



Ministry
of Defence

Mr J Walker
Neighbourhood Planning
Cotswold District Council
Trinity Road
Cirencester
GL7 1PX

Defence
Infrastructure
Organisation

Safeguarding Department
Statutory & Offshore

Defence Infrastructure Organisation
Kingston Road
Sutton Coldfield
West Midlands
B75 7RL

Tel: +44 (0)121 311 3656 Tel (MOD): 94421 3656

Fax: +44 (0)121 311 2218

E-mail: DIO-safeguarding-statutory@mod.uk

www.mod.uk/DIO

Dear Joseph

13 June 2017

Fairford Neighbourhood Plan Revised Site Assessment

Thank you for consulting DIO Safeguarding in relation to the above referenced document.

As you will be aware air traffic approaches and technical installations at MOD aerodromes are protected with statutory safeguarding zones which identify height consultation zones in the area surrounding MOD aerodromes relative to topography and distance from the sites.

The aerodromes are also protected with statutory birdstrike safeguarding consultation zones. Therefore, DIO Safeguarding is concerned with the development of open water bodies, the creation of wetland habitat, refuse and landfill sites. These types of development have the potential to attract large flocking bird species hazardous to aviation safety..

The MOD statutory safeguarding zone for the revised site assessment for the Fairford Neighbourhood Plan is for the main operational base's RAF Fairford and Brize Norton.

I have analysed the revised site assessment document against the safeguarding criteria and wish to register the following comments:

The sites identified as FNP16 and FNP3 fall within the statutory 15.2m aerodrome height consultation zone surrounding RAF Fairford. Therefore we would need to be consulted on any development exceeding this height criterion.

F_39C this site falls within the 15.2m aerodrome height and technical safeguarding consultation zone surrounding RAF Fairford. Therefore, development exceeding this height criterion and also development with large spans of metallic reflective surfaces should be referred to this office for review.

The sites also fall within the statutory birdstrike safeguarding consultation zone, therefore we would need to be consulted on the creation of open water bodies, landfill/refuse sites, wetland habitat creation etc. these types of development have the potential to attract and, or support large flocking bird species hazardous to air traffic safety.

FNP22 (viii) Horcott (eco housing development) falls within the statutory technical safeguarding zone and therefore we would raise concerns on development if over 15.2m and constructed from large spans of

metal. This could create a large reflective surface degrading the operational use of the technical navigation aids onsite.

DIO Safeguarding also has concerns due to its close proximity to the airbase. The parish council provided a plan outlining the proposed options for this site within the Neighbourhood Plan, please see below our comments.

The central lake with housing to the north is also within the same statutory 15.2m aerodrome height, technical and birdstrike safeguarding consultation zones surrounding RAF Fairford.

The large lake to the North West approximately 0.74km from the centre of the main runway is of greater concern as this has been designed to host a large floating solar farm. The development falls within the statutory 15.2m aerodrome height, technical and birdstrike safeguarding zone. However, it also falls within the statutory explosive 'vulnerable building distance' safeguarding consultation zone surrounding RAF Fairford. In the statutory explosive 'vulnerable building distance' zone is depicted as the purple arc on the safeguarding plan for RAF Fairford. Within this zone all buildings should be deemed as being 'non vulnerable' that is of robust design and construction so that should an explosion occur at the MOD storage facility, buildings nearby will not collapse or sustain damage that could cause critical injury to the occupants.

It is also recognised the implementation of a public footpath around the lakes, this would be of concern as to how close to the airbase perimeter would the footpath be? The main concerns being it would fall within the statutory explosive safeguarding consultation zone, as well as a site security issue.

The main concern is that the lakes are designed to reduce the potential to attract/host large flocking bird species hazardous to air craft safety. However, there is also a concern in regards to the impact of the large reflective surface of water and solar panels on the technical radars.

Finally, please note that DIO Land Management Services review and represent noise issues as RAF Fairford is an operational airbase.

Therefore, DIO Safeguarding recommend that we are consulted on the preparation stages of the proposed development due to the scale of the development and that noise impact assessments are prepared to support any development assessment.

All of the above sites fall within the statutory 91.4m aerodrome height safeguarding consultation zone surrounding RAF Brize Norton.

If sites FNP 16, FNP 3 and F_39C are allocated within planning policy for development, this office would need to be consulted at planning application stages if our criterion is triggered.

I trust the above is clear.

Yours sincerely



Louise Dale Assistant Safeguarding Officer (Statutory & Offshore
DIO Safeguarding