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Matter Statement 17 – Biodiversity and Geodiversity (Policies SP25-SP28 and GI01- GI03)

Issue 1 – Biodiversity and Geodiversity Policies SP25-SP28 and GI01-GI03

Q3. Does the Plan include policies which plan for biodiversity at a landscape scale, including across local authority boundaries as required by paragraph 117 of the Framework? Does the Plan identify and map components of ecological networks, including wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them?

Response: I hope the comments below are useful to offer comment at the oral hearings.

It is not clear on the mapping to see Tree preservation orders TPO's and whether sites have been assessed for TPOs. I don't see any mapping on wildlife corridors, and location of trees that form them.

Bats are prevalent in the area and wildlife corridors to them is to use trees. Thanet does not have trees especially in new development or considers the wider map for wildlife and biodiversity.

It would be useful for information on TPOs to be mapped wholly and a database register freely available.

The website to find TPOs is linked below:

<https://www.thanet.gov.uk/info-pages/check-tree-preservation-order-online/>

Is not easy to find trees, and i know many people find this difficult to access, and a whole map view is not available and hard to understand if there is a network of trees that would help wildlife corridors.

Does the Green Wedges provide adequate biodiversity benefits, and can policy provide a net gain in biodiversity for green wedges?