From: Dominic Woodfield [dominicwoodfield@bioscanuk.com]
Sent: 05 November 2012 18:05
To: smith, catherine
Cc: cooper, robin; mccutcheon, brian; jarrett, andy; pullin, mark; stoddart, carly; langford, hannah; Heslop, Anna; Burges, Dave; Mason, Elizabeth @ London HH; Neal, Stephen; paul.howarth@de.mod.uk; Sarah Lyne; richard.arnold@thomsonecology.com; Thomas, Vicky @ London HH; Judith Ashton; tom.tew@hotmail.co.uk; bbenmayor@googlemail.com; hall, martin; Owen Sweeney; Greg Hitchcock; Cameron, Rob (NE); Hanna, Sean (NE); Chris Hewson; Graham Warren; John Taylor
Subject: Re: Medway Core Strategy - Nightingale Workshop 9 November 2012
Thank you Catherine

I have yet to digest the full detail, but in a quick pass over of GGKM's shortlist of Kent-wide sites, I have immediately noted issues to do with the practical achievability of two of the 'optimum' (green) sites - Medway Valley and Conningbrook Lakes. I will expand on this on Friday, if not before, but the immediate point is a procedural one. Can you advise why the various stakeholders were not asked for their input and/or comment on this shortlist before time and resources were spent on visiting them?

Putting aside that such consultation was the stated intention (at least at the time of the initial search as confirmed in the process timetable circulated last week), one would have thought that the value of such an exercise in terms of the process would have been self-evident from the last meeting. Attendees from that will recall that I pointed out that one of the most favoured sites identified by GGKM at that stage (Cliffe) was not in fact owned by the RSPB (as the GGKM report indicated) and that the actual landowner would be most unlikely to wish the land to be 'sterilised' by offsetting without adequate financial compensation. I had not been previously given any opportunity to provide such input (I appreciate that this may have been because I was a late attendee at that stage), but there does not appear to be any particular reason for any such oversight this time. Indeed it is a matter of concern that those with better local knowledge than I also appear not to have been consulted. I note the Cliffe site has been dropped from the current shortlist.

All would agree no doubt that the practical deliverability of potential compensation sites is as central to the Inspector's question as their innate suitability for nightingale habitat creation, and it is unarguably within the remit of the technical panel and stakeholders to investigate this as far as practicable. It does appear that an opportunity to draw on the extensive knowledge of the technical panel/stakeholders has been passed over here, and ground lost in terms of moving the process forward in a robust, accountable and efficient way.

Best regards

Dominic

Sent from my iPhone

On 5 November 2012 09:23, smith, catherine <catherine.smith@medway.gov.uk> wrote:

> Dear all
>
> Further to my email on Friday, I am attaching a copy of the report produced by the Environment Bank Limited to suport the workshop this Friday.
>
> The attached document is a draft report considering biodiversity offsetting to compensate for nightingale habitat loss that may result from proposed development at Lodge Hill.
>
> Apologies for the delay in circulating this document, and I hope that you find it helpful background in preparation for the workshop.

I look forward to seeing you on Friday. Thank you for your interest in this work and your participation in this process.

regards

Catherine

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