



North West Kent Countryside Partnership
Hall Place and Gardens
Bourne Road
Bexley
DA5 1PQ

To whom it may concern,

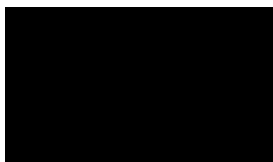
Support for Lesnes Abbey Outdoor Classroom

I am writing to express the full support of North Kent Countryside Partnership for the proposed outdoor classroom and learning area at Lesnes Abbey.

North West Kent Countryside Partnership (NWKCP) is a part of Kent County Council's Countryside and Coast Management Service. NWKCP works across the boroughs of Bexley, Dartford, Gravesham and Sevenoaks; we are dedicated to connecting people with their local green spaces and improving the environment for nature. NWKCP has been working in partnership with the Lesnes Abbey team since the very beginning of its Parks for People project to provide curriculum-based learning experiences for local primary school children. As Lesnes' education offer has gained in reputation, the demand for lessons has increased and unfortunately, because of other demands on the Lodge building, we have been unable to meet this demand through current facilities.

At the same time, the Lesnes Abbey site needs to become financially self-sustaining as the National Lottery Heritage Fund project draws to a close. We have identified the schools offer as a clear way to increase income at Lesnes Abbey, while continuing to engage local children with the wonders of Lesnes and encourage stewardship of the park for the future. For Lesnes Abbey to continue as a thriving and locally valued green space in Bexley, it must have the facilities to allow this. We have studied the plans for the classroom by Wonky Architecture and are of the opinion that the building would complement the woodland landscape while allowing many more local residents to learn at Lesnes. We support this application fully.

Yours sincerely



Isabel Shaw

Partnership Manager