



Surrey Nature Partnership

Healthy Environment | Healthy People | Healthy Economy

Biodiversity & Planning Conference

Thursday 18th February 2021

9.30am till 1pm

Agenda (Day One)

9:30 Welcome (Sarah Jane Chimbwandira, Chair of Surrey Nature Partnership)

**9:40 The State of Surrey's Biodiversity – Why Does it Matter? (Mike Waite
Living Landscapes, Policy & Research Manager Surrey Wildlife Trust)**

What is all the fuss about with biodiversity and why is it finally getting the attention it deserves in the planning system? Focussing on Surrey - possibly the most biodiverse inland county in the UK.

10:00 The Environment Act (Dr Nick White, Principal Adviser, Natural England)

An introduction to the main provisions of the new Act and how this will impact on the work of Local Planning Authorities.

10:20 Questions

**10:40 Planning for places and nature (Adam Wallace, Planning for Places
Principal Adviser Natural England)**

Opportunities of a place-based approach, the importance of continuing to apply the mitigation hierarchy and the crucial role planning and planning authorities have in all this. Extending the importance of onsite provision for nature alongside the importance of planning for offsite gains.

11:00 Legal Update (Dr Ashley Bowes, Barrister, Cornerstone Barristers)

An examination of recent legal cases from which lessons can be learnt and which provide guidance on the handling of planning cases with significant biodiversity implications.



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Agenda (Day One) continued...

11:20 Questions

11:40 Refreshment Break

11:50 A New British Standard on Biodiversity Net Gain (Julia Baker, Biodiversity Technical Specialist, Balfour Beatty)

The process for designing and implementing Biodiversity Net Gain.

12:10 Trees and Ancient Woodlands (Rebecca Pullinger, Woodland Trust)

The importance of trees on development sites as an ecological resource and the considerations for planning applications adjacent to Ancient Woodland.

12:30 Questions

12:50 Closing remarks (day one)

Invitation to participants to send any additional questions via email which will be answered on day two.

13:00 Webinar Ends



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Friday 19th February 2021

9.30am till 12.30pm

Agenda (Day Two)

9:30 Welcome and Additional Questions from Day One (Lisa Creaye Griffin, Director of Surrey Nature Partnership)

9:50 Putting the Environment Act into Practice (Sarah Jane Chimbwandira Chief Executive, Surrey Wildlife Trust)

A presentation on how to deliver the Environment Act, using the Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOA) network. Centre on the Holmesdale BOA in East Surrey, an emerging demonstration on how biodiversity net gain can be delivered including engagement with the Coast to Capital Enterprise Partnership (LEP).

10:10 The Biodiversity Metric 2.0/3.0 (Stephen Panks, Natural England)

Looking at the Metric: how it should be used, who should be using it, the role of case officers in assessing its place in decision-making.

10:30 SWT Consultancy Service (Heather Lewis, Conservation Manager, Planning, Surrey Wildlife Trust)

The SWT Ecology Planning Advice Service works to ensure that our client LPAs meet legal and policy ecology obligations within their development management decisions. A look at the increasing importance of out-sourced planning advice, as well as some of the planning cases handled by SWT and the lessons to be learnt from them.

10:45 Questions

11:00 Refreshment Break



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Agenda (Day Two) continued...

11:15 Launch of the SOUTH EAST NATURE PARTNERSHIP (Dr Caroline Jessel, Chair of Kent Nature Partnership)

Dr Caroline Jessel will announce the newly formed partnership to launch the exciting new coalition of local nature partnerships.

11:30 Local Nature Recovery Strategies & the Nature Recovery Network (Julia Middleton, Sussex Local Nature Partnership)

An overview of the rapid evolution of strategic spatial prioritisation for landscape-scale conservation; from IBDAs via BOAs to the NRN. What do Strategic planners need to know?

11.45 South Downs Local Plan – Planning for the protection of biodiversity and nature recovery (Katharine Stuart, Planning Policy Lead, South Downs National Park Authority)

An overview of the recently adopted South Downs Local Plan approach to biodiversity and nature recovery – including ecosystem services, biodiversity net gain and green infrastructure.

12:00 Questions

12:20 Closing remarks

12:30 Event ends