

Imperial College
London

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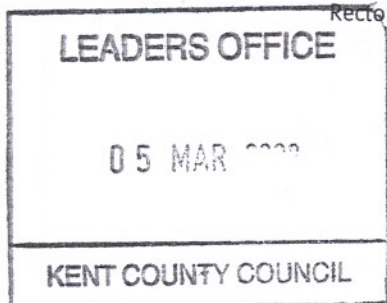
Wye College

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Sir Richard Sykes DSc FRS FMedSci

Rector



4 March 2008

Commercially sensitive

Mr Paul Carter
Leader
Kent County Council
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Dear Paul,

Wye Campus

Thank you for your letter of 12 February about uses for our Wye campus. As it happened, I was just about to write to you on the same subject.

As you know, in recent years the number of students wishing to study agricultural sciences and related courses at Wye declined significantly to the point where courses became academically and economically unviable. The College has now closed all its science based courses at Wye.

In compensation, you will recall that consideration was given to utilising parts of Wye College campus for additional research, including a biofuels research institute. The College and potential external funding bodies were, though, discouraged by the likely planning risks and associated timescale before any new biofuels facility might generate academic output. Imperial decided in 2005 that the risks were too great and the project was shelved. An academic review of the College's Faculty of Life Sciences recommended that the existing agricultural science research work be discontinued and that plant sciences research be relocated to other College campuses where a critical mass of scientists could be sustained.

At the same time, discussions with the University of Kent identified an opportunity for Kent to deliver an Applied Business Management course at the Wye campus, following on from an existing one running at Wye. This course, the last remaining one at Wye, has not proved successful either and the University of Kent recently announced its intention to withdraw. The final cohort of students will graduate in summer 2009.

Some 840 acres of College-owned farmland at Wye has recently been leased on a 10 year business tenancy. However, the main campus area where most of the teaching and research was carried out is now without obvious use after summer 2009.

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Mr Paul Carter

4 March 2008

You know that the main campus at Wye is located within Wye village itself, spread over about 10 acres and housing some 17,000 sq m of built space. It includes Grade I and II listed quad style teaching facilities (some parts dating back to 1447, others Victorian) and more modern (1960s) laboratory and other buildings, including a 1990s library and some student residential accommodation.

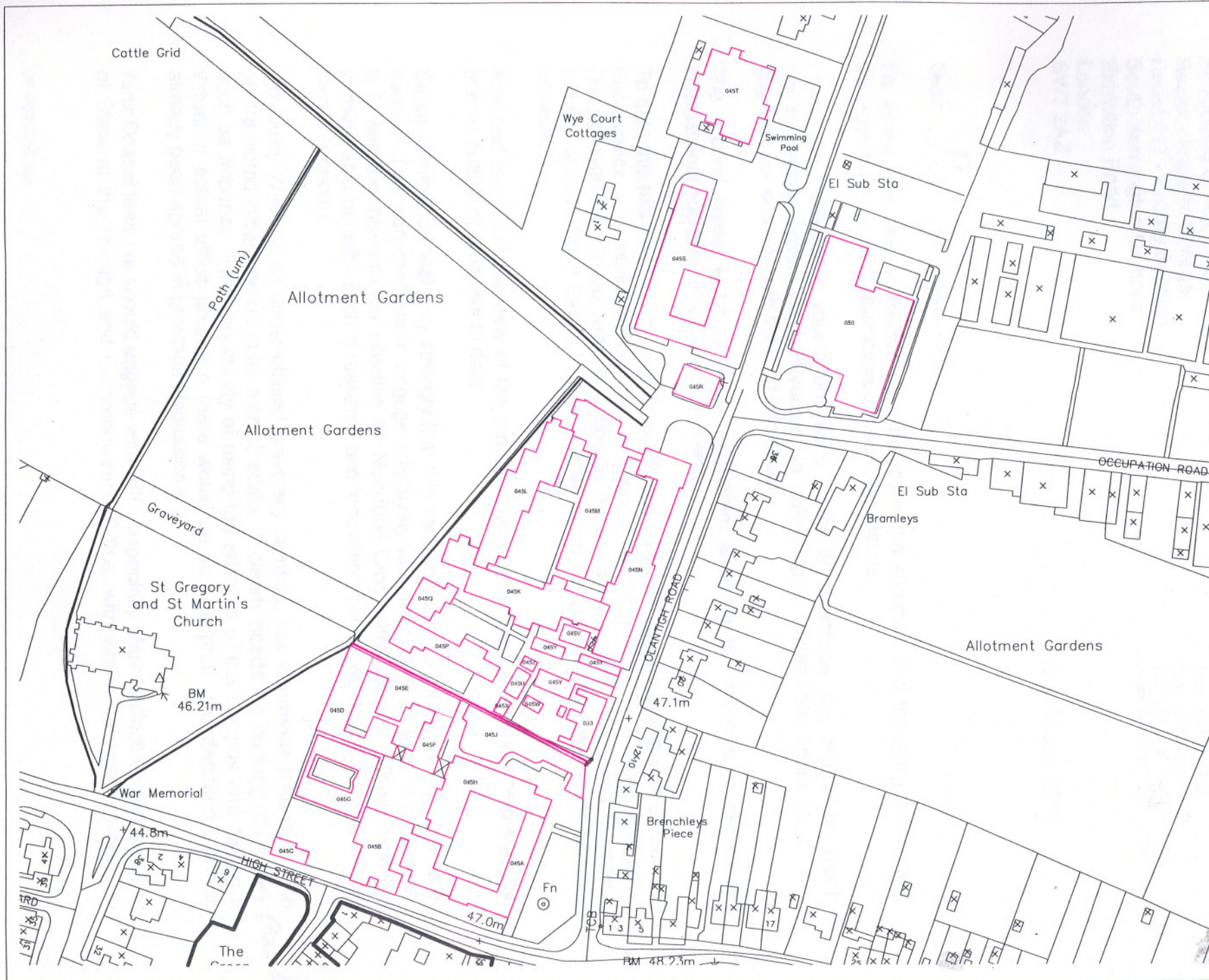
The College has approached other universities, particularly in the USA, to see if a continuing student related use could be found but has received no expressions of interest to date. At present, the College cannot foresee any further mainstream higher educational use of the main campus in Wye after summer 2009. The College, therefore, is taking steps to identify alternative suitable tenants who would wish to lease the campus from the College for a significant number of years.

You mentioned the proposal for an international non-food crops centre in Kent. The situation has changed since your discussions with Sir Leszek some time ago. As things stand at present, I am afraid that it is unlikely that we would wish to get involved. After summer 2009, all Imperial and Kent academic staff and students would have departed from the campus. Any benefits from co-location would, therefore, not be realised. From a practical point of view, as you would appreciate, the College needs to be able to offer full vacant possession to any prospective tenant interested in leasing the whole campus.

We would, of course, be grateful for any suggestions for an alternative public-interest use for the campus. I enclose a campus map as a reminder of the site that will become available.

We have asked appropriate government departments (and SEEDA) a similar question. It is the College's intention to market the campus through its property agents after Easter 2008 to establish whether other parties may be interested in utilising the campus on a long leasehold basis. We very much hope that a good and appropriate use can be found.

Kind Regards,
Richard



Revision	Description	Date
Imperial College London		
Estates Project Office South Kensington Campus London SW7 2AZ Tel: 020 7594 8920 Fax: 020 7594 8925		
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12 February 2008

Dear *Sir Richard,*

I'm aware your time as Rector will conclude in the summer, and thought I would take the opportunity to seek your views on two main issues.

Firstly, I'm interested in your future plans for the Wye campus, and would very much like to discuss having an involvement in delivering a sustainable future for it, and support your successor in bringing this about.

The second issue, which is more immediate, is about the initiative to deliver an international non-food crops centre in Kent.

To date this has been led by Lord Sandy Bruce-Lockhart, in partnership with Sir Leszek Borysiewicz and senior colleagues in Imperial, along with Amir Dossal, Executive Director with the United Nations Office for Partnerships in New York, and Countess Soudes of Lees Court Estate in Kent. I understand Sir Leszek has now moved on from Imperial.

Attached is a brief overview of the fundamental issues the initiative will help address and an outline of progress to date.

Sandy, Amir and I feel very strongly that this venture stands a much greater chance of success if we can continue to engage effectively with Imperial. My specific endeavour is to see the International Initiative for Non-food Crops (IIN) located in Kent, with the considerable benefits such a research and innovation centre would bring to supporting Kent's economy.

Obviously Wye, as an under-utilised university campus, has enormous potential. The centre would initially be on quite a small scale. It clearly needs the backing of a *partner* such as Imperial. The opportunity of using the address of the campus and having a virtual or actual office presence there would be very helpful. I understand this has already been agreed in previous discussions.

Amir Dossal feels we should engage with DfID, especially Mark Malloch Brown, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, with whom he worked when the

latter was at the UN as Deputy Secretary-General, and whom I believe may already have some knowledge of the project. Also Gordon Conway, the Chief Scientific Adviser at DfID, who was involved in this area of work when during his time at the Rockefeller Foundation.

Amir understands that Gordon Brown is pushing for the UN to review its Millennium Development goals in September (I presume at the General Assembly), and so this would fit in very well. Due to the commitment to Africa demonstrated by both Tony Blair and Gordon Brown, the UK's standing there and in the developing world in general is very good, which provides a supportive backdrop.

Assuming we are able to generate philanthropic support, by using contacts through the UN and Imperial, I believe this could be a most exciting project.

Having set the scene we are keen to hear your views, and establish who we should work with now Sir Leszek has left.

Yours sincerely

Paul Carter
Leader – Kent County Council

IIN - AN INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVE FOR NON-FOOD CROPS

Non food crops offer some of the poorest communities in the world an opportunity to rise above subsistence farming producing goods sought after by global markets. Farmers in the developed world can create robust, market driven, and diverse agricultural enterprises that compete fairly in the world.

But non food crops have to reflect and respond to the crucial challenges faced by the productive use of land across the world in the 21st century. Amongst the most pressing and contentious areas are:

- The conflict between crops for human food, animal food and fuel and industry use
- Food as cash crops to raise rural people out of poverty or food produced locally for environmental sustainability versus food security through subsistence and local trade
- Soil as a store of carbon and a sink for water and the consequent changes in farming practice and productivity
- Productive land with demands for landscape for amenity and conservation
- Trade barriers
- Access to genetic resources and property rights to genetic resources

All of these issues need to be resolved at the global, regional and farm levels. Individual land managers and farmers across the world must have access to the best scientific knowledge, appropriate technology and well regulated but undistorted markets to deliver the range of services and products that their individual land holdings can support. At the moment there is much work going into food production and security, land as an environmental resource, and the farming of non food crops. What is missing is a single centre for making sense of all these areas from the perspective of the non food crop sector as a whole - economics, science, technology, markets, environment, and sustainable development.

IIN is dedicated to building up networks in science, industry and amongst policy makers to encourage whole-farm and whole-industry thinking in the context of regional and global pressures on the sustainable use of land. It will address the crucial bottlenecks that constrain an effective non food crop economy, seek to resolve conflicts over expectations and between competing strategic goals, and to be a gateway of access to the information and resources that are the bedrock to sustainable land use through non food crops.

The hub of the global networks will be a small but strategically-staffed Centre in Kent, England, where the local authority has encouraged and supported the creation of this worldwide institution.

To date, the following has been achieved:

1. The IIN will take the form of a UK-based charitable foundation, headed by an Executive Director, accountable to an international Board of Trustees. On matters of substantive policies and priorities, the Trustees will be advised by an International Advisory Council, as well as by an Industrial Consultative Committee. The charitable foundation and board of trustees have yet to be formally registered and constituted.

2. A strategic plan has been completed and, with slight refreshing to take account of future direction, is ready to be printed. The current overall objective of IIN is to stimulate, promote and sustain a global economy in the farming, processing and use of non-food crops, their products, and the basic and applied natural and social science, that will underpin continued success.
3. A Summary Business Plan has been produced for 2008 – 2011.
4. We have registered the domain www.nonfoodcrops.org as the official web address for the initiative. The website has been designed and populated, and is ready to be uploaded at the appropriate time. It will be necessary to refresh it in light of agreed future direction.
5. Kent County Council is in the process of recruiting a Project Officer who will be primarily focussed on the IIN project.
6. The UN has already begun the process of identifying a temporary CEO. The CEO's role will be to seek out funding for the initiative over a period of three months and is key to enabling it to be driven forward.