

# Press release: Sussex land acquisition will unlock development of more than 3,000 homes

Burgess Hill is a 176 ha site capable of delivering 3,080 new homes and is a strategic priority in the recently adopted District Plan.

The Promoters had successfully secured the allocation of the site via the Local Plan Process and had worked closely with the local community to advance the scheme.

The site has been identified for more than 10 years as a key location for major housing delivery.

However, due to the complexities of the different land ownership and the need to deliver significant upfront strategic infrastructure works to provide a link road through the site in advance of homes being built landowners and promoters agreed to dispose of their interest to Homes England.

As land owner for the whole site, Homes England will submit an outline planning application later this year and bring forward early release of the first phases of new homes alongside investing in strategic infrastructure to unlock the site for development.

Stephen Kinsella, Executive Director for Land at Homes England, says:

“Homes England’s reinvigorated land role is seeing us step up and intervene to unlock residential sites to help increase supply of homes where they are desperately needed.

“This acquisition at Burgess Hill shows how we can step in to ensure that complex sites in areas of acute housing need can be brought forward for early delivery through our intervention.

“It is a huge statement from Homes England, demonstrating how we can now intervene and invest to unlock the largest sites. We will now work quickly to achieve an early start on site and ensure the site deliver a great place to live.”

The Rt Hon Sir Nicholas Soames, MP for Mid Sussex, added:

“I have championed the involvement of Homes England in the growth planned by the Government for Burgess Hill. This very significant investment and long term commitment to Burgess Hill will ensure the housing comes forward in a timely manner and is accompanied by much needed infrastructure. It is a vote of confidence in Burgess Hill and Mid Sussex.”

In a separate intervention, Homes England has also recently completed the acquisition of Coypool in Plymouth; a former china clay works near Marsh Mills will become a development of more than 400 homes and play a crucial

part in meeting the housing needs of Plymouth. Homes England has worked in partnership with Plymouth City Council to understand the site's potential for new homes and this has now been unlocked by buying the entire 32 Hectare site which is included in Plymouth's joint local plan.

This follows a number of other acquisitions, including:

- Otterpool Park, Shepway – 60 Ha as part of a garden town being promoted by Folkestone and Hythe District Council
- Brue Farm, Somerset – 4.6Ha in the Hinkley Housing Zone will provide 123 new homes and unlock more homes though providing infrastructure to the wider site
- Spencer's Park, Dacorum – 37 Ha in Hemel Hempstead, we have worked with local partners to deliver circa 1,000 new homes. 357 homes are already being built .The rest of the site is going through the planning process with 40% being affordable

The Burgess Hill development will include the construction of two new primary schools, a secondary school and a range of leisure facilities to help build a community. Homes England will promote the site through its Development Partner Panel on a phased basis, with the first phase of the development due to deliver 460 homes.

## Ends

For more information contact Tom Hustler, Senior Communications Manager at Homes England 0113 394 9355 / 07876 131488 [tom.hustler@homesengland.gov.uk](mailto:tom.hustler@homesengland.gov.uk) or Patsy Cusworth, PR and Media Manager at Homes England 0207 393 2201 / 07967 782328 [patsy.cusworth@homesengland.gov.uk](mailto:patsy.cusworth@homesengland.gov.uk).

## Notes to Editors

### Homes England

Homes England is the new housing delivery organisation that has been created to adopt a more commercial approach to respond to the long term housing challenges facing this country. The new, expanded agency will play a far bigger role in investing in supply and intervening in the market to help deliver 300,000 homes a year by the middle of the next decade.

Homes England will act differently from its predecessor, bringing together money, land, expertise and planning and compulsory purchase powers to accelerate the supply of new homes and address affordability issues in areas of highest demand.

For more information on Homes England visit:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/homes-england>.

### Rydon Homes

Rydon Homes has built a considerable reputation for creating high-quality developments, whilst unlocking the best value from land in the South East of

England.

We seek to work in partnership with local communities to ensure our developments provide a positive contribution towards the local area. Our intention is to build design-led integrated developments, neighbourhoods where people choose to live and that offer a range of homes suitable for all buyers from starter homes to family housing. In every Rydon Homes development, our focus is on designing and building quality homes that stand the test of time.

For more information on Rydon Homes visit <http://www.rydonhomes.co.uk/>.

---

## [News story: New cash to fight the illegal wildlife trade](#)

Environment Secretary Michael Gove has announced £4.5 million for 14 new Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund projects to combat the trade in illegal wildlife at a special event to mark 100 days till the London Illegal Wildlife Trade conference.

The Challenge fund projects will act to prevent wildlife being trafficked or illegally traded through measures including demand reduction, strengthening enforcement and criminal justice, and providing alternative livelihoods.

The new funding comes as part of a [host of measures announced by the Foreign Secretary](#) in the build-up to the [London Illegal Wildlife Trade conference in October](#).

Projects that will receive funding include supporting eco-guardians and community enforcement networks to protect elephants, a 'payback' scheme for the perpetrators of IWT and the development of strong room best practice guidelines for the storage of seized illegal ivory. There will also be funding provided to disrupt the poaching affecting iconic species such as Sumatran tigers and snow leopards.

Environment Secretary, Michael Gove said:

Environmental challenges do not respect borders, and require coordinated international action. Our Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund is driving change to combat this despicable criminality. The 14 projects range across 27 countries and showcase measures from criminal justice to education. These priorities reflect our commitment in the 25 Year Environment Plan to work with other nations to stamp out this vile trade. The fund, alongside our introduction of one of the world's toughest bans on ivory sales,

shows our global leadership in protecting wildlife in its natural environment.

[View the full list of projects to receive funding.](#)

Environmental Crime, which includes the illegal wildlife trade and illegal logging, is the fifth most lucrative serious organised crime and is estimated to be worth up to £17 billion a year.

The criminals who run this trade do more than damage wildlife – they use networks of corrupt officials and agencies to undermine sustainable development and the rule of law, bringing misery to local communities. Money made from this trade is used by criminal networks.

This is why tackling the illegal wildlife trade is a priority for the UK government and why it's so important that at this year's conference in London we find new and effective ways of tackling this crime, by bringing global leaders together to tackle the strategic challenges of the trade.

## **Project highlights**

### **Case study 1**

ZSL Mongolia's 2018 IWT Challenge Fund project will strengthen border law enforcement by bringing specialist training for border staff and detector dog units at key points; create a multi-agency taskforce on wildlife trade for better intelligence-sharing, and by helping communities living along the borders to keep out criminal groups through the creation of surveillance networks.

ZSL Director of Conservation, Matthew Hatchwell, said:

The illegal trade of wildlife products in Asia presents enormous challenges in preventing the large scale loss of species that can only be tackled by multiple partners working together, in particular to support the conservation efforts of national governments. ZSL is very grateful for the support of the UK government's Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund to strengthen frontline law enforcement in Mongolia, home to highly endangered species such as the Saiga antelope, snow leopard and Bactrian camel.

### **Case study 2**

Ivory, accrued by natural mortality or seizures of illegal stock, is held in government storerooms that often lack adequate security and management procedures, and are vulnerable to corruption and theft. A robust ivory management system will keep these products from returning to and perpetuating

the illegal supply chain. In partnership with national government authorities across Africa, we will develop, trial and put into practice storeroom Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), embedding this into government policy to ensure regular use.

John Stephenson, CEO Stop Ivory said:

We are delighted to have the UK Government's support for a crucial project to fight the illegal wildlife trade. By ensuring that African Governments have comprehensive stockpile storeroom security and procedures in place, this project will prevent illegal wildlife products from leaking back into the supply chain, which perpetuates the illegal trade and poaching of elephants. Through this funding, the UK Government continues to work with the African countries leading the Elephant Protection Initiative to secure a meaningful future for elephants across Africa – the initiative the Government helped launch at the London Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade in 2014. The unprecedented crisis we face – with Africa's natural heritage being destroyed and communities put at risk due to poaching by armed gangs – will only stop when ivory is securely put beyond economic use.

### **Case study 3**

This innovative project will look at how sanctions against IWT can better reflect the injuries to society (For example on livelihoods, biodiversity, culture). It will compare international sanctions to illegal wildlife trade, and initiate international "best practices" standards. In Indonesia, it will work with experts and government officials to review sanctions, and provide expertise to quantify the costs of this illegal trade on society. The project aims to apply these to a first-of-a-kind civil liability suit to hold perpetrators of the illegal trade in wildlife financially responsible for environmental harm.

Dr Jacob Phelps, Lancaster University, said:

This new funding from the UK Government will help the Lancaster Environment Centre to tackle the real-world challenges of taking legal action against illegal wildlife trade. In collaboration with lawyers and conservationists across a dozen countries, we will explore new legal responses to wildlife trade—focused on Indonesia, but with global implications. When an oil spill devastates a coast line, we pursue the perpetrators not only with fines and jail sentences, but also with orders to restore the environment, issue apologies and compensate victims. In contrast, the perpetrators of large-scale, commercial illegal wildlife trade are rarely held accountable for the broad impacts they impose on the environment and society. In this project, we will explore new strategies to hold large-scale perpetrators legally responsible for the

environmental harm they cause, including impacts on livelihoods, biodiversity and culture.

---

## **Open consultation: Household waste duty of care: updating the guidance**

We want to know what you think about our updated guidance for householders on meeting the duty of care for household waste. We're also seeking views on new guidance for local authorities on issuing fixed penalty notices for household waste duty of care offences.

We previously consulted on [introducing a Fixed Penalty Notice for breaches of the household waste duty of care](#). If a final decision is taken to introduce the Fixed Penalty Notice, this updated guidance will be provided for households and local authorities.

---

## **News story: RWM attend 2018 LGA Conference**

Radioactive Waste Management (RWM) is this week (3-5 July) attending the Local Government Association (LGA) Annual Conference and Exhibition in Birmingham to listen to the views of community representatives and explain its role in working in partnership with communities for a safer future.

RWM's mission is to ensure radioactive waste is safely managed and packaged today ready for long-term disposal in a future geological disposal facility (GDF).

To deliver its mission RWM will work closely with Local Authorities and community representatives who are likely to play a significant role in the process to site and host a GDF.

The results of public consultations held earlier this year are now being used to help shape the policy which will outline the role communities will play in the siting process. In parallel, the government have also been developing the planning framework for what is set to be one of the largest Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects ever undertaken in the UK.

Ann McCall, Siting & Engagement Director for RWM, said

A lot of progress has been made since the last LGA conference so we are delighted to be here once again, providing an opportunity for us to listen to the views of community representatives as we progress this vital programme on behalf of society.

---

## **News story: RWM attend 2018 LGA Conference**

Radioactive Waste Management (RWM) is this week (3-5 July) attending the Local Government Association (LGA) Annual Conference and Exhibition in Birmingham to listen to the views of community representatives and explain its role in working in partnership with communities for a safer future.

RWM's mission is to ensure radioactive waste is safely managed and packaged today ready for long-term disposal in a future geological disposal facility (GDF).

To deliver its mission RWM will work closely with Local Authorities and community representatives who are likely to play a significant role in the process to site and host a GDF.

The results of public consultations held earlier this year are now being used to help shape the policy which will outline the role communities will play in the siting process. In parallel, the government have also been developing the planning framework for what is set to be one of the largest Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects ever undertaken in the UK.

Ann McCall, Siting & Engagement Director for RWM, said

A lot of progress has been made since the last LGA conference so we are delighted to be here once again, providing an opportunity for us to listen to the views of community representatives as we progress this vital programme on behalf of society.