



Defence Infrastructure Organisation

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www.mod.uk/DIO

24 May 2023

Your reference: R3.0138/21
Our reference: DIO 10053286

Dear Emily,

MOD Safeguarding – RAF Benson

Proposal:

- The dualling of the A4130 carriageway (A4130 Widening) from the Milton Gate Junction eastwards, including the construction of three roundabouts;
- A road bridge over the Great Western Mainline (Didcot Science Bridge) and realignment of the A4130 northeast of the proposed road bridge including the relocation of a lagoon;
- Construction of a new road between Didcot and Culham (Didcot to Culham River Crossing) including the construction of three roundabouts, a road bridge over the Appleford railway sidings and road bridge over the River Thames;
- Construction of a new road between the B4015 and A415 (Clifton Hampden bypass), including the provision of one roundabout and associated junctions; and
- Controlled crossings, footways and cycleways, landscaping, lighting, noise barriers and sustainable drainage systems. at A linear site comprising a corridor between the A34 Milton Interchange and the B4015 north of Clifton Hampden including part of the A4130 east of the A34 Milton Interchange, land between Didcot and the former Didcot A Power Station and the Great Western Mainline, land to the north of Didcot where it crosses a private railway sidings and the River Thames to the west of Appleford-on-Thames before joining the A415 west of Culham Station, land to the south of Culham Science Centre through to a connection with the B4015 north of Clifton Hampden

Location: A4130 Milton Gate Junction to B4015 North of Clifton Hampden

Grid Ref: Start: 448964, 191510
Finish: 454779, 196270

Thank you for consulting the Ministry of Defence (MOD) on the above proposed development, with amended plans and documents, which was received by this office on 2nd May 2023.

The Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) Safeguarding Team represents the Ministry of Defence (MOD) as a consultee in UK planning and energy consenting systems to ensure that development does not compromise or degrade the operation of defence sites such as aerodromes, explosives storage sites, air weapon ranges, and technical sites or training resources such as the Military Low Flying System.

This is a full application with new and revised documents including:

- Updated Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment
- Updated Preliminary Landscape Plans
- Updated General Arrangement Drawing Nos. 8, 13, 16, 17 and 18
- Updated Lighting General Arrangement Drawing no. 16
- Updated Drainage General Arrangement Drawing nos. 16-18
- Environmental Statement Addendum (comprising updated chapters on Cultural Heritage, Noise & Vibration, and Agriculture & Soils)
- EIA Regulation 25 Response Document
- Response to the Environment Agency Biodiversity Objection
- Construction Phasing Plan
- Response to Landscape Officer
- Arboriculture Impact Assessment Addendum
- Light Spill Drawings
- Bridge Farm Quarry Restoration Plan
- Sutton Courtenay Landfill Restoration Plan
- Non-Technical Appleford Sidings Bridge Memo

The application site occupies the statutory safeguarding zones surrounding RAF Benson. In particular, the aerodrome height and birdstrike safeguarding zones surrounding the aerodrome and is approx. 11.6km from the centre of the airfield at RAF Benson

After reviewing the application documents, I can confirm the MOD has no safeguarding objections to this proposal.

The MOD must emphasise that the advice provided within this letter is in response to the data and information detailed in the developer's document titled "Revised Drainage Design" AND "Revised Landscape Masterplan" dated April 2023. Any variation of the parameters (which include the location, dimensions, form, and finishing materials) detailed may significantly alter how the development relates to MOD safeguarding requirements and cause adverse impacts to safeguarded defence assets or capabilities. In the event that any amendment, whether considered material or not by the determining authority, is submitted for approval, the MOD should be consulted and provided with adequate time to carry out assessments and provide a formal response.

I trust this is clear however should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

K Noble

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