



# Ministry of Defence

The Central and Eastern Berkshire  
Joint Minerals and Waste Plan  
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SO23 8UD

# Defence Infrastructure Organisation

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08<sup>TH</sup> April 2022

## **Your Ref: Central and Eastern Berkshire Authorities – Joint Minerals and Waste Plan Consultation on the proposed Main Modifications**

**DIO Ref: 10050958**

Dear Sir/Madam

It is understood that Central and Eastern Berkshire Authorities, namely neighbouring councils in Wokingham, Bracknell Forest, Reading Borough and the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead are collectively undertaking a consultation regarding the proposed Main Modifications to their combined Minerals and Waste Plan.

The Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) Safeguarding Team represents the Ministry of Defence (MOD) as a statutory consultee in the UK planning system to ensure designated zones around key operational defence sites such as aerodromes, explosives storage sites, air weapon ranges, and technical sites are not adversely affected by development outside the MOD estate. For clarity, this response relates to MOD Safeguarding concerns only and should be read in conjunction with any other submissions that might be provided by other MOD sites or departments.

Paragraph 97 of the National Planning Policy Framework 2021 requires that planning policies and decisions should take into account defence requirements by '*ensuring that operational sites are not affected adversely by the impact of other development proposed in the area.*' To this end MOD may be involved in the planning system both as a statutory and non-statutory consultee. Statutory consultation occurs as a result of the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (Safeguarded aerodromes, technical sites and military explosives storage areas) Direction 2002 (DfT/ODPM Circular 01/2003) and the location data and criteria set out on safeguarding maps issued by Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) accordance with the provisions of that Direction.

**Copies of these plans, in both GIS shapefile and .pdf format, can be provided on request through the email address above.**

Having reviewed the supporting documentation in respect of Central and Eastern Berkshire Authorities Minerals and Waste Plan on the proposed Main Modifications Consultation there are four areas of interest for the MOD.

DIO safeguarding have areas of interest in RAF Northolt with Statutory Aerodrome Height and Birdstrike Safeguarding Zones surrounding the aerodrome. We have additional interest in RAF Odiham with a Statutory Aerodrome Height Safeguarding Zone surrounding the aerodrome, and a further interest in RMA Sandhurst with a Statutory Explosive Safeguarding Zone surrounding the site.

The other specific interest MOD have in the plan area is a new technical asset known as the Central WAM Network which contributes to aviation safety by feeding into the air traffic management system in the Central areas of England. There is the potential for development to impact on the operation and/or capability of this new technical asset which consists of nodes and connecting pathways, each of which have their own consultation criteria. Elements of this asset are located within and/or pass through Central and Eastern Berkshire Authorities Joint Minerals and Waste Plan area of interest.

The aerodrome height safeguarding zone serves to protect the airspace above and around aerodromes to maintain an assured, obstacle free environment for aircraft manoeuvre and ensure that line of sight navigational aids and transmitter/receivers are not impeded. This airspace needs to be kept free of obstruction from tall structures to ensure that aircraft transiting to and from or circuiting the aerodrome can do so safely.

Within the statutory consultation areas associated with aerodromes are zones that are designed to remove or mitigate birdstrike risk. The creation of environments attractive to those large and flocking bird species that pose a hazard to aviation safety can have a significant effect. This can include mineral extraction schemes, waste development schemes or proposals associated with waste facilities.

Explosive Safeguarding Zones serve to define areas in the vicinity of storage sites and armed aircraft stands in which land use and building types are regulated to maintain explosives storage licensing standards.

The Inhabited Building Distance (IBD) is defined as yellow line on the statutory safeguarding map, within this safeguarding zone the MOD monitors the management and use of development to maintain public safety and persons living, working, or congregating for long periods of time.

The second consultation zone is the Vulnerable Building Distance (VBD) defined as a purple line on the statutory safeguarding plan. 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.

**Main Modifications 17 Policy DM8 Restoration of Minerals and Waste Developments states:**

1. 3. Proposals for all mineral extraction and landfill sites must be accompanied by a restoration and aftercare scheme and should be phased throughout the life of the development

The MOD welcome the Main Modifications 17 Policy DM8 Restoration of Minerals and Waste Development and would wish to provide representations as and when appropriate in the drafting and consultation stages of restoration and aftercare of all mineral extraction and landfill sites within Statutory Safeguarding Zones.

In summary, the MOD would wish to be consulted within the Central and Eastern Berkshire Authorities Minerals and Waste Plan proposed Main Modifications Consultation within the Aerodrome Birdstrike Safeguarding Zone surrounding RAF Northolt of any development which might result in the creation of an attractant environment for large and flocking bird species hazardous to aviation.

I trust this clearly explains our position on this update. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to consider these points further.

Yours sincerely

*C Waldron*

Chris Waldron  
DIO Assistant Safeguarding Manager