

CD/4.13

**London Ashford Airport (Lydd) Call-In Inquiry**

Supplementary Statement of Common Ground  
Airfield Biodiversity Action Plan

PINS ref: APP/L2250/V/10/2131934 & APP/L2250/V/10/2131936

LPA ref: Y06/1647/SH (New Terminal Building), Y06/1648/SH (Runway Extension)

between London Ashford Airport Limited and Kent Wildlife Trust

April 2011

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This Supplementary Statement of Common Ground ("**SoCG**") is between London Ashford Airport Limited (the "**Applicant**") and Kent Wildlife Trust ("**KWT**"). This SoCG is supplementary to:-

1.1.1 the Statement of Common Ground dated March 2011 between (1) the Applicant and (2) KWT on Air Quality.

1.1.2 the Statement of Common Ground dated April 2011 between (1) the Applicant and (2) KWT on Lighting Impacts on Moths.

1.2 It deals with matters relating to the proposed Airfield Biodiversity Action Plan (ABAP) that are agreed between the Applicant and KWT in relation to the development comprised in the Applicant's planning applications for a runway extension (Application Ref. Y06/1648/SH) and a new terminal building (Application Ref. Y06/1647/SH) (together the "**Applications**").

## 2. AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE APPLICANT AND KWT

2.1 The Applicant has set out its proposals in respect of an ABAP in documents (CD1.45), and in LAA/9/D, Section 2.5. This issue is referred to by KWT in KWT/3/A, Section 12 and KWT/3/D. It is now further agreed between the Applicant and KWT to set out precisely the purpose and function of this ABAP.

### **Background to the proposed Airfield Biodiversity Action Plans**

2.2 Site-specific Biodiversity Action Plans have been shown to be very effective in complementing local or county BAPS in delivering biodiversity improvements for a particular site, based on a monitoring survey-management-reporting cycle, specifically designed to protect and enhance key species and habitats under the direct stewardship of land owners/ occupiers. In drawing up an ABAP for LAA, specialist knowledge of airfield wildlife, together with knowledge of the local area and the Kent BAP, has been utilised, and the document improved in a series of consultation cycles with conservation stakeholders from 2008 to date.

2.3 The ABAP is designed to be a flexible and changing Plan, and specifically requires the involvement of key wildlife stakeholders such as Kent Wildlife Trust and Natural England.

2.4 The selection of a manageable number of habitats and species is not straightforward, and requires the knowledge, engagement and co-operation of stakeholders. The selection of "charismatic" species (well-known mammals, birds or plants) is often given priority over less prominent species or habitats, but which can be as or more important for site conservation objectives.

2.5 In order to be effective, it is essential that key habitats and species are selected, and that the BAP is effectively implemented.

2.6 Following further discussions between KWT and LAA, the following has been agreed in order to secure the implementation of an effective ABAP.

## ABAP Design Parameters

- 2.7 Prior to implementation, an expert ABAP panel will be convened to include representatives from LAA, Kent Wildlife Trust, Buglife, Butterfly Conservation and Natural England. This panel will review ABAP species and habitats proposed, which currently are:

Habitat	Species
Airfield grassland	Skylark
Standing waterbodies	Brown hare
Vegetated shingle	Great crested newt
	Medicinal leech
	A leafhopper, <i>Aphrodes duffieldi</i>
	A moth, <i>Cynaeda dentalis</i>
	Pygmy footman moth <i>Eilema pygmaeola</i> spp. <i>pallifrons</i>
	Carder bumblebee <i>Bombus humilis</i>
	Water Vole
	Common lizard

- 2.8 Since there are now separate SoCGs covering vegetated shingle, great crested newt, medicinal leech and the two moth species, it is proposed that one other habitat type, and four new species (to include bird, plant and invertebrate species) are added to the list by the expert panel, by voting if necessary.
- 2.9 For all of the habitats and species selected by the ABAP, a plan will be agreed which will include a baseline survey of appropriate methodology and scope, annual monitoring against baseline, and an annually reviewed target for maintaining or increasing site populations; and increasing the extent and/or quality of habitat. This is to be done mindful of airfield operational requirements and CAA aerodrome license requirements.
- 2.10 The ABAP outcomes will be included in and reported by, the Environmental Management System.
- 2.11 An ABAP report will be compiled each year, and its findings reviewed by the ABAP expert panel. The annual outcomes will be considered iteratively, and species/habitat plans reviewed to assess success and propose modifications where necessary. Provision will be made for the panel to remove or add species, though the ABAP should contain no more than three habitat types and no more than seven species, which should include at least two invertebrate and two plant species.

3. **KWT'S REVISED POSITION**

- 3.1 KWT accepts that with the additional proposals made in this document in respect of a proposed ABAP, securement of delivery of the ABAP can be achieved. Accordingly, KWT withdraws all other statements, evidence and objections in respect of the ABAP. KWT confirm that the Applications are acceptable in terms of the proposed ABAP.


This SoCG is prepared jointly and agreed by:

SIGNED:

**Indigo Planning Limited (on behalf London Ashford Airport Limited)**

DATED:

SIGNED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'KWT', written over a faint rectangular box.

**Kent Wildlife Trust**

DATED:

5/4/11