

WSSC ECOLOGY response to HRA Screening

Application reference number: WSSC/036/20

Location: Ford Circular Technology Park, Ford Road, Ford, Arundel BN18 0XL

Proposal: Demolition of existing buildings and structures and construction and operation of an energy recovery facility and a waste sorting and transfer facility for treatment of municipal, commercial and industrial wastes, including ancillary buildings, structures, parking, hardstanding and landscape works

Date: 06/08/20

Summary Response

This project will not have any significant adverse effect, either alone or in combination with other relevant projects and plans, on the integrity of any European designated site. Consequently, an appropriate assessment is not required.

Response

A Shadow HRA (June 2020) has been submitted by the Applicant which rightly identifies potential impact pathways on two European Sites, Duncton to Bignor Escarpment Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Arun Valley Special Protection Area (SPA). Duncton to Bignor Escarpment SAC is included because it lies just within the 10km zone of influence commonly applied for screening. There are no other European Sites within 10km the Application Site at Ford, though the Arun Valley SPA is only just outside this zone. The Shadow HRA assessed impacts on the Arun Valley SPA, specifically Bewick's swan, given that linked sites elsewhere in the valley could be important to the wintering Bewick's swan population.

The plant is legally required to meet air quality standards, as regulated by the Environment Agency under an Environmental Permit. No additional mitigation measures have been included in the design of the plant to reduce impacts on European Sites.

The Shadow HRA considered potential impacts from dust, nitrogen oxides, sulphur dioxide, hydrogen fluoride and ammonia pollution on Duncton to Bignor Escarpment SAC. The conclusion that there were unlikely to be any significant effects from any of these appears to be correct and thus these potential air quality impacts can all be screened out.

As no sites in the Ford area are used regularly by the wintering Bewick's swans associated with the Arun Valley SPA, the Shadow HRA concluded that there were unlikely to be any significant impacts on the Arun Valley SPA. This is a reasonable assumption and thus potential impacts on the Arun Valley SPA can also be screened out.

There are no other known projects or plans which could act in combination with this proposed project.

In summary, this project will not have any significant adverse effect, either alone or in combination with other relevant projects and plans, on the integrity of any European designated site. Consequently, an appropriate assessment is not required.

Graham Roberts MCIEEM
County Ecologist
Environment & Heritage Team
West Sussex County Council