[redacted]

HILLMAN, A

This amendment is in respect of the Wealden District Council Proposed Modifications to the Core Strategy Development Plan. It is an amendment to Question 10G. My representation number is 3668.
Personal ID number 637883. Ann Hillman, Barn Owl Conservation Network Adviser for East Sussex.

The amendment is structured around the **European Council Directive of 1992, regarding the conservation of natural habitats and wild fauna and flora,** which states:
"The Habitat Directive requires Member States to endeavour to encourage the management of features of the landscape which are of major importance to the habitat and wild fauna and flora. These features are those which, because of their linear and continuous structure or their function as stepping stones, are essential for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange. Examples given are rivers with their banks, traditional field boundary systems (such as hedgerows), ponds and small woods".

Areas of concern at North Hailsham:

Option 1. The Cuckoo Trail, Horselunges Wood, (semi-ancient woodland) and the **arable field system with its species rich hedgerows and ditches** to the east of the **Cuckoo Trail** form a diverse linear and continuous **Habitat Corridor/Green Network** through the Low Weald of East Sussex to the High Weald. A development on the arable field system, which is adjacent to this important **Habitat Corridor/Green Network,** would have a negative and permanent impact on the wildlife using the area for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange, resulting in fragmentation and extinction of some species. A few of the species which are of Conservation Concern and recently recorded during late March/April 2012, Bumble bee sp., Nightingale, Blackcap, Hobby, Cuckoo s, Bullfinch, and many Song thrush.

Options 1, 2, 3 & 4. The extension of **Danecroft Industrial Site** to provide access into Park Road through the **Wildlife Corridor/ Greenfield Network** will have a negative impact on wildlife due to loss of grass meadow and surrounding hedgerows. Barn Owls are known to regularly use the field to forage, and are recorded nesting within 0.5km.

Option 5. The risks to the **Hurst Haven Stream/River and Pevensey Levels, SSSI and Ramsar Site of Wetland Importance**, from any industrial run-off is likely to be considerable. This threat would have a negative impact on wildlife and the organic farming methods that are used on the Pevensey Levels.

Area of concern at East Hailsham:

Option 2. A development at Amberstone Road A271 would have a permanent, negative impact on the wildlife using this large vital **Habitat Corridor/Green Network** between **Park Wood**, the parkland at **Roebuck Park**, the **Cuckoo Trail** and the **Pevensey Levels, SSSI and Ramsar Site of Wetlands Importance.** This would reduce the essential migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of many wildlife species which use this important Wildlife Corridor.

Ann Hillman

Dated: 1st May 2012

WEALDEN
45651
11 MAY 2012
ACTION DP
GA

REFERENCES and BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. **The Council of European Communities – Council Directive -1992/43/EEC-** on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.
ANNEX G. Article 10.
"Member states shall endeavour, where they consider it necessary, in their land-use planning and development policies and, in particular, with a view to improving the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network, to encourage the management of features of the landscape which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora.
Such structures are those which, by virtue of their linear and continuous structure (such as rivers with banks or the traditional systems for marking field boundaries) or their function as stepping stones (such as ponds or small woods), is essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species."

2. **DETR -2000. UK protection for Ramsar Sites in England.**

3. **DEFRA -** ***European Protected Species Guidance Note. WLF 11.***

4. **Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)**

5. **Shawyer, C. R. 2011**. *Barn Owl* Tyto alba *Survey Methodology and Techniques for use in Ecological Assessment: Developing Best Practice in Survey and Reporting.* IEEM, Winchester.

6. **Shawyer, CR. 1987 -** ***The Barn Owl in the British Isles - Its Past Present and Future.*** The Hawk and Owl Trust, London.

Subj: **SRAs and Networks**
Date: 08/05/2012 13:51:38 GMT Daylight Time
From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
CC: [redacted]
Dear Ann

The background and explanation to barn owl SRAs/Networks is as follows.

Following the Barn Owl Survey of Britain and Ireland (1982-1985) and included in the subsequent report (Shawyer 1987), a conservation plan was published. This plan identified ***Priority Protection Areas*** in the UK within which essential conservation effort was to be directed as part of a long-term species recovery plan. Essential to this plan was the establishment of linear habitats (ie. waterway bank networks) which could provide the necessary habitat connectivity to link these priority conservation areas.

In 1988 and in order to facilitate this programme, I founded the Barn Owl Conservation Network and as a result a nationwide team of barn owl conservationists and researchers were trained and together with existing owl/raptor specialists, the BOCN was successfully established throughout the UK and Ireland (Brazil and Shawyer 1989).

I helped to direct the work of the BOCN national officer between 1988- 2008 and since then have acted as its Coordinator for the UK and Ireland.

In the late 1990s and after almost 10 years of concerted conservation effort, barn owl numbers stabilised and since about 2000 have shown a progressive recovery. This recovery has occurred largely in those areas of the UK where concerted research and conservation effort has been applied during the last 25 years at an estimated cost probably exceeding 5 million pounds.

These areas are now recognised as barn owl ***Species Recovery Areas*** whilst the linear habitats which have been established and which connect these SRAs are described collectively within a region as ***Barn Owl Recovery Networks*** (BORNs).

Within the SRAs/BORNs annual species monitoring and habitat creation and management are undertaken by the relevant BOCN Advisers who supply the BTO with data on population size and breeding success. SRAs include, for example, an area centred on Peterborough where the population has been increased from about 6 to 70 breeding pairs and one of a number of SRAs in Cambridgeshire. Another example of an SRA includes a 20 km x 3 km land corridor on the River Trent in Nottinghamshire where breeding numbers have been increased from about 5 pairs to 30 pairs. Collectively the SRAs and their interconnecting BORN's currently hold about 70% of the current breeding population in England and are largely responsible for the successful recovery of barn owls in the UK.

As BOCN Coordinator and professional ecologist myself, I am able to provide details of any SRAs/BORNs which might lie within an area of proposed development and where ecological survey may be required and for many regions, specific data can be supplied on the location and numbers of breeding pairs for Desk Study (see text and Figure 3 if the IEEM paper).

Because of the barn owl's Schedule 1 status we have so far not published these areas publicly on the web but a national BOCN symposium in 2012/2013 aims to address the confidentiality issues of any web-based barn owl data which might be provided in the future.

The full references given to published reports etc can be found in the References section of my IEEM paper. Currently the paper is under minor revision following the introduction of new planning rules/guidance and this should be available on the web in the next few weeks.

Best wishes
Colin

SB FIEEM
hip