



Ministry of Defence

Secretariat
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Defence Infrastructure Organisation
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www.gov.uk/DIO

Ref. FOI 2022/06697

Dear [REDACTED],

16 June 2022

Thank you for your email of 5 June 2022 requesting the following information:

"I am writing to request information regarding Colerne Airfield in Wiltshire adjacent to and forming alongside Azimghur Barracks, near the village of Colerne.

My question is specifically regarding the current management of the airfield in regards to making it a managed habitat for Birds, Bees and Butterflies (BBB) as the runways are not currently being open for use.

Please can you tell me:

- 1. The total area that is grassland/field.*
- 2. The total area that is managed to promote biodiversity esp habitat for BBB.*
- 3. A summary of the site specific action plan to promote biodiversity and esp habitat for BBB."*

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and I can confirm that information in scope of your request is held.

A1. Part of Colerne Airfield is a designated Local Wildlife Site for the unimproved chalk grassland habitat it supports. There are also some additional grassland areas outside of the Wildlife Site. The total extent of grassland is approximately 122.5 hectares (ha).

A2. All 122.5 ha are managed by a farm tenant under a licence agreement with the MOD that promotes the conservation interest, including birds, bees and butterflies.

A3. There is no specific Conservation Management Plan in place. However, the licence agreement between MOD and the farm tenant requires the tenant to manage the land sympathetically for wildlife to maintain the grasslands botanical interest and the associated fauna, including birds, bees and butterflies. The licence includes the following conditions, which are appropriate for managing a low input traditional hay meadow:

- Shall not mow more than twice a year and must dry and remove grass;
- Shall not apply artificial fertilisers;

- Is permitted to scarify and roll the area.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made in writing within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely

DIO Secretariat