

LINCOLNSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST
FURTHER STATEMENT

Matter 3 – Housing allocations

Scunthorpe Area Sites

Issue: Policy SCUH-16 Land at Ashby Decoy off Burringham Road

Question:

What are the implications for biodiversity within the Ashby Decoy Golf Course Local Wildlife Site arising from the proposed housing development, and any necessary mitigation measures?

The Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust objected to this proposed allocation as it is within Ashby Decoy Golf Course Local Wildlife Site (LWS). As we explained within our original representation the Trust objected to a planning application for residential development at this site in March 2014 as it would result in a net loss in biodiversity and the direct loss of part of the LWS. In November we were consulted on proposed ecological mitigation/compensation plans for the development and were broadly satisfied that provided the habitats were managed/created as specified within the Mitigation Design Document, then there should not be a significant loss of priority habitat within the LWS as a result of the proposed development. We particularly supported bringing an area of lowland acid grassland into a management plan for the site as this habitat type is the main feature for which the site was selected as a LWS. Bringing more acid grassland into positive management, in addition to the proposed creation of new wet woodland and management of the Decoy Wood, would therefore be a gain for the site overall.

Given that the development of the proposed allocation would result in the loss of a relatively small proportion of the LWS (2%), and we are satisfied that suitable mitigation/compensation measures could be put in place to ensure that there is an overall biodiversity gain for the LWS, we would be willing to withdraw our objection to the allocation of this site on two conditions. Firstly, that the site specific criterion under Policy SCUH-16 is retained that requires an ecology survey to be carried out to help plan mitigation for loss of biodiversity features and, secondly, that an additional site specific criterion is added to Policy SCUH-16 as recommended in our original representation to require the incorporation of biodiversity enhancements, sympathetic to the habitats present within the LWS, into site design. Should development occur at this site we would wish to ensure that appropriate mitigation/compensation is provided and enhancements are implemented to result in a net gain for biodiversity.

Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust
3 December 2014