



Medway Core Strategy  
Examination in Public

Matter 1: Legal Process and Requirements

Additional information by

Kent Wildlife Trust

Respondent ref: 37

## **Legal Process and Requirements**

### **g) Has the CS been prepared in accordance with the Habitats Directive?**

1. At the submission stage of the Core Strategy Kent Wildlife Trust raised a number of concerns regarding the absence of a Habitats Regulations Assessment to assess the impacts of the Core Strategy policy in relation to protection of the Natura 2000 and Ramsar network, and to ensure conformity with the EC Habitats and Bird Directives transmuted into British law in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended 2011) Since this time a Habitat Regulations Assessment has been undertaken with the proposed minor changes reflecting the findings of the assessment.
2. Medway Unitary Authority have been a proactive member of the North Kent Environment Planning Group since its formation and have contributed funding and resources to ensure that the relevant studies are undertaken and that the duty to co-operate with other Local Authorities has been fulfilled in relation to protection of the European network. Kent Wildlife Trust welcomes and supports the work being undertaken and it is our view that the findings of the Phase 1 and 2 studies will provide a firm evidence base, which will inform avoidance, mitigation and compensation measures across the Thames Gateway and Canterbury areas.
3. Kent Wildlife Trust supports the findings of the Habitats Regulations Assessment and has meet with Medway Unitary Authority to ensure that the policy changes proposed incorporate all recommendations contained within the HRA The changes will ensure there will be no impact on the Natura 2000 and Ramsar network in the short term, until such time as the information and analysis from the surveys is available and a comprehensive mitigation package can be agreed.
4. In the light of the work detailed above we can now confirm that we have no further concerns regarding protection of the Natura and Ramsar network and wish to withdraw our objections in relation to this issue. For clarity our only outstanding issue relates to the Lodge Hill Strategic Allocation for which separate written representations have been submitted.