

Future Options for the Wye campus

Professor Sir Leszek Borysiewicz

- Bearman report
- Wye Concordat signed with Council partners
- ‘Vision for Wye’
- Next Steps – long to short term

Bearman on UG teaching and Research

- **Undergraduate Teaching**
 - decline in the agricultural industry and a drop off in students; wanting agri-business qualifications
 - support the University of Kent option for ABM course
- **Retention of the Distance Learning Programme at Imperial**
- **Research Activity**
 - Problem of developing a campus with the multi-disciplinarity of South Kensington. Transfer of departments would not necessarily work
 - ‘Institute’ model. Periods of time at South Kensington and Wye appropriate
 - Has to aim for 5* excellence
 - Non-food crops as an example of possible activity that is distinctive
 - Critical mass and physical environment to attract the very best

Bearman on Business, Farm and Local Interests

- **Links with Business**

- Science/ research park concept
- Kent infrastructure set to improve
- Would need to attract new enterprises

- **The Farm**

- Considered the Food Animal Initiative but concluded that Imperial should continue to run the farm at least until October 2007

- **Local Interests**

- Need to garner local support for the wider agenda outlined
- Proposes a 'Wye Steering Board' with some representation of local interests

Bearman report – the key recommendations

1. Academic activity should be retained at Wye Campus
2. Focussed around research developments rather than an expansion of teaching activity
3. Support for the transfer of the ABM course to University of Kent
4. Retention of the Distance Learning programme at Wye Campus
5. Establishment of a Science or Research Park at Wye

The Wye Concordat – key points

- Signed today between leaders of ABC, KCC and Imperial

Vision is for Wye to become the home to a new world-class science research facility

- £1 billion investment,
 - creating ~12,500 high-quality job opportunities
 - A key component for delivering Ashford's economic future
- Primary purpose of the Concordat is to establish a common and workable framework for co-operation and collaboration between the three stakeholders

The vision must address all these elements:

World-class facilities for scientific research at Wye

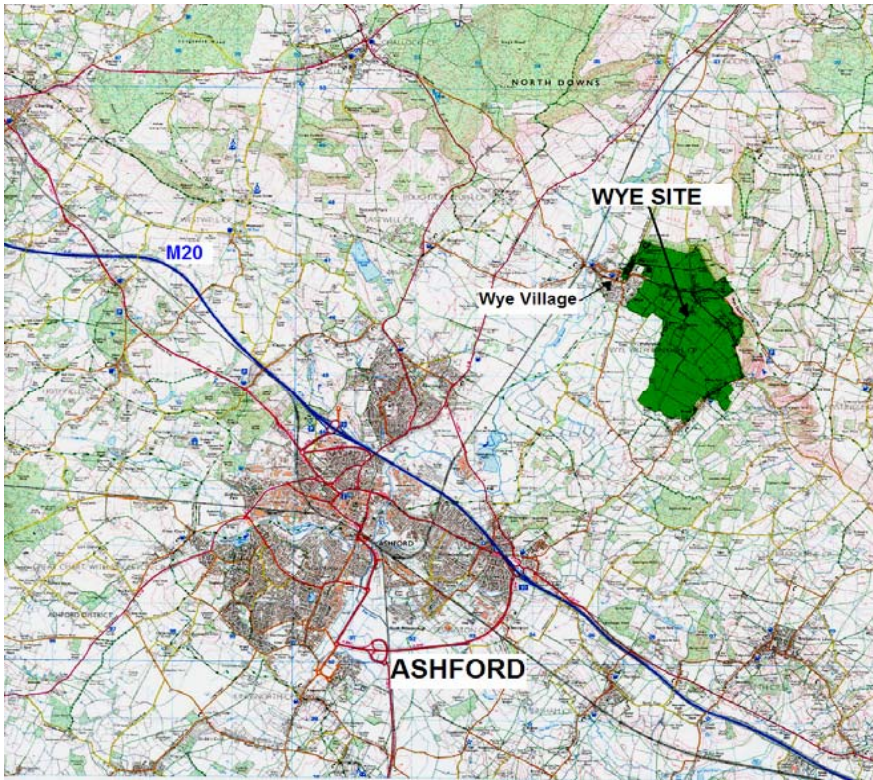
- Active participation of global industrial companies in the pharmaceutical, engineering, medical or other sectors as relevant
- Continued development of academic interaction with HEIs in Kent
- Administrative facilities, ensuring appropriate back-up
- Social and leisure facilities of an appropriate quality
- Housing of an appropriate range to cater to a broad spectrum of householders
- Sustainable regeneration must drive the design, funding and economic aspects

Deliverability must be credible and achievable

What is the vision for Imperial's presence at Wye?

- A world class research facility
- State of the art equipment and top quality facilities
- Leading research scientists supported by highly skilled staff
- To use Ashford as a key node, linking to research in London and Europe
- Establish an adjacent science park for corporate research and spin out companies

Why are Ashford and Kent interested in us?



- Imperial College owns 840 acres of land
- Many successful Universities and science parks are edge of town
- Unique opportunity to create a key driver which meets the Govt. agenda for:
 - A major employment pull
 - Ashford
 - EU and global research agenda

Creating a rich environment

Research
Centre



- ❑ Creating **c1400** high quality jobs
- ❑ Broad scientific base

Science
Park



- ❑ Build adjacent Science Park
- ❑ Grow corporate research leading to spin out companies

Mature
Companies



- ❑ Mature applied research companies investing in the Ashford Area

Possible future academic content at Wye

- The academic activity must be additional to Departmental activity at South Kensington
- No duplication or transfer envisaged at this stage
- Therefore posts must be ‘new’
- Recruitment
- Environment
 - Academic
 - Domestic
- Ability to engage with the industrial sector in the medium/long term

An Academic-led environment

- No focus on undergraduate education
- Research-led
- Critical mass (minimum $n \sim 100$ scientists)
- Focussed themes:
 - Academic Workstream in project
 - Deputy Rector
 - Peter Knight, Principal of Faculty of Natural Sciences
 - Richard Templer, Head of Department of Chemistry
 - Julia King, Principal of Faculty of Engineering
 - Tidu Maini, Pro Rector
 - Martin Knight, Chief Financial Officer
 - Development of subgroups

Scientific Opportunities

Role of the Academic Workstream

- **Non-food Crops (Biomass and Biofuels?)**
 - Link to a local KCC agenda for a Global Centre on Non-Food Crops
 - Converting Biomass to product
 - Major International and National imperative
- **EU Initiatives**

What next for Wye campus – short to medium term

- All residents in Wye will receive letter from College on Thursday
- Open meeting in January with people who live in Wye
- Bearman proposed a ‘Wye Steering Board’ with representation of local interests
- Deputy Rector will assume management responsibility for Wye – regular meetings and presence at Wye campus

Thankyou