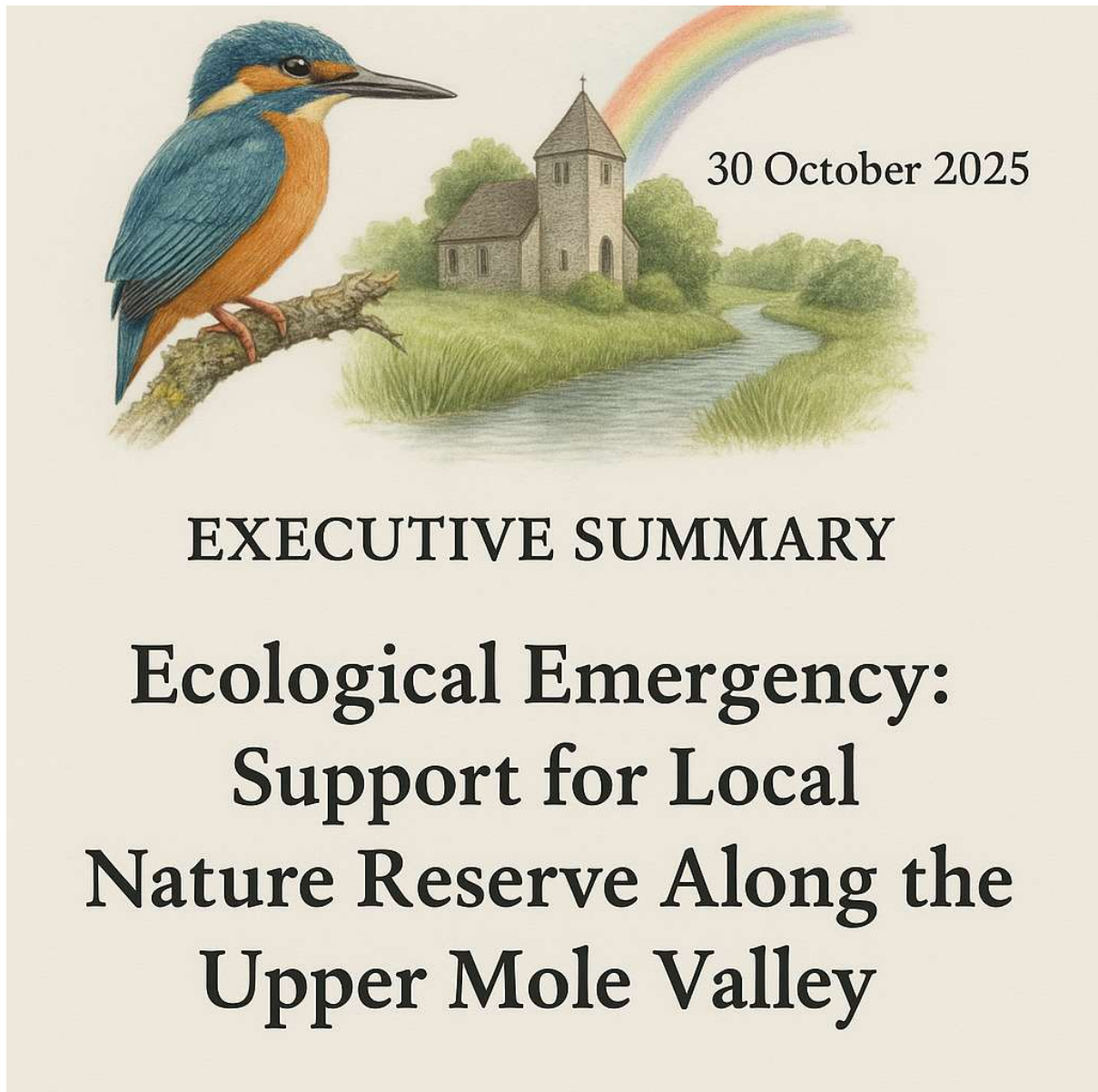


**PROPOSAL TO GATWICK AIRPORT FOR ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY SUPPORT FOR
LOCAL NATURE RESERVE ALONG THE UPPER MOLE VALLEY**



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**Ecological Emergency:
Support for Local
Nature Reserve Along the
Upper Mole Valley**

Dear Gatwick Airport Team

Proposal for an Upper Mole Valley Ecological Emergency Partnership

Supporting Gatwick Airport's Ecological Mitigation and Community Commitments

Submitted by:

[REDACTED]

Founder, The Ifield Society



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Date: October 30 2025

1. Vision

To create a continuous Nature and Heritage Corridor along the Upper Mole Valley — from Willoughby Fields Local Nature Reserve (LNR) through Ifield Brook Meadows

Local Green Space (LGS) and Ifield Mill Pond Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) to Ifield Golf Club (celebrating its centenary in 2027) — linking directly with Gatwick’s ecological mitigation zones north of the airport.

This corridor would serve as the ecological and cultural heart of a joint response to the climate and ecological emergencies, supporting both nature recovery and community well-being in the Mole catchment — which literally flows beneath Gatwick Airport.

2. Rationale

The recently approved Northern Runway Project DCO empowers Gatwick Airport Ltd to acquire land and deliver “ecological mitigation and new landscaped public open spaces.”

This provides a rare opportunity to extend that mitigation beyond the airport perimeter and integrate it with existing protected sites along the Upper Mole.

By working collaboratively with local councils and community organisations, Gatwick can:

- Deliver measurable biodiversity net gain in a wider connected landscape.
- Enhance flood-risk resilience through natural flood-management solutions.
- Strengthen corporate environmental responsibility and community trust.
- Leave a lasting legacy for West Sussex communities through stewardship of the Mole Valley’s natural assets.

3. Objectives

1. Support Gatwick’s ecological-mitigation programme through a partnership-based nature recovery corridor.
2. Promote an Ecological Emergency Declaration covering the Upper Mole Valley, aligning Gatwick’s commitments with local authority climate strategies.
3. Secure formal Local Nature Reserve (LNR) designation for Ifield Brook Meadows and adjoining green spaces.

4. Create a model of airport–community collaboration that demonstrates how major infrastructure can coexist with ecological restoration.
5. Develop an educational and visitor engagement framework celebrating the area’s wildlife, heritage, and the Mole’s vital role beneath Gatwick.

4. Key Partners

- Gatwick Airport Ltd – Community Relations & Sustainability Teams
- Crawley Borough Council – Environment & Planning Departments
- Horsham District Council – Ecology and Heritage Teams
- West Sussex County Council – Environment & Highways
- Sussex Wildlife Trust / Gatwick Greenspace Partnership
- Environment Agency – Upper Mole Catchment Partnership
- CPRE-Sussex
- Natural England
- Historic England
- The Ifield Society and local community groups

5. Proposed Actions

1. Hold an initial round-table meeting (early 2026) between Gatwick, councils, and community representatives to define scope and governance.
2. Commission a rapid ecological audit linking Gatwick mitigation areas with Willoughby Fields, Ifield Brook Meadows, and Ifield Mill Pond.
3. Identify biodiversity corridors and hydrological connections supporting both flood resilience and species migration.
4. Develop a joint communication plan highlighting Gatwick’s proactive role in regional nature recovery.
5. Launch the project formally in 2027 as part of Ifield Golf Club’s Centenary Legacy Celebration.

6. Anticipated Benefits

- Contributes to Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) targets under the Environment Act 2021.
- Enhances ecosystem services – water quality, pollination, carbon sequestration.
- Provides educational access for schools and community groups.
- Offers positive media and PR outcomes for Gatwick Airport.
- Builds public trust through visible environmental leadership.

7. Next Steps

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with the Sustainability and Community Relations Teams to discuss how this proposal might align with Gatwick's ecological-mitigation programme and CSR priorities under the Northern Runway DCO.

Together, we can help make the Upper Mole Valley a beacon of collaborative stewardship — a living demonstration that economic growth and ecological recovery can coexist.

I hope this proposal will be favourably received.

Yours sincerely

A solid black rectangular box used to redact a signature.



Ancient Parish of Ifield [boundary outlined in black] - showing Willoughby Fields Local Nature Reserve-LNR, Ifield Brook Meadows-LGS, Ifield Millpond SNCI and Ifield Golf Club (across the centre of the picture)

Map creation [REDACTED]