

Affect of proposed change to Strategic Wildlife Corridor east of Chichester

[Between 30 July and 10 September 2021, CDC carried out a technical consultation with its partners and relevant groups to give their views on updates to CDC's Strategic Wildlife Corridor \(SWC\) policy.](#)

In the map in this consultation of the Shopwhyke area, east of Chichester, it proposed this change to the wildlife corridor:



SWC Preferred Approach Plan 2018



SWC Technical Consultation 2021

One of the main reasons for this change is that bat surveys found that the woodland and lake between Shopwhyke Road and Drayton Lane was very important for a section 41 species, Barbastelle Bat, as documented in: [South Downs Barbastelle Project draft September 2015-Part 1](#)

The schedule 1 amber listed Marsh Harrier has also been observed in this area.

There is very little woodland to the east of Chichester – this is the last substantial woodland on the coastal plain between Chichester and Brighton.

This satellite view of the woodland and lake shows how extensive the woodland is:



In the [Local Plan Schedule of Proposed Changes to the Policies Map](#), this SWC has been obliterated, as shown in the following map:



The following map shows how much of the woodland in the proposed SWC has been lost:



This change must significantly change the viability of the wildlife in this area – perhaps destroying the whole basis of this entire SWC – a wildlife corridor to connect Pagham Harbour AONB with the South Downs National Park.

There is no published wildlife evidence to justify this change to the SWC.