

MEETING NOTES



Job Title	KIG Kent Wildlife Trust consultation
Project Number	12070549-002
Date	16 March 2007
Time	1pm
Venue	WSP Maidstone Offices
Subject	KIG
Client	KIG Ltd
Present	Angela Bond (WSPE) Nick Hollands (RPS) Keith Nicholson (KWT) Richard Moyse (KWT)
Apologies	

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MATTERS ARISING

- 1 KWT are seeking to enhance a corridor of acid grassland along the south of the M20, sweeping north of Maidstone and down to Ashford on the existing Greensand. This is envisaged as a series of stepping stones and KWT felt that the development would frustrate the realisation of this potential. Therefore, should the development be considered otherwise acceptable, it might be designed in a way which would usefully contribute to this network. KWT are likely, therefore to seek mitigation and enhancement which would lead to significant acid grassland restoration. (Their current strategic objective for the north of the motorway is to develop a network of wet woodland over the Gault clay, which effectively means that they are not specifically seeking strategic woodland restoration to the south of the motorway on our site).
- 2 To this end, KWT would strongly support the use of brown roofs on the site for acid grassland restoration and would not see a need for off-site mitigation for habitat loss if a network of acid grassland can be provided of the appropriate scale.
- 3 In instances where on site 'mitigation' is not possible, KWT usually seek new habitat creation at a 2:1 ratio.
- 4 There are no other schemes in the local vicinity that KWT are currently working on that the development could usefully contribute to.
- 5 The Landscape corridors presented within the draft Maidstone Core strategy were discussed. These include a corridor crossing the western part of the site at the point of the River Lilik (the stream that crosses the westernmost arable field and has been incorporated as part of the SUDs drainage for the site).
- 6 KWT would be unlikely to welcome reptiles on any of their sites as they are all presently full. KWT recommended that Lee Brady (local reptile recorder) is consulted regarding reptile mitigation (this is also a recommendation of KCC).
- 7 **Drainage concerns-** KWT would not support on-line ponds. They also have concern about the potential impacts to the headwaters coming off the AONB and recommended liaison with EA (Ecological Appraisal Unit – Kent Area) who have been working on some of these streams. In particular there was discussion regarding the R. Lilik. Water quality impacts to the River Len were also a concern.

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Distribution: Design Team