



ECOLOGICAL ADVICE SERVICE

TO: Kelly Joyce
FROM: Helen Forster
DATE: 08 November 2024
SUBJECT: Shornemead Level Crossing, Shorne 20240922

The following is provided by Kent County Council's Ecological Advice Service (KCC EAS) for Local Planning Authorities. It is independent, professional advice and is not a comment/position on the application from the county council. It is intended to advise the relevant planning officer(s) on the potential ecological impacts of the planning application and if sufficient/appropriate ecological information has been provided.

Any additional information, queries or comments on this advice that the applicant or other interested parties may have must be directed in every instance to the planning officer, who will seek input from the EAS where appropriate and necessary.

The proposal is for a footprint over a railway line for an existing footpath.

Therefore we have only considered the construction impact of the proposal as the operational impact from the footpath will not change.

The site is directly adjacent to the South Thames Estuary and Marshes SSSI and the Canal and grazing marsh, Higham Local Wildlife Site and therefore there is potential for protected/notable species to be present within the site.

The footprint is relatively small and therefore we are satisfied that an ecological survey is not required to be submitted as part of this application. Instead we recommend that a precautionary mitigation strategy based on a site visit and review of the information associated with the locally and nationally designated sties.

We are satisfied that the mitigation can be submitted as a condition of planning permission and we suggest the following:

Prior to works commencing a ecological mitigation strategy must be submitted to the LPA for written approval. It must detail the following:

- *Methodology to clear the vegetation within the construction footprint*

- *Timings of when the works will commence*
- *Details of who will implement the works*
- *Details of what habitat creation works will be carried out following completion of works.*

The plan must be implemented as approved.

If you have any queries regarding our comments, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Helen Forster MCIEEM
Biodiversity Officer

This response was submitted following consideration of the following documents:

- Covering Letter from Network Rail dated October 2024
- Illustrative CGIS