your Local Authority may have compiled a local list from the Historic Environment Record. These lists are kept by Hampshire, West Sussex and East Sussex County Councils, Chichester District Council and Winchester City Councils, and can be accessed at: <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/chr/>

Are there historic buildings and architectural features which are not designated, but which may be physically affected by your application?

YES NO Description

Are there opportunities to incorporate historic buildings and features into the proposed development?

YES NO Description

Archaeology

Is there likely to be above or below ground archaeology affected by your proposal?

YES NO Description

.....

If you require listed building consent for your proposed development or the development is located within a Conservation Area you will need to prepare a Design and Access Statement and include a Heritage Statement.

If your proposed development is likely to affect a heritage asset (whether designated or not) you will need to prepare a Heritage Assessment. See section 3.5.

Recreation

Information on recreation including rights of way, bridleways, long distance footpaths, key viewpoints and open access land can be obtained from **1:25,000 OS maps**.

Definitive information on rights of way can be obtained from the relevant county council highway authority.

Information on national cycle routes can be obtained from <http://www.sustrans.org.uk/>.

Are there any adjacent public rights of way, bridleways, permissive footpaths, national and local cycle routes, long distance footpaths, open access land, and key tourist destinations such as panoramic viewpoints and beauty spots affected by the application?

YES NO Description

.....

Does your proposal have an effect on specific views from recreational routes or areas?

YES NO Description

.....

If so please indicate on an Ordnance Survey (OS) 1:25,000 base map which views are affected, and describe the effects.

YES NO Description



Description

.....

.....

.....

Please describe any measures within your proposal which might enhance the enjoyment and understanding of the special qualities of the National Park through your development proposals?

Description

.....

.....

.....

Your Additional Notes

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....



South Downs
National Park Authority

Please use this page for your additional notes

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....



3.0 Further Assessments and Surveys

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 This section sets out the assessments and surveys that may be required as part of your application if you have answered 'yes' to any of the questions in the checklist, and provides information on how predicted impacts may be mitigated.

3.1.2 Assessments and surveys should be carried out by suitably qualified professionals and information on where to find/contact specialists is provided in appendix 3.

3.2 Tree Survey and Impact Assessment

3.2.1 A Tree Survey, Impact Assessment and Protection and Method Statement will be required if trees are affected within the application site (or on land adjacent to it). This includes the removal of trees, building works, storage of materials, digging service trenches, site access by heavy machinery and excavation works.

3.2.2 If any of the above is likely to occur within 15m of the base of a tree with a trunk more than 75mm in diameter (measured at 1.5 metres above ground level) then a **Tree Survey and Protection and Method Statement** should be submitted with your application. The survey needs to be in compliance with BS 5837 (2012) 'Trees in Relation to Construction - Recommendations' and will have to be prepared by a qualified arboriculturalist.





3.3 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

3.3.1 If you have answered 'yes' to the section of the baseline assessment checklist relating to landscape and visual impact and your application is likely to affect a wide area of landscape or affect particularly sensitive views a more detailed Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) will be required.

3.3.2 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments are technically complex and should be carried out by a suitably qualified landscape architect, in line with the current guidelines. A clear distinction should be made between landscape impacts and visual impacts and impacts should be assessed on a worst case scenario.

3.3.3 If a LVIA is required, reference must be made to the South Downs Integrated Landscape Character Assessment, and if the impact of the proposal extends beyond the National Park boundary then other County and District assessments should also be consulted, together with Village Design Statements, Parish Plans and Conservation Area Statements.

3.4 Biodiversity Survey

3.4.1 A Biodiversity Survey and Report is required for all planning applications within (or adjacent to) a Local or National Nature Reserve (LNR or NNR) or Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). ++See the local validation list on SDNP website:

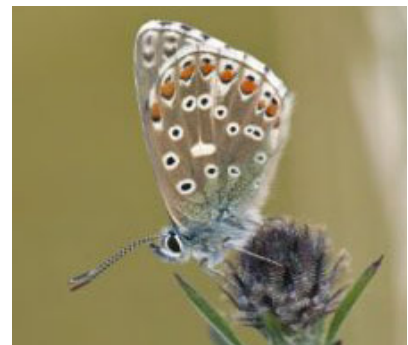
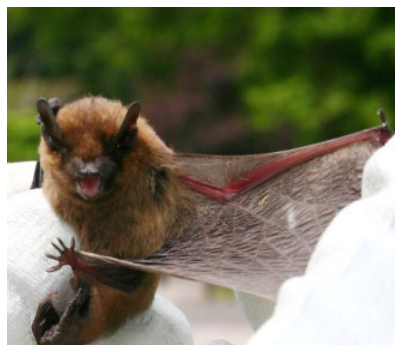
<http://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning/planning-advice/validation>

3.4.2 The Baseline Assessment Checklist in the previous section identifies if there is a need to undertake a Biodiversity Survey, but it may not be necessary if:

- the SDNPA, has confirmed in writing that no further Biodiversity Survey is required;
- a letter from a suitably qualified and experienced person is submitted with the planning application to demonstrate that there is evidence protected species are absent;
- it is clear that because of the type of scheme proposed there will be no impact on protected species and you have submitted a statement acknowledging that you are aware that it is a criminal offence to disturb or harm protected species should they subsequently be found or disturbed.

3.4.3 A Biodiversity Survey and Report should be undertaken by a qualified ecologist and contain:

- an annotated plan showing the extent and location of protected species (including supporting habitats and features on which these species depend) that could be affected (more detailed ecological surveys may be required);
- likely impacts to protected species, designations/ and priority habitats - both locally and regionally;
- how the impacts might be avoided and alternative designs and location considered;
- how unavoidable impacts would be mitigated or reduced;
- how impacts that cannot be avoided or mitigated, will be compensated, including measures which counterbalance the impacts, amending damage or loss.
- and proposals for wildlife-enhancement.



3.5 Heritage Statement



3.5.1 All Planning Applications that have the potential to affect the historic, architectural, community or archaeological interest of a Heritage Asset or its setting should be submitted with a Heritage Statement. See <http://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning/planning-advice/validation>

3.5.2 Alterations to a Listed Building will probably require Listed Building Consent and if situated in a Conservation Area will also require a **Design and Access Statement**.

The Heritage Statement can be combined with the Design and Access Statement if the detail included is comprehensive. Advice can be found at:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110118095356/http://www.cabe.org.uk/files/design-and-access-statements.pdf>

3.5.3 English Heritage has prepared a practice guide for the preparation of a Heritage Statement - refer to paragraphs 53-69, and in particularly paragraph 58 in the following document:
<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/pps-practice-guide/pps5practiceguide.pdf>.

This would normally need to be carried out by a suitably qualified professional such as an archaeologist and/or conservation architect.

3.5.4 Other sources of information which may be of help in assessing impacts on cultural heritage include: The Setting of Heritage Assets (2011), English Heritage
<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/setting-heritage-assets/>

Seeing the History in the View (2011), English Heritage
<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/advice/advice-by-topic/setting-and-views/seeing-the-history-in-the-view/>

3.6 Mitigation and Landscaping

3.6.1 New planting can help integrate your development into the landscape, as well as reinstating lost features, such as hedgerows or woodland and supporting biodiversity and habitat networks. Where landscape mitigation has been incorporated into your proposals you should provide a written description and a landscaping plan.



Consider the following mitigation measures to help minimise the potential negative impacts of development:

- landform - naturalistic earth mounding and cut and fill to assimilate into the landscape;
- amendments to design, scale, massing and layout to reduce visibility;
- careful choice of materials, finishes, and colour to integrate with surrounding development;
- landscaping and tree planting which reflects local character and contributes to biodiversity;
- reduction in street lighting and the specification of light fittings that minimise light-spillage;
- moving protected species (plants and animals) to appropriate alternative sites (i.e. translocation is a highly specialised procedure to be carried out under licence by qualified ecologists only);
- using exclusion fencing to prevent certain animals entering/returning to a site during the construction period;
- working at particular times of the year to avoid disturbing wildlife;
- measures to preserve particular habitats and ecological features;
- creation of new habitats and wildlife features and the linking of existing habitats with wildlife corridors and green infrastructure;
- design and layout amendments to reduce impact on significance of heritage assets particularly archaeological interest; and
- recording of archaeological sites.

4.0 Checklist

Key things to consider:

Building and Site

- Are boundary treatments in keeping with the setting - do they reinforce traditional rural lane or hedgerow character?
- Does the topography of the site (levels and lie of the land) exaggerate the scale of development?
- Does the proposed development respond and sit comfortably with the scale and size of the building?
- Does the building form (window proportions, roof spans and materials) reflect or complement the local vernacular traditions?

Views and character

- Can existing views be protected and new views of high scenic value be opened up?
- Can the local landscape character and landscape patterns be strengthened and enhanced?
- Will the building materials reinforce or complement key views and local distinctiveness?
- Have views to and from the proposal site from publically accessible areas in the vicinity been considered and impacts minimised?
- Have the effects of the development in association with similar development nearby been considered (i.e. cumulative impacts)?
- If on the edge of an existing settlement, does the development extend urbanising influences into open countryside, affect the settlement gateway or views to landmarks?



Cultural Heritage

- Have impacts on heritage assets (including setting) been minimised?
- Have un-designated and designated features of heritage interest been incorporated into the proposed development?

Wildlife

- Is the building or site important for protected species?
- Is the site where the development is proposed important in terms of habitat?
- If birds are nesting in/on the building to be altered, have you planned work to avoid this period (March to July)?
- If bats are using the building to be altered, have you planned work to avoid disturbing them (they may be using the building at any time of the year)?
- Does the proposal enhance bird, bat and amphibious habitats and nesting sites through purpose designed built entrances and internal spaces?
- Can existing wildlife interest be improved and can the creation of new habitats and landscape features contribute to larger-scale initiatives?

Recreation and Enjoyment

- Can access to the wider landscape of the National Park be increased?
- Can understanding and enjoyment of the National Park landscape, wildlife and or cultural heritage be enhanced?



Glossary of terms

Baseline Assessment	To establish the existing conditions of a development site and its surroundings. The information collected will form the basis for identification and description of effects of the proposed development.
Biodiversity	Biodiversity is the term used to describe the variability of all living things
Biodiversity Action Plan	The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) identifies national priority species and habitats, and lists priority actions for their conservation. Many local and regional BAPs have also been produced to help conserve and enhance wildlife and habitats.
Biodiversity Opportunity Areas	These are regional priority areas of opportunity for restoration and creation of Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitats. They are a spatial representation of the BAP targets and are areas of opportunity, not constraint.
Compensation	Measures which counterbalance the impacts, amending damage or loss.
Cumulative effects	The summation of effects that result from changes caused by a development in conjunction with other past, present and reasonably foreseeable actions.
Design and access statement	A statement which explains the design thinking behind a planning application.
Green Infrastructure	The creation, management and protection of multifunctional green spaces which includes; parks, gardens, natural and semi natural urban green spaces, green corridors and outdoor sports facilities.
Heritage Statement	An assessment of the significance of a heritage asset and its setting used to consider the impact of a proposed development including impacts on the significance of the heritage asset.
Landscape Character Assessment	A tool that is used to help us to understand, and articulate, the character of the landscape. It helps us identify the features that give a locality its 'sense of place' and pinpoints what makes it different from neighboring areas.
Landscape Character Area	This is a single unique area that occurs in a discrete geographical area and has a strong sense of place and local identity.
Landscape Character Type	These are distinct types of landscape which are relatively homogenous in character. They are generic in nature in that they occur in different areas but where ever they occur they share similar characteristics.
Landscape Impacts	Changes in the elements, characteristics, character and qualities of the landscape as a result of development. These effects can be positive or negative, direct or indirect.
Local Vernacular	A local style of architecture using traditional building materials in a particular way.
Mitigation	Measures which avoid or make the impact less severe.
Priority BAP Habitats	Indicates habitats most threatened and requiring conservation action under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP).
Ramsar	Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance, designated under the Ramsar Convention. The initial emphasis, within the UK, was on selecting sites of importance to waterbirds. However, non-bird features are increasingly being taken into account towards the selection of sites in UK.
Setting	The surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral.
Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	SSSI's are nationally important and are the very best wildlife and geological sites in the UK. SSSI's are legally protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000 and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006.
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)	Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are strictly protected sites designated under the EC Habitats Directive. The designation of important high-quality conservation sites aims to conserve the threatened habitats and species (excluding birds) identified in Annexes I and II of the Directive (as amended).

Special Protection Area (SPA)	Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are strictly protected sites classified in accordance with Article 4 of the EC Birds Directive. SPAs are classified according to their assemblages of rare and vulnerable birds, and for regularly occurring migratory species.
Tranquility	Tranquility is the quality of calm experienced in places with mainly natural features and activities, free from disturbance or overt manmade ones.
Visual Impacts	Change in the appearance of the landscape as a result of development. This can be positive or negative.

Notes:

(1) Advice on preparing a **Design and Access** statement can be found at:

<http://www.cabe.org.uk/files/design-and-access-statements.pdf>

Appendix I Wildlife Designations and Types of Assessment

The table below sets out the hierarchy of site designations, and describes the type of assessment that should be prepared in support of a development proposal that could affect such sites.

Hierarchy	Designation	Types of assessment
International importance (Natura 2000 sites)	Special Protection Areas (SPA)	Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). Required for any proposal which is likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 or Ramsar site.
International importance (Natura 2000 sites)	Special Areas for Conservation (SAC)	Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Required for any proposal which is likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 or Ramsar site.
International importance	Ramsar Sites	Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Required for any proposal which is likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 or Ramsar site.
National Importance	Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) http://www.ieem.net/ecia/ Often required for the ecological component of an Environmental Impact Assessment (see EIA Regulations) or other environmental appraisal. The focus is on identifying, quantifying and evaluating the potential impacts on biodiversity. Baseline surveys form an important part of the assessment.
Regional/County importance (non-statutory)	Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI) County Wildlife Sites (CWS)	Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) - http://www.ieem.net/ecia/ Often required for the ecological component of an Environmental Impact Assessment (see EIA Regulations) or other environmental appraisal, EclAs focus on identifying, quantifying and evaluating the potential impacts on biodiversity. Baseline surveys form an important part of the assessment.
National	National Nature Reserves	Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) http://www.ieem.net/ecia/ Often required for the ecological component of an Environmental Impact Assessment (see EIA Regulations) or other environmental appraisal, EclAs focus on identifying, quantifying and evaluating the potential impacts on biodiversity. Baseline surveys form an important part of the assessment.

Appendix 2

Wildlife Surveys

Species Survey

Homeowners need to consider ecological issues at an **early stage in their project planning**. Protected species often require several survey visits by a suitably qualified ecologist, over an appropriate period of time, at a specific time of the year.

The list below is a general guide to the best survey seasons for different protected species. It is important to note that some surveys require an ecologist to hold a specific licence to carry out the survey work:

Badger	Presence / absence surveys can be done throughout the year but some months are sub-optimal (e.g. June and July)
Bats	May – September
Breeding birds	Dependant on species but usually March – July
Dormouse	April to November (hazel nut search: August to December).
Great Crested Newt	March - June
Otter	April to August
Reptiles	April – June and September – October
Water vole	April – September

Habitat surveys

Grassland	May - June
Water bodies	April to mid June



Appendix 3

Where to Find Specialists

Arboriculturalists

<http://www.trees.org.uk/find-a-professional/Find-A-Professional>

Landscape Architects

<http://www.landscapeinstitute.org/registeredpractices/index.php>
e-mail: jach@landscapeinstitute.org tel: +44(020) 7685 2653

Ecologists

<http://www.ieem.net/ieemdirectory.asp>

Archaeologists

<http://www.archaeologists.net/ROsearch>

Conservation Architects

<http://www.aabc-register.co.uk/search.asp>





Please use this page for your additional notes

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....



ALISON FARMER ASSOCIATES
29 Montague Road
Cambridge
CB4 1BU

tel: +44 (0)1223 461444
email: af@alisonfarmer.co.uk

URBAN EDGE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING LTD
Tower Point
North Road
Brighton
BN1 1YR

tel: +44 (0)1273 666 375
email: enquiries@ueec.co.uk

South Downs National Park Authority
Rosemary's Parlour
North Street
Midhurst
West Sussex
GU29 9SB

tel: +44(0)1730 234417
web: <http://www.southdowns.gov.uk>