

Below are a sample of responses from the Change Sponsor's *Design Principles* engagement – to evidence 2-way engagement. Most of the engagement was via phone calls and several of the stakeholders responded/confirmed via email.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 June 2018 14:04
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Subject: 20180529 - Holbeach Air Weapons Range - Design Principles

Hello [REDACTED],

As discussed on the telephone yesterday I can confirm that I have no comment on **Design Principles** at this early stage in the knowledge that the 'Appropriate Assessment' will be following at a later Stage- which is what Natural England we requires for the Natural Environment.

You will also receive a letter from the consultations team.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Natural England (East Midlands)

Tel. [REDACTED]

Mob. [REDACTED]

www.gov.uk/natural-england

We are here to secure a healthy natural environment for people to enjoy, where wildlife is protected and England's traditional landscapes are safeguarded for future generations.

To help developers consider the environment Natural England offers two chargeable services
- the [Discretionary Advice Service](#) (DAS), which can provide advice on planning/licensing proposals
- the [Pre-submission Screening Service](#) (PSS) for European Protected Species mitigation licence applications.

We now offer free and chargeable advice to land owners and managers planning works on Sites of Special Scientific Interest through the [SSSI Advice Service](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 June 2018 14:37
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: 20180605 - Holbeach Air Weapons Range - Design Principles

[REDACTED],

As we are an Area Radar Unit, I don't feel we can prioritise the design principles as we will adapt to future restricted airspace changes as we currently do now. I don't disagree with any, or have any more to add.

We feel there is little (if any) operational impact on Swk Mil ops, and therefore are happy that the final design principles listed below leave us with no concerns.

If you need anything else then please let me know.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] RAF(U) Swanwick | [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 June 2018 14:31
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: 20180605 - Holbeach Air Weapons Range - Design Principles

Hi [REDACTED]

There is no further input from the EA at this stage, save you a phone call.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Environment Agency

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 01 June 2018 09:30

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: 20180529 - Holbeach Air Weapons Range - Design Principles

Hello [REDACTED],

Thank you for clarifying the current position on the likelihood of a vertical extension. I fully appreciate that it is early days in regard to the design and expect there to be a few twists and turns along the way!

Have a good weekend.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

|

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

Sent: 31 May 2018 17:08

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: 20180529 - Holbeach Air Weapons Range - Design Principles

Hi [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email. PSB my comments in red.

I know I'm repeating myself, but it really is early days – I am yet to sit with the range-users and come up with the designs based on the 'Statement of Need' and Design Principles – and you will be kept in the loop during the whole process.

Until subsequent steps and meetings take place, I can't tell you what the airspace will look like. However, the predicted 'best guess' I have provided below and in the Statement of Need is based on the initial chats I have had with the various platform POCs – to give you and the potential stakeholders a flavour of what we are trying to achieve.

After my Assessment Meeting with the CAA in March, they concluded (based on my Statement of Need) that an ACP was the way to go to enhance the airspace, and there will be plenty of times along the 7-step process for you to add further.

Apologies if you know all this – it's my 1st ACP – and I suspect NATS have done a few already!

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 31 May 2018 15:24

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: 20180529 - Holbeach Air Weapons Range - Design Principles

Hello [REDACTED],

I had a quick catch up with [REDACTED] today which has been helpful for me in terms of confirming [REDACTED] position and knowledge of the proposed changes to D207.

Thank you for sending out the list of questions and answers received thus far. The answers you have given do provoke some questions from my perspective unfortunately!

In the CAP1916 Statement of Need for the proposed changes to D207 there is a clear indication that an increase in dimensions of the DA would be required. Specifically this need is articulated in regard to lateral increase- “the need for timely increase in lateral airspace dimensions”. Vertical increase is not mentioned. My initial chats with the range-user POCs have indicated that a lateral extension would be ideal to cater for trg such as CAS wheel descents, loitering, EO/IR etc – which would all be contained (height-wise) with the current max alt – and a lateral increase would cater for these modern & future patterns/orbits (ie allow air systems to orbit over the range and be safely protected up to 23k).

In the response you have given to the recent questions at Stage 1B of the ACP process, you refer to “the airspace changes are likely to be extending vertically and/or laterally” and “to cater for modern flying training, the flying profiles are likely to be higher up”. Does this mean that the existing vertical dimensions of D207 (SFC-23000’) are proposed to increase as well as lateral dimensions? From my initial chats with platform POCs, the current vert limit of 23k is sufficient and I don’t foresee that being increased.

This whole process is deliberately transparent and I save all correspondence to assist me with the whole process and to ensure all stakeholders comments are heard and brought to the table. I will continue to email you through the process – with the next liaison shortly after I upload the Design Principles to the CAA site and info all on the next step (as per timeline I have emailed you). I thank you for your input and I encourage all to quiz me and keep me on my toes to ensure all is covered!

I would be grateful if you would clarify this point please?

Regards,

[Redacted]

|

[Redacted]

|

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

|

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]

Sent: 29 May 2018 12:09

To:

Subject: 20180529 - Holbeach Air Weapons Range - Design Principles

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you kindly for your input and questions thus far regarding the initial '**Design Principles**' of **Airspace Changes at HOLBEACH Air Weapons Range**.

1. **Q & As.** To keep you all updated, here are the questions you have raised – along with my **answers**.

- a. Will the surface danger area change (where the buoy-markers are placed in the water) or is it just airspace changing?

We are only looking at enhancing the airspace.

- b. What will the airspace look like?

It is too early to say. We are a long way from designing and presenting airspace designs to the CAA. Please see the timeline below. We are at the beginning of an 18-24 month process and the design options will follow. At this stage, I am informing all stakeholders of the 'Design Principles' (within attached letter) and seeking any feedback on these principles; in time for when I will upload them to the CAA website on 5 June.

- c. I appreciate you won't know the airspace design until you have liaised with the pilots who will fly in the Range, but what are the *likely* changes (will there be more helicopters/noise?)?

We won't know for sure until after subsequent ACP stages (see timeline below). However, the airspace changes are likely to be extending vertically and/or laterally over the water (not affecting the maritime range). There should be no increase in low-level flying activity / helicopters. In fact, to cater for modern flying training, the flying profiles are likely to be higher up; likely resulting in less noise and less environmental issues.

- d. Holbeach Air Range has several nature conservation designations being part of the Wash Special Area Of Conservation, Special Protection Area, Ramsar Site, European Marine Site and Site of Special Scientific Interest. The area is protected by several pieces of legislation. Will this be factored in?

Yes. There will be an assessment of the effects of any changes in the airspace on the use of the range, and in particular, any effects on the ground; such as use of targets which may cause changes in the interactions between air systems and the large numbers of birds present in the Wash. Any changes in activity will require an 'Appropriate Assessment'. My *DIO Ecologist, Environmental Support & Compliance* POC will kindly carry this out on behalf of the MOD.

- e. At this stage if my understanding is correct you are looking at requirements to change the extent of the airspace, presumably due to an increase in higher altitude activity rather than the fast low-level sorties that have taken place in the past. Please provide further information on the likelihood of an increase in time spent flying over the Wash in terms of total hours, whether flight paths will change, will there be an increase in the geographic extent with respect to the ground as well as an increase vertically? Quantification of changes will be needed; but some of this may be beneficial as a decrease in low flying may reduce the potential for disturbance to birds and bird strike risk.

Yes, we are seeking to enhance the airspace only and this will likely result in some air systems operating higher up. Current training will continue (helicopters, practice low-level bombing), but this type of activity won't increase. We won't know if the total hours over the Wash will increase until subsequent stages within this process.

- f. Are CAA aware of your proposals?

Yes. CAA are guiding me through this process. Should you wish to follow the ACP progress on the CAA's website, the HOLBEACH page can be found [HERE](#).

2. **Reply Date.** Please note that I have extended the date on this initial 'Design Principles' consultation to **1400hrs, 5 June** – allowing some of you to further consult within your company/section.

3. **Point of Contacts (POCs).** To ensure my distribution list is correct, please let me know if any of the POCs below change.

[REDACTED]

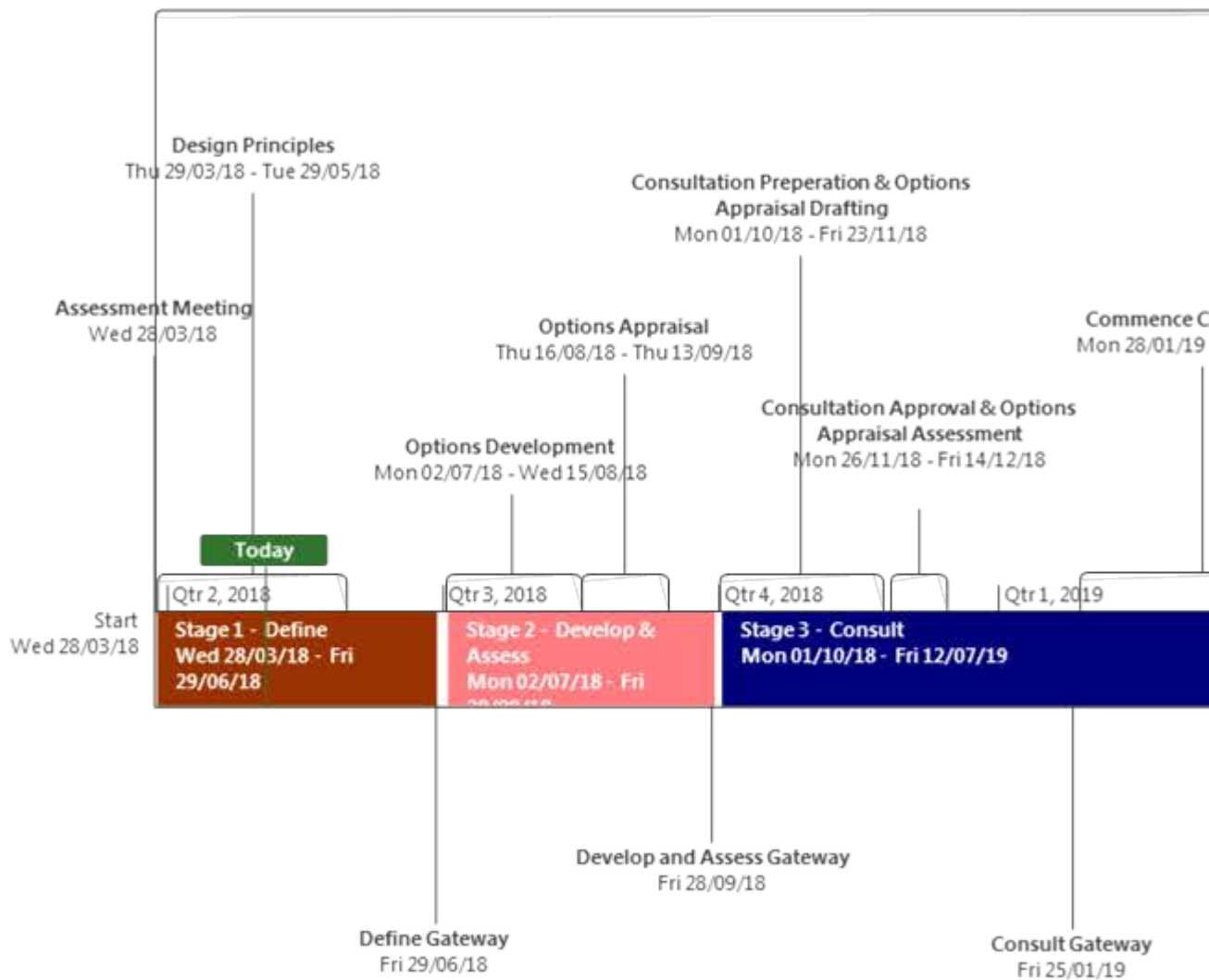
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

4. **Process Timeline.** Please note from the timeline below that we are at the beginning of this process and there will be further opportunities along the way to raise questions.

5. I hope this email has been of use, and I will endeavour to collate & answer questions as we progress. I can't stress enough that this is very early in the process and engagement to all interested parties will continue.



Kind regards,

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Contact Information]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 May 2018 12:39
Subject: 20180504-Airspace Changes - Holbeach Air Weapons Range

Sirs, Ma'ams, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am the project lead for an Airspace Change Proposal (ACP) seeking to improve the airspace at **Holbeach Air Weapons Range**. As a potential stakeholder, you are being contacted to ensure that you are both aware (and understand the intent) of the proposal and have a clear point of contact to whom you can address any thoughts or queries. Please see the attached letter for further details.

You will note from the letter that you are invited to return your thoughts at this initial stage; you are politely asked to do so in reply to this email by **Fri 25 May 18**.

**Natural England,
RSPB,**

Having spoken with both organisations via phone (3 May 18) I am assured that these are the appropriate email addresses to mail to and that you will ensure onward transfer to the correct desk officer or department.

[REDACTED] **(Provost Marshall),**

Please would you be so good as to pass to your chain of command for appropriate onward distribution.

Should you have any concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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