DECISION DELEGATED TO HEAD OF PLANNING

Application No:	**H06-0061-26**	**Applicant:**	**Defence Infrastructure Org**
Proposal:	Details relating to Habitat Management & Maintenance Plan (Condition 4 of H06-0324-25)		
Location:	Raf Holbeach - Bombing Range Durhams Road Gedney Dawsmere		
Terminal Date:	24th March 2026		

Planning Policies

South East Lincolnshire Local Plan - Adopted: March 2019

01	Spatial Strategy
02	Development Management
03	Design of New Development
04	Approach to Flood Risk
28	The Natural Environment

National Guidance

National Planning Policy Framework December 2024

Section 12 - Achieving well designed places
Section 15 - Conserving and enhancing the natural environment

Representations:

	Object	Support	No Obj.	Comments

CASE OFFICER ASSESSMENT

Proposal

This is a condition compliance application seeking permission to discharge Condition 4 of H06-0324-25.

Site Description

The site is located in the sea bed of The Wash Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). A Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) was submitted to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) to ensure that the flora and fauna or this habitat was protects from the impacts of the proposal.

History

H06-1141-22 - Installation of two new target barges, 30m in length by 6m in width, within the Holbeach air weapons range - Approved

H06-0324-25 - Installation of 2 new target barges - Approved

H06-1076-25 - Details of biodiversity net gain plan (Condition 3 of H06-0324-25) - Approved

Consultation Responses

No comments received.

Planning Considerations

HMMP Condition

Condition 4 of H06-0324-25 states that:

Prior to any vegetation clearance (defined as the deliberate removal of any semi-natural vegetative habitat e.g., grassland, trees, and native shrubs); or prior to the commencement of any development hereby permitted (whichever comes first); a written 30-year Habitat Management and Maintenance Plan (HMMP) for the Site in question shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

The approved HMMP shall be strictly adhered to and implemented in full for its duration and shall contain:

A) Aims, objectives and targets for management, including habitat target conditions matching the Statutory Biodiversity Metric submitted with the application.

B) Details of the phasing and implementation of the habitats

C) Details of the management operations necessary to achieving aims and objectives.

D) Preparation of a works schedule, including timescales for habitat clearance and habitat creation and/or enhancement.

E) Details of the monitoring needed to measure the effectiveness of management and details of an assessment as to whether the target condition is achieved within the time to target period specified within the approved metric.

F) Details of the persons responsible for the implementation and monitoring.

G) Mechanisms of adaptive management and remedial measures to account for changes in the work schedule to achieve required targets.

H) Reporting on the delivery of on-site gains on years 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 30 following the implementation of the habitats in accordance with the above details.

Reason: To meet the requirements in delivering the Mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain and to ensure net gain in biodiversity is provided on site.
This Condition is imposed in accordance with Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act (1990, as amended) and Policy 28 of the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan, 2019.

Within the initial application, determined under H06-0324-25, it was decided and agreed with the Applicant/Agent and the LPA/Ecology Team that credits would be purchased to achieve off site net gain. The metric submitted outlined that the development would achieve a net gain of 12.7% in biodiversity through the purchase of 2.26 "high" distinctiveness units from the Environment Bank Heacham Site. This was subsequently discharged under H06-1076-25 as the agreed method of biodiversity net gain.

As such, a HMMP is not necessary to be submitted as a net gain has been agreed and provided to ensure the site and proposal conforms with BNG requirements.

From this, Condition 4 is suitable to be discharged.

Additional Considerations

Public Sector Equality Duty

In making this decision the Authority must have regard to the public sector equality duty (PSED) under s.149 of the Equalities Act. This means that the Council must have due regard to the need (in discharging its functions) to:
A. Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act
B. Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. This may include removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic; taking steps to meet the special needs of those with a protected characteristic; encouraging participation in public life (or other areas where they are underrepresented) of people with a protected characteristic(s).
C. Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

The PSED must be considered as a relevant factor in making this decision but does not impose a duty to achieve the outcomes in s.149. It is only one factor that needs to be considered, and may be balanced against other relevant factors.

It is not considered that the recommendation in this case will have a disproportionately adverse impact on a protected characteristic.

Human Rights

In making a decision, the Authority should be aware of and take into account any implications that may arise from the Human Rights Act 1998. Under the Act, it is unlawful for a public authority such as South Holland District Council to act in a manner that is incompatible with the European Convention on Human Rights. The Authority is referred specifically to Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life) and Article 1 of the First Protocol (protection of property).

It is not considered that the recommendation in this case interferes with local residents' right to respect for their private and family life, home and correspondence, except insofar as it is necessary to protect the rights and freedoms of others (in this case, the rights of the applicant). The Council is also permitted to control the use of property in accordance with the general public interest and the recommendation is considered to be a proportionate response to the submitted application based on the considerations set out in this report.

Conclusion

Condition 4 of H06-0324-25 can therefore be discharged.