



Nature Conservation

VAIL-EHS-005

Affected Departments	
All departments	

	Role	Date
Originator	EH&S Manager	23 Aug 2024
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Process Owner	EH&S Manager	23 Aug 2024
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Supersedes	Iss 1 Rev 2

ISSUE NUMBER	SUMMARY OF UPDATE	DATE INCORPORATED
1	Procedure reviewed, transferred to new format with addition of section 4.1.1	11/12/2018
1.1	Amalgamation of 2.ABM.EV.14 and reformatted. New paragraphs 2.4, 2.4.1, 2.4.2, 2.4.3 & 3 inserted. Minor amendments to paragraphs 4.1.3, 4.1.4, 4.1.4.1, 4.1.5 & 4.1.5.4. Reference D added. Abbreviations added.	10/06/2020
1.2	Font update	22 Sep 2020
1.3	Minor update	23 Aug 2024

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	
VAIL	Vector Aerospace International Limited
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
MOD	Ministry of Defence
SAC	Special Area of Conservation

References	
A	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
B	Environment Act 1990
C	Environment Protection Act 1995
D	Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004

Forms	

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The impact of pollution and various industrial and commercial activities has had a marked effect on animal and plant life. In order to protect the Environment and to prevent the long-term decline of many species, it is necessary to actively conserve the abundance and diversity of local wildlife and its habitat.
- 1.2 The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and supplementary legislation such as the Scottish amendment in 1991 and the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 are the legal frameworks that cover nature conservation in Scotland, therefore apply to the Almondbank site only.

2.0 Scope

- 2.1 Nature Conservation includes the protection of animals, birds, aquatic life, insects and flora, (generally known as wildlife) and the encouragement of those natural aspects to be maintained and flourish. It shall remain unaffected by the activities of VAIL where possible.
- 2.2 Note that the term “animal” used throughout this procedure includes all mammal, bird, fish and invertebrate life
- 2.3 It is Fleetlands procedure to protect and encourage wildlife and recognise that the Site borders both a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and a Ramsar Site.
 - 2.3.1 The extent of the SSSI includes the Spinney, Foxbury Field, the Wetland area to the north-east of the Heliport areas and the adjacent MOD Site to the south-east of the Site.
 - 2.3.2 Ramsar Sites are defined as “Marine Wetlands of International Importance”. The entire area of Portsmouth Harbour, including its creeks and mudflats, is a designated Ramsar Site.
 - 2.3.3 However, as a flying site, birds are a safety hazard to flying activities and a health hazard to Hangar activities. There therefore needs to be a balance between the procedure to protect and encourage wildlife and the need to ensure that birds do not become a hazard. This procedure has also been designed to ensure that Fleetlands is compliant with the requirements of references A, B and C.
- 2.4 The Almondbank site is bordered on North, East and South perimeters by a designated Special Area of Conservation. That SAC is the River Tay and more specifically it's' tributaries of the River Almond to the North of the site and the Pow Burn to the East and South of the site. An area of SSSI is also located 1 mile North West of the site at Methven Wood.
 - 2.4.1 The qualifying interests of the SAC are River Lamprey, Brook Lamprey, Otter, Sea Lamprey, Atlantic Salmon and clear water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels.

- 2.4.2 The objectives of the qualification of this SAC site, which may be impacted by VAIL activity is that there should be no significant disturbance of the species, or the species of the habitat.
- 2.4.3 There is no likelihood that the SSSI can be impacted by VAIL activities as the designation is related to conservation within the boundaries of the wood, which is the remaining portion of an ancient woodland.

3.0 Responsibilities

- 3.1 Responsibility for the protection of wildlife is the responsibility of all persons on VAIL sites.

4.0 Action

- 4.1 All persons shall:
 - 4.1.1 Not feed or leave food out for wildlife. This is not permitted as it will encourage wildlife, including birds and vermin to inhabit the sites. Birds are a hazard to flying operations, and vermin are both a hazard to persons and may affect the integrity of aircraft and their components.
 - 4.1.2 Not approach or handle animals found within the boundary of any VAIL site for any reason.
 - 4.1.3 Not deliberately cause harm to any animal found living on any VAIL site. Pest and vermin found on site shall be reported to the local Facilities department who will take the necessary corrective action.
 - 4.1.4 Report any occurrences of dead, injured or trapped animals to the local Facilities department immediately.
 - 4.1.4.1 The local Facilities Department, upon receiving a report of an injured or trapped animal, shall arrange for the animal to be dealt with in an appropriate manner, having first sought advice from a qualified animal welfare facility.
 - 4.1.5 Not bring pets or other animals into any VAIL Site.
 - 4.1.6 Not remove, pick or maliciously damage any plant life found growing on site.
- 4.2 Sustainability.
 - 4.2.1 Management shall consider the impact of new developments and new activities on the local environment with respect to wildlife.
 - 4.2.2 The Facilities Department shall endeavour to have trees which need to be felled or are felled by storm damage, replaced on a “one for one” basis.
- 4.3 The EH&S Department will audit all areas in accordance with the EH&S Audit programme and advise on any special or additional requirements, which are considered necessary for a task.