



# Ministry of Defence

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Dear Joseph

22 March 2017

## **Neighbourhood Plan Fairford**

Thank you for your email dated the 10/03/17 with regards to potential development within Fairford.

I have reviewed the consultation documents in regards to both the Cotswold district council local plan and the Fairford neighbourhood plan. It appears that DIO Safeguarding has not been consistently consulted.

I replied to Cotswold District Council on the 2015 Strategic Site Allocations consultation; however I note there was further consultation in August 2016 which we were not consulted on.

In regards to the Fairford neighbourhood plan in 2013, we were not consulted. After further investigation I have identified supporting documents for the Fairford Neighbourhood plan in particular the Site Assessment under supplementary documents dated February 2017 which again this office had not been consulted on as statutory consultees.

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

The sites identified as FNP16, FNP19, FNP2, EES28 and FNP22 (S) all 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.

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 large and or flocking bird species hazardous to air traffic safety.

FNP22 (S) 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.

I also identified sites for development within the Local Plan which this office had not been consulted on and our comments are as follows:

Development within Horcott Industrial Estate the site falls within the statutory 15.2m aerodrome height safeguarding consultation zone and birdstrike safeguarding zone surrounding RAF Fairford. It also falls within the statutory 91.4m aerodrome height consultation zone surrounding RAF Brize Norton.

Development within Whelford Lane falls within the statutory 15.2m aerodrome height and technical safeguarding consultation zone surrounding RAF Fairford. It also falls within the statutory explosive (vulnerable building distance) consultation zone. This means 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 facility, buildings nearby will not collapse or sustain damage that could cause critical injury to the occupants.

Finally development within London Road Industrial Estate) 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.

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

DIO Safeguarding comments in regards to the Site Allocation document dated 2015 still remain.

If the above sites are allocated within planning policy for development, this office would need to be consulted at planning application stages if our criterion is triggered.

DIO Safeguarding raises concerns in regards to the inconsistency in the consultation process on local plans. As a statutory consultee with defence operational interests in the area it is beneficial for this office to be consulted on local plans to ensure future safeguarding of MOD interests.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Louise Dale". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L'.

Louise Dale Assistant Safeguarding Officer (Statutory & Offshore  
DIO Safeguarding