

CCF Council Meeting – 14th June 2021

ANNEX 2

New Organisational Member Request

Since the last Cambridge Conservation Forum (CCF) Council meeting, we have received the following request for CCF membership.

Organisation Name: MKA Ecology (Contact: Marcus Kohler)

Why you would like to join:

MKA Ecology's main line of work is at the interface between development and ecological sustainability. We work with developers to ensure the best possible outcome for biodiversity and our client's development. Every site matters. We are also involved in developing re-wilding and habitat restoration projects both in Cambridgeshire and beyond and work with Cambridge City Council and others, on their strategy for nature reserves and SINCs. We believe connectivity between development and conservation is key to mainstreaming biodiversity. As a company we have always sought to nurture connections between consultancy and conservation, and have been actively involved locally in promoting wildlife artists and supporting conservation events such as the Birdfair and Global birding day etc. We have staff who have worked previously for Birdlife International, Wildlife Trusts and FFI and as individuals have been an active part of CCF for many years. We feel a part of the conservation community already, but we would like the company to embrace that formally.

MKA Ecology (<https://mkaecology.co.uk/>) are based in Litlington, Cambridgeshire

What you can offer CCF:

We can offer links to the practicalities and delivery of conservation within the development arena which is critical to successful mainstreaming of conservation. Consultancy and conservation are sometimes not comfortable bedfellows, but we believe that the opportunities within consultancy, when appropriately seized and with buy-in from developers can lead to real biodiversity integration. The opportunities approaching with net gain and the agricultural bill need to be grasped and delivered, but that can only happen through different disciplines communicating expertise. Our work in rewilding offers opportunities for students and others and we have sought to involve the university in the process. We can offer a different but sympathetic perspective, and opportunities for synergies and entry into less accessible platforms through which the conservation message can be mainstreamed.