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NEWS RELEASE

Work on grass safety area

Work to improve the appearance and contours of the grass safety area to the west of the airport will begin this week.

The work will be carried out by a local subcontractor working for Lagan, the main contractor for the recent major redevelopment of facilities at the airport. It involves breaking up the ground in the grassed safety area that was created as part of that project, and ploughing in a mixture of nutrient rich soil conditioner and top soil before reseeding.

Dependent on weather, the work is expected to take up to five weeks using agricultural equipment - primarily tractors and ploughs. They will mostly operating during the day, although some limited areas will require night work. Strict limits would then apply to activity that could be considered noisy, which would have to be completed before 11pm.

There will be no weekend working.

Guernsey Airport has written to neighbours in the immediate vicinity to highlight the start of the works, and provided a contact number outside of office hours in case there are any reports of disturbance.

Airport Director Colin Le Ray said the works were being undertaken by Lagan, as part of its original contract and at its cost. Although the safety area was seeded at the end of the project, this had been unsuccessful due to there being a high clay content at the surface.

‘When the area was created some of the lower levels of sub soil became mixed with the top soil. As a result the surface becomes hard baked in drier weather, which is preventing grass from growing properly,’ he said.

‘The work will break up the soil, and we will be mixing in conditioner and top soil to create better growing conditions. This should greatly improve the appearance of the area.’

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‘We are confident Lagan will be able to complete the work with little or no disturbance, but we have let neighbours now how to contact us overnight if they need to.’

The soil conditioner which will be used to improve the soil has been produced at Longue Hougue, from processed green waste.

Lagan will also be making some minor adjustments to the gradient profile in some areas. This will improve the run off for aircraft, in the unlikely event of one overshooting the end of the runway.

One element of the instrument landing system will be switched off while the work is under way. During this time there will be increased risk of restrictions on landings in poor weather conditions

However Mr Le Ray said the work had been scheduled outside the peak summer months and before the winter, to reduce the impact of dust had the work been undertaken earlier in the year..

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