

## **SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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**REPORT TO:** Planning Committee

6<sup>th</sup> June 2007

**AUTHOR/S:** Executive Director / Corporate Manager - Planning and Sustainable Communities

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### **S/0607/90/F – LITTLE GRANSDEN**

**Annual Gliding Competition, Gransden Lodge Airfield for Cambridge Gliding Club**

**Recommendation: Approval**

**Date for Determination: Not applicable**

#### **Notes:**

**This has been reported to the Planning Committee for determination because Members have previously requested that any decision to approve should be taken by the Committee.**

#### **Site and Proposal**

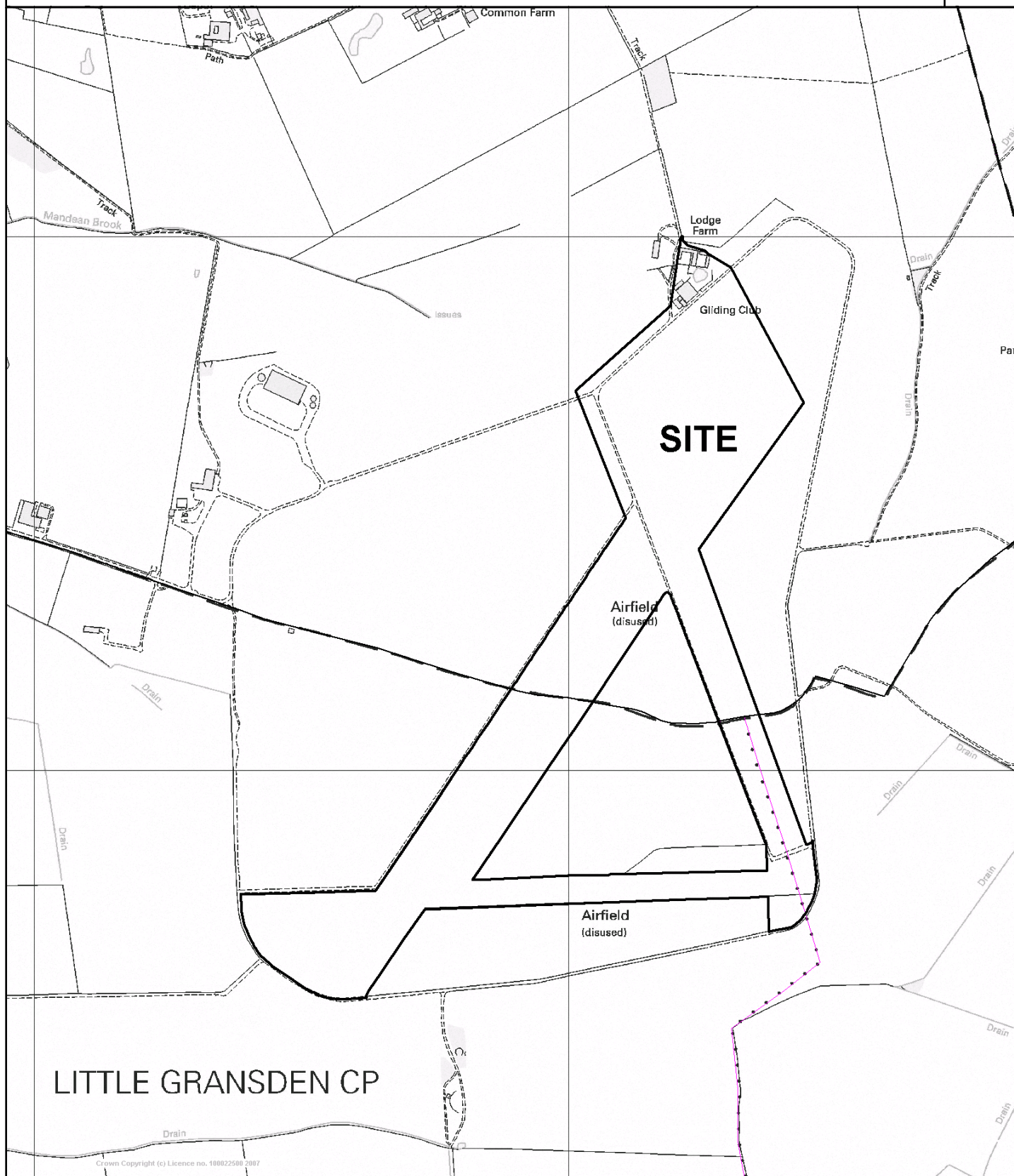
1. Gransden Lodge Airfield straddles the boundary between South Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire Districts. Access is gained via the B1046 opposite Gransden Lodge.
2. The Cambridge Gliding Club has written to request approval of its annual British Gliding Association rated gliding competition will be run from Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> August to Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> August. A copy of that letter is attached electronically as Appendix 1.

#### **Planning History**

3. Planning permission was granted for the use of the site as a gliding club in 1990 (**Ref: S/0607/90/F**). One of the conditions attached to that consent limits the number of aero tows (launching of gliders by 'tug' aircraft) to 40 per day to protect nearby residents from noise. However, each year, this Council has allowed a temporary variation of this condition during the annual competition week to enable up to 80 aero tows per day.

#### **Consultation**

4. **Gamlingay Parish Council** has no objection.
5. **Croydon Parish Council** has no objection.
6. **Caxton Parish Council** is supportive of the national championships being held in the area and is to be encouraged. It asks that conditions be imposed to ensure that tugs do not fly over the village and that all tug pilots are informed of this.
7. **Great Gransden Parish Council** has no objection provided that the normal complaint procedures are carried out including the publication of the complaint telephone number.



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8. The comments of **Hatley, Eltisley, Bourn, Croxton, Longstowe, Little Gransden, Arrington, Cambourne, Abbotsley, and Waresley Parish Councils** and the **Corporate Manager (Health and Environmental Services)** will be reported at the meeting.

### **Representations**

9. None received

### **Planning Comments – Key Issues**

10. In agreeing to a variation of condition for last year's competition it was stated that consideration of any future relaxations of Condition 4 would take account of experience and comments made following this year's competition.
11. I have asked the **Corporate Manager (Health and Environmental Services)** to let me have details of any complaints received during last year's competition.
12. Consent has been given for a temporary variation of condition in previous years to allow up to 80 aero tows during the competition week. The nature of the event means that the Club will often launch a large number of gliders in a short space of time resulting in a fairly intensive period of activity and it is this that tends to give rise to complaints, particularly if this activity is centred on one area. Once the gliders are in the air they can be away from the airfield for the majority of the day.
13. The Gliding Club has always said that it will try and disperse activity as much as possible although the ability to do this is largely dependant on weather conditions at the time.
14. Briefings are held with all pilots prior to each day's events during the competition and the need to keep to agreed flight paths is stressed. I will pass a copy of Caxton Parish Councils comments to the Gliding Club. The complaints system set up by the Gliding Club allows for any issues of over flying to be quickly addressed wherever possible.
15. I will also pass on the request from Great Gransden Parish Council about the publication of the complaint telephone number.
16. I will report the comments from outstanding consultees and the **Corporate Manager (Health and Environmental Services)**.

### **Recommendation**

17. Subject to the above I am likely to recommend that no objections be raised to a temporary variation of Condition 4 to allow up to 80 aero tows a day during the period Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> August to Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2007.

**Background Papers:** the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

- Planning File Ref: S/0607/90/F

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