

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 May 2018 17:14
To: Feist, Alan
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: A27 Arundel - Ancient Woodland Calculation Error

Importance: High

Alan,

I have just been advised by [REDACTED] that WSP have uncovered errors they made in the calculation of ancient woodland taken during their stage 1 work! See below email.

The stage 1 analysis (which we published at the public consultation last year) is set out in the yellow column below. This is what's currently in the public domain, and what is currently in the EAR.

However, WSP have just uncovered an error in this analysis! The green column sets out what they believe to be the correct figures. The grey column are the ancient woodland take figures without any buffer zone.

WSP would like to update the EAR and NNNPS compliance table with the correct ancient woodland figures (in green) prior to publication. They argue it's better to correct the error now than to perpetuate the mistake (and risk getting found out at a later date). Apparently [REDACTED] agrees we should update the figures. Apparently the ancient woodland figures are not in the ASTs or SAR.

Sadly, I think we will have to update all these documents with the correct figures. We'll be asked why the ancient woodland take has changed; WSP currently don't have an answer to this (they can't figure out how the stage 1 team arrived at these numbers) – we'll have to come up with some plausible explanation.

I find it absolutely extraordinary that they have made this mistake. As you know, the ancient woodland take figures were the subject of intense scrutiny during the tweaked options work. I cannot understand how this error wasn't picked up before. I think we should be issuing an early warning about this.

Do you agree we need to update the EAR and NNNPS compliance table prior to publication?

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Web: <http://www.highways.gov.uk>

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 May 2018 17:10
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: A27 Arundel - Ancient Woodland Calculation Error

[REDACTED]

Following last week's discussion regarding possible Ancient Woodland calculation discrepancies we've completed a more thorough review and can confirm that some of the values presented to date contain errors. A summary of the issue is provided below along with potential implications and lessons learned.

Overview of Issue

- When WSP was recently asked to confirm the area of Ancient Woodland loss associated with Option 5AV a more thorough review of the areas of Ancient Woodland loss previously reported for Options 1, 3 and 5A was conducted. We first noticed the discrepancy last week and have since been attempting to determine whether the discrepancy was due to the assumptions used in the calculation or whether it was an error. On Wednesday 16 June 2018 we concluded these values were erroneous and therefore are advising Highways England of these errors now.
- It was not possible to recreate the Ancient Woodland values for Options 1 and 3 using the process documented within the PCF Stage 1 Ecological Options Appraisal report. The Ancient Woodland loss for Option 5A remains the same. The error seems to have arisen when the Options Appraisal study was produced in 2016. The design of these options did not change since the PCF Stage 1 Ecological Options Appraisal study and therefore the Ancient Woodland areas were assumed correct and carried forward through PCF Stage 2.
- The areas were recalculated for inclusion in the BCR and sent to [REDACTED] in late 2017. The correct areas were used at this time.
- A comparison of the area of Ancient Woodland loss is shown below. The same order of Ancient Woodland loss is observed (i.e., smallest to greatest area ranked from Option 1, 5A and 3) but differences between the options are not as great for Option 3.

Option	Ancient Woodland Loss (ha) from Options Appraisal	Ancient Woodland (ha) calculated using ArcGIS from footprint	Ancient Woodland (ha) plus 15 m buffer calculated using ArcGIS
1	5.29	1.02	2.96
3	24.31	7.67	12.15
5A	6.06	4.05	6.06

Potential Implications of Ancient Woodland calculation errors

- Areas submitted to Highways England for Ancient Woodland compensation were based on the unbuffered area calculations presented above; therefore, the discrepancy described above would not affect the BCR calculations.
- It is proposed that the PCF Stage 2 EAR be updated to reflect the most up to date Ancient Woodland areas. We have completed a review of the WebTAGs, AST, ComMA and SAR and the area of Ancient Woodland was not found in these documents but updates to the NN NPS table will be required.

Next Steps

- Ongoing review to identify the method by which the areas of Ancient Woodland loss presented in Stage 1 was derived.

I'm very sorry to bring this up so late in Stage 2 but I'm happy to continue discussions with you about this tomorrow.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[Redacted]



[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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