

## Crayford Marshes (London Borough of Bexley)



Crayford Marshes is Green Belt land close to the Thames in the London Borough of Bexley. It comprises some rough grazing on improved and semi-improved grasslands. The site is currently the subject of a proposal by Prologis Ltd for a substantial (63 hectares) rail freight interchange facility close to Slade Green railway station. The development would replace what is currently open green space with large warehousing, car parking and access roads, with associated landscaping which would alter the character of the area. The construction and operation of the development would cause a major impact on the hydrology, structure and landscape of the marshes.



The River Cray and an outlying fragment of Crayford Marsh are found to the south of the proposed development site. The Prologis plans include building a bridge across the river to take an access road away from the depot across the marsh fragment to a link to the M25/A2. Again these will be dominating features of the landscape, which will destroy and further fragment the marshes and with impacts on the River Cray and associated reed beds and inter tidal mud.

Bexley Council has refused the application on Green Belt grounds and it is now subject to a Public Inquiry which begins on April 24th. Despite the fact that it would be contrary to his policies for the protection of the Green Belt, the Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone, has given his 'support in principle' for the development on the grounds that it would remove freight from road to rail. CPRE London doubts, however, that there would be sufficient rail-based freight available to justify the development and it would therefore lead to a substantial increase in road-based freight movements to the area. It also seems

inevitable that services along the high speed rail link through Slade Green would be severely disrupted by the slower-moving freight trains.

Contact details for campaign groups.

Bexley Local Agenda 21 Natural Environment Focus Group (NEFG)

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