

Our Ref: 01C300964

Your Ref:

23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025

HCC Nature Recovery Team

By email: [Nature.Recovery@hants.gov.uk](mailto:Nature.Recovery@hants.gov.uk)

Dear HCC Nature Recovery Team,

### **Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Hampshire – Consultation**

We refer to the current consultation, and on behalf of Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) we provide the following response.

We are aware that within the Sir John Moore Barracks (SJMB) site in Winchester, an area measuring approx. 1.3 ha is subject to two proposed designations in the consultation document:

- Measures – Opportunity Focus Area
- Areas That Could Become of Particular Importance Biodiversity (ACB) – G2: Restore to species-rich grassland Lowland Calcareous Grassland (LCG).

You will be aware that the SJMB site has been allocated for residential led redevelopment in the emerging Winchester City Council (WCC) Local Plan (see Policy W2) – this plan has recently been through its Examination in Public stage and WCC anticipate adoption of the plan by the end of this year.

On behalf of DIO, Avison Young is preparing an outline planning application (OPA) to propose a residential led scheme, which will be submitted later in 2025.

As part of the preparation of the OPA, a SJMB Concept Masterplan has already been prepared and endorsed by WCC on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025 – see:

<https://democracy.hants.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=134&Mid=12251&Ver=4>

This concept masterplan takes a comprehensive approach to setting the principles that will underpin the redevelopment of the SJMB site, including in relation to ecology, bio-diversity and landscape matters.

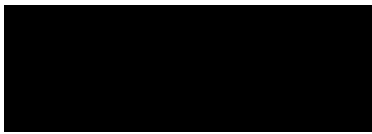
As part of the suite of reports/documents to support the OPA submission, we will be addressing Biodiversity Net Gain amongst other matters, and as such, it will be premature and unnecessary/unhelpful to make any prejudicial designations in respect of the SJMB in the proposed LNRS at this point in time – therefore we ‘object’ to those currently proposed designations.

Finally we would add draw attention to DEFRA’s: ‘Local nature recovery strategy statutory guidance - What a local nature recovery strategy should contain (Presented to Parliament pursuant to Section 106(5) of the Environment Act 2021 March 2023) and in particular to paragraph 90:

*90. Responsible authorities should give specific consideration to defence interests. They should consult with the relevant Head of Establishment before proposing potential measures on or near land managed by the Ministry of Defence to confirm that the potential measures would be consistent with operational needs.*

We are not aware that HCC has consulted with MoD prior to consultation on its draft LNRS.

Yours sincerely



**For and on behalf Avison Young (UK) Ltd**