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Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund

## Nature After Minerals: South East regional event

Coulsdon Manor Hotel, Old Coulsdon, Surrey, 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> January 2008

### Event aims:

- To introduce the Nature After Minerals programme and the importance of Mineral Development Frameworks (MDFs) for wildlife.
- To present case studies of successful habitat creation on mineral sites in the East of England region.
- To highlight innovative approaches to delivering habitat creation through MDFs from across England.
- To provide a focus for discussion about local opportunities and overcoming obstacles.
- To bring together stakeholders in the MDF process from across the South East region.
- To give first-hand experience of habitat created on mineral sites at the Nutfield Marsh complex (part of a large-scale wetland restoration project led by Surrey County Council and Surrey Wildlife Trust).

This event could contribute to attendees' **Continuing Professional Development (CPD)**. Certificates of attendance can be provided showing areas of professional development covered and the duration of the event.

### Expected professional development outcomes:

- Increased understanding of the important role MDFs can play in helping wildlife, contributing to Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) targets and benefiting local communities.
- An understanding of the types of habitats that can be created on mineral sites, and sources of further information.
- Increased understanding of potential blocks to habitat creation on mineral sites and solutions for overcoming these.
- Discussion about integrating other end-use demands with biodiversity (such as geological conservation, public access and education).
- Discussion about local opportunities for large-scale habitat creation through mineral planning.
- First-hand experience of habitat created on mineral sites.
- Contact with a range of important stakeholders.

**Key audiences:** mineral planners, restoration or estates managers from industry, statutory consultees on MDFs such as Environment Agency and Natural England, non-governmental organisations with an interest in MDFs and biodiversity.



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## Agenda for Day One

### Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January

9.30am	Coffee and registration
10.00am	Welcome and overview of agenda
10.05am	Nature After Minerals: an introduction [Alice Davies, Minerals Project Officer, RSPB]
10.20am	Minerals Development Frameworks: a national overview [James Dawkins, Planning Policy Officer, RSPB]
10.40am	Delivering biodiversity locally through the minerals planning process [Craig Blackwell, County Ecologist, Oxfordshire County Council]
11.00am	Audience brainstorm: blocks to habitat creation through planning
11.20am	Coffee break
11.40am	Case study: Developer funding in the Lower Windrush Valley Project [Alison Hopewell, Project Officer, Lower Windrush Valley Project, Oxfordshire]
12.10pm	Case study: Farnham Quarry, Surrey [TBC]
12.40pm	Lunch
1.30pm	Workshop: Delivering habitat creation through MDFs (see below)
3.40pm	Round-up
4.00pm	Close

### Breakout groups for afternoon workshop:

- Group 1** Integrating communities, landscape and geodiversity with habitat creation.  
*Including site design, community liaison, education and interpretation.*
- Group 2** Sites in the long-term  
*Including early discussions, landowner needs, financial provision, monitoring and conservation management.*
- Group 3** Landscape-scale approaches  
*Including Area Action Plans, local initiatives, collaborative working, multiple operators, multiple landowners*
- Group 4** Balancing with other planning considerations  
*Including agricultural soils protection, air safeguarding (bird strike) and where habitat creation is a priority.*



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## Agenda for Day Two

### Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January

- 9.45am Registration at Nutfield Marsh site
- 10.00am Introduction to the Nutfield Marsh complex
- 10.15am Visiting key features of the site in small groups
- 12.00am On-site workshop: presenting 'real-life' issues and discussion on how to tackle (topics including conflicting demands, funding long-term management, integrating public access etc.).
- 12.30pm Return to registration point and event round-up.
- 1.00pm Close

**Please note:** Delegates will need suitable footwear (Wellington boots or walking boots), warm clothes and waterproofs (jacket and/ or trousers depending on forecast) for the second day. If you have your own high-visibility clothing, please bring it with you.

Refreshments are not provided on the second day so you may also wish to bring bottled water.