

REGIONAL AND LOCAL BROWNFIELD STRATEGIES IN SE ENGLAND

A RELECOM UK WORKSHOP WITH SEEDA AND ENGLISH PARTNERSHIPS
19th – 20th MARCH 2007



About RELECOM

RELECOM is funded by the European Commission INTERREG IIIC GROW programme which is helping 5 European high growth regions; South East England, (UK), Emilia-Romagna (Italy), Noord-Brabant (Netherlands) Malopolska (Poland) and Andalucía (Spain) to achieve a common goal – balanced and sustainable economic growth. The focus of RELECOM is the exchange of knowledge and experience on the sustainable redevelopment of brownfield land in high growth regions, and on the participation in the redevelopment process of local communities. There are RELECOM partners from all of the GROW regions except Andalucia.

The three UK partners are: SEEDA (South-East England Development Agency), the University of Brighton (School of the Environment) and English Partnerships (EP). The UK outputs of RELECOM include a series of case studies including different types of brownfield sites in SE England, Local Brownfield Partnerships and of the Brownfield Land Action Pilot for SE England, as well as publications discussing masterplanning and stakeholder participation in the UK and Europe.

National Brownfield Strategy

English Partnerships, the national regeneration agency, has recently launched its publication: *A Brownfield Guide; A Practitioners Guide to Land Re-Use in England* and is encouraging debate about the policy proposals contained in the guide. These include initiatives such as Local Brownfield Strategies, to be undertaken by local authorities with support from regional and national regeneration agencies, measures for tackling small brownfield sites, and strategies for the treatment of land without development potential, where this can provide valuable habitat for biodiversity, often combined with local recreational access. The seminar will provide an opportunity to hear about the tools and technical assistance provided as part of the Brownfield Guide, and to discuss the policy proposals contained within it.

SEEDA's Brownfield Development Programme

SEEDA's Development and Infrastructure Division is involved with the delivery of brownfield development projects throughout the South East, both in the region's major cities and in smaller towns and rural areas. Major projects include those in the Kent Coalfield, Thames Gateway, and Southampton and the Isle of Wight, usually integrated into wider sub-regional regeneration initiatives



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Working for England's World Class Region



University of Brighton



English Partnerships
The National Regeneration Agency

Purpose of the Workshop

The purpose of the workshop is to illustrate the range of good practice taking place in brownfield development in SE England, often funded and supported by SEEDA and English Partnerships, as well as on the Continent. It provides an opportunity for networking and to discuss a selection of national and local initiatives in more detail in the break-out sessions.

The workshop is designed for planners and regeneration specialists from local authorities and regeneration agencies in South East England, and will also be of interest other stakeholders such as architects, designers and community workers.

Content of the Break-Out Sessions

Session A Brownfield Land Action Plans (BLAPs) and Making Use of the National Land Use Database

BLAPs aim to identify and classify all data on brownfield land with the objective of overcoming barriers to development. The National Land Use Database is a primary source of information for local authorities thinking of preparing their own Local Brownfield Strategy

Led by: Tony Swindells, Brownfield Land Consultant English Partnerships

Convened by: David Nicholas, DJN Consulting Ltd

Session B SEEDA Brownfield Land Assembly Trust (BLAT)

BLAT has been set up as an innovative solution to the acquisition and development of small urban brownfield sites

Led by: Allert Riepma Senior Development Manager, SEEDA

Convened by: Ian Haywood, Ian Haywood Partnership

Session C Local Involvement at the Former Fruit and Vegetable Market, Bologna, Italy

Bologna City Council is currently consulting on plans for a mixed-use development on a major site close to the historic centre of Bologna

Led by: Giovanni Ginocchini, Architect/Planner Bologna City Council

Convened by: Mark van den Hoven, Syncera Consultants, Netherlands

Session D Turning Brownfield Land into Greenspace: Kent Thameside – an Example

Kent Thameside have plans for a network of green grids and green spaces within the Thames Gateway, which illustrate the opportunities for the creation of new recreation areas and biodiversity habitat

Led by: Laurence Tricker Green Grid Manager Kent Thameside (tbc)

Convened by: Paul Williams, Project Manager Environment, Kent Thameside

Travel

King's Hill Conference Centre is at King's Hill, 5 miles West of Maidstone, and 12 miles East of the M25 via M20 junction 4 (see attached Map). Trains from London Victoria to West Malling station take approx 50 mins. All trains are met by Bus 123 which connects directly to the Conference Centre, taking 15 mins.

Hotel accommodation

Holiday Inn Maidstone, close to M26 Junction 2A at Wrotham. Rooms from £78.00 per night if booked 14 days in advance. Tel: 0870 400 9054 Also at the Premier Travel Inn, Leybourne/Maidstone, close to M20 Junction 4. Rooms from £57.00 Tel: 0870 242 8000

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Monday 19th March – Seminar Day

Venue: Kings Hill Conference Centre, nr. Maidstone, Kent

PROGRAMME

Morning session chaired by Professor Andrew Church, University of Brighton

10.00	Registration and coffee	
10.30	Introduction by chairman	
10.35	Keynote Address: Delivering Local Brownfield Strategies	Paul Syms, National Brownfield Adviser, English Partnerships
10.55	Questions	
11.10	Site Development and Masterplanning; the SEEDA approach	Chris Moore, Head of Land and Property East SEEDA
11.30	Meeting Local Economic and Social Needs	Susan Priest, SEEDA Area Director, Kent/Medway
11.50	Questions	
12.00	Bringing Brownfield and Landfill Sites into Use	Peter Ramaters, Municipality of Tilburg, Netherlands
12.25	Questions	
12.35	Lunch	

Afternoon session chaired by Trevor Beattie, Director of Corporate Strategy, English Partnerships

1.35	Introduction to afternoon session	
1.45	Four parallel break-out sessions	A Brownfield Land Action Pilot (BLAPS) and Making Use of the National Land Use Database B Brownfield Land Assembly Trust – a Solution to Development of Small Sites? C Local Involvement at the former Fruit and Vegetable Market, Bologna D Turning Brownfield Land into Greenspace
2.45	Plenary session and report-back from break-out sessions	
3.15	Tea	
3.30	Site visit to Queenborough/Rushenden development, Isle of Sheppey	Guided tour with Gordon Harris and Austin Clays of SEEDA
5.30	Return to Kings Hill; seminar closes	