

Quy Fen Trust - Deadline 6 Submission – 27th March 2024

1.0 Introduction:

Quy Fen Trust (QFT) Representatives were unable to attend ISH4 but would like to submit the following representation at Deadline 6 in relation to the ISH4 Hearing Agenda Item 4: Potential Recreational pressure on Stow-cum-Quy Fen Site of Special Scientific Interest.

2.0 Use of Section 106 Agreement:

QFT supports the use of an S106 agreement as the formal mechanism for funding the Recreational Advisory Group Activities and was pleased to hear that The Applicant will provide funding for the set up and operation of the group, including the necessary baseline surveys, data collection and analysis, along with mitigation measures necessary to mitigate the effects of potential recreational pressure on the SSSI at Stow cum Quy Fen.

3.0 Quy Fen Trust S106 inclusion request:

In response to a request from the Applicant, Quy Fen Trust has formally requested that funding for the following are included within the S106 package and noted in the S106 agreement as specific entry lines to provide a comprehensive communication and mitigation package for Stow cum Quy Fen, presumably on the same 'including but not limited to' basis as discussed during hearing ISH4:

a) Signage for the PRoW's leading to Stow cum Quy Fen to divert pressure away from the SSSI.

This is included within multiple documents and integral within the Applicants proposal, including para 8.9.6 Design and Access Statement Document 7.6 [AS-168], Applicant Regard to Section 42 Consultation Responses, Document 6.1.3 [APP-167] (but is referenced as being addressed within the LERMP Document 5.4.8.14 [REP5-062]) and Phase Three Consultation Summary Report Document 6.1.21 [APP-186].

QFT believes this requirement should be explicitly provided for in the S106 and the funds be sufficient to ensure this does not fall between the LERMP, which the Applicant has stated will only address the surrounding works and provisions for the wider environs. Further as an integral element of the Applicants DCO application documents these funds for signage provisions should be sufficient and safeguarded.

b) The development and maintenance of an updated Quy Fen Website.

Quy Fen Trust requests the inclusion of funding for the development of an updated website and hosting for an initial period of 5 years. This will provide a beneficial online resource for visitors to Stow cum Quy Fen, allowing communication of the sensitivities of visitor pressure and corresponding mitigation guidance for visitors. Following initial enquiries QFT envisages the cost to be in the region of £3000 - £4000 plus VAT for development and circa £300 – per annum plus VAT for annual hosting / maintenance.

Fortuitously Mr Bowles on behalf of The Applicant is understood to have made reference to online resources during ISH4 discussions and so it appears that the Applicant may have had similar thoughts regarding the positive merits of an online presence.

c) Stow cum Quy Fen visitor Boards

The provision of high quality visitor information boards at key locations within the Fen to provide a useful resource and educate visitors regarding the Quy Fen Countryside Code, in doing so mitigating visitor pressure.

d) Additional Infrastructure requirements

The provision of additional infrastructure as required, such as bin provisions (dog and litter), corresponding servicing of same and/ or part time warden during periods of high activity.