Maintenance and Final Location Plan for the Gedney Information Board Project

Submitted to:

Gedney Parish Council in support of a grant application to Gedney Windcluster Trust Fund

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This paper has been produced to confirm the maintenance plan and final location for the Gedney Information panel board project, as requested by Gedney Parish Council in support of securing £1,000 from the Gedney Windcluster Trust Fund.

Maintenance

The board is to be constructed from solid English oak. We have been advised by the manufacturer that this durable hardwood would require no maintenance to achieve our final desired look of silver oak.

This natural silver colouring of the oak will be achieved over time when exposed to the elements, and is how the National Trust maintains their oak information boards. An example of this silver oak effect is shown below in Figure 1. The oak silver colour will be more harmonious in the natural surroundings of the Wash.

Figure 1. An example of the natural silver English oak on an information board at Blakeney Point, Norfolk

The Defence Infrastructure Organisation will inspect the board for health and safety requirements during their regular monthly Holbeach Range inspections and have agreed to wipe over, brush down the board to clear cobwebs, dirt etc.

Any costs associated with long-term maintenance and/or vandalism will be met through the Wash and North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site management scheme project.

Final Information Board Position

It has been determined that the information panel will be situated on Holbeach Range, between the Air Traffic Control Tower and the last telegraph pole (to the east). The board's location will be: 52:51:059N, 000:10:327E. It will be positioned on the side of the seabank facing towards the road. At this point there is a wide and level grass verge, which will allow people to stand on level ground (off the road) and overlook the saltmarsh when reading the board (Figure 2, 3 and 4).

Figure 2. The location on the seabank where the information board will be situated

It has been determined that this is the only suitable location for the board in the vicinity, for the following reasons:

1) As we will require planning permission and land drainage consent to erect the board, we already have the landowners permission i.e. Defence Infrastructure Organisation

2) The information on the board will relate to the Wash, the wildlife features, and the heritage of the area. This information will link the board directly to the parish of

Gedney. As such from this location, people will be able to observe both Gedney parish and the Wash (see Figures 5, 6 and 7)

3) This chosen location is close to South Gate, which is the closest point for vehicular access to this part of the seabank public footpath, and therefore on of the busiest spots for locals and visitors.

4) Being in situ on Holbeach Range means that monthly (health and safety) checks will be carried out by the Defence Infrastructure Organisation, with the board passed daily by range staff.

5) This section of the seabank is cut regularly by the Environment Agency

6) No cattle are on this section of the seabank and as such will not use the board as a scratching post

7) In 2015/16 the English Coast path will run along the existing public rights of way on the road (http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/access/coastalaccess)

Figure. 3. Location of the information board, looking north-west towards the Air Traffic Control tower from the road

Figure 4. Location of the information board, looking south-west from the road

Figure 5. Panoramic landscape view from the information board location, looking north across the Wash; the Air Control Tower can be seen on in left of the photograph.

Figure 6. Panoramic landscape view from the information board location, looking south towards Gedney Parish.

Figure 7. Panoramic landscape view from the information board location, looking south-west