

ROMNEY MARSH COMPOSITE RESPONSE

- **In the light of the poor results for the environmental objectives used in the Sustainability Appraisal Report on the Draft South East Plan, SEERA should make concessions in an attempt to reconcile need for development and need to preserve environment. Designations in areas which have lower priority for development**
- **Romney Marsh should be used as a green buffer to the new town of Ashford and administered as a single area. It is a flood plain of the highest severity and contains many internationally and nationally designated habitats – the Dungeness Peninsular contains a third of all the plant species in the UK.**
- **Visitor attractions include many historic churches, coastal beach resorts, RSPB nature reserve, Dungeness, Romney Hythe, Dymchurch Railway and sites associated with the war. Area popular with walkers and bordered by historic towns of Rye and Winchelsea**
- **Housing allocation for Shepway and Hastings should be reduced to ensure limited development on Romney Marsh as should land allocations for other forms of development. The proposed Nicholas Quarry development at Hythe should be regarded as the last major housing development on Romney Marsh.**
- **The policy for Romney Marsh should be concentrated on green tourism and reviving the coastal towns as tourist venues**
- **A policy similar to WCBV8 should be adopted for Romney Marsh as this policy subset acknowledges the need to restrict development, protect and enhance the natural environment and increase accessibility for countryside recreation**
- **Lydd Airport is surrounded by fragile habitats designated under UK and European Laws- The Dungeness SAC, the Dungeness to Pett Levels Special Protection Area (SPA) and the Dungeness SSSI. The RSPB Nature Reserve comprised of over 900ha is immediately adjacent to the Airport site. The CAA 13.2 km policy on discouraging avian growth on managed wetlands is incompatible with the conservation imperatives deemed essential for their long-term future. The Romney, Walland and Denge Marshlands collectively represent a unique and valuable landscape. It is a haven for wildlife and a delightful setting for a scattering of small communities and coastal settlements**