



Ministry of Defence

Neighbourhood Planning
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Yateley, Darby Green and Frogmore Neighbourhood Plan DIO ref: 10051448-Rev1

Dear Sir/Madam

It is understood that Hart District Council are undertaking a Regulation 16 consultation on The Yateley, Darby Green and Frogmore Neighbourhood Development Plan. The Local Plan will inform the implementation of policies for future development within the Authority areas.

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.

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) in 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 the Yateley, Darby Green and Frogmore Neighbourhood Development Plan, the MOD have an area of interest in RAF Odiham.

The authority area of Yateley, Darby Green and Frogmore encompasses areas within the Statutory Aerodrome Height and Birdstrike Safeguarding Zones surrounding the aerodrome. RAF Odiham lies approximately 14km south west of the Yateley, Darby Green and Frogmore Neighbourhood Development Plan area.

The Aerodrome Height safeguarding zone serves to protect the airspace above and around aerodromes to maintain an assured, obstacle free environment for aircraft manoeuvre. 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 landscaping schemes associated with large developments as well as the creation of new waterbodies and drainage systems.

Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) additionally provide an opportunity for habitats within and around a development. The incorporation of open water, both permanent and temporary, and associated reedbeds, wetlands ponds and ditches provide a range of habitats for wildlife, potentially increasing the creation of attractant environments for large and flocking bird species hazardous to aviation.

In addition, where development falls outside designated safeguarding zones the MOD may also have an interest, particularly where the development is of a type likely to have an impact on operational capability. Examples of this type of development are the installation of renewable energy generation systems and their associated infrastructure. The MOD has, in principle, no issue or objection to renewable energy development though some methods of renewable energy generation, for example wind turbine generators or solar photo voltaic panels can, by virtue of their physical dimensions and properties, impact upon military aviation activities, cause obstruction to protected critical airspace encompassing military aerodromes, and impede the operation of safeguarded defence technical installations. In addition, where turbines are erected in line of sight to defence radars and other types of defence technical installations, the rotating motion of their blades can degrade and cause interference to the effective operation of these types of installations with associated impacts upon aviation safety and operational capability. Planning Practice Guidance published on the Gov.uk website acknowledges the potential effect of wind turbine generators and directs developers and Local Planning Authorities to consult the MOD where a proposed turbine has a tip height of or exceeding 11m or has a rotor diameter of 2m or more.

In summary, the MOD would wish to be consulted on any proposed development within the Yateley, Darby Green and Frogmore Neighbourhood Development Plan which consists of structures or buildings exceeding 91.4m Above Ground Level (AGL) or any development which includes schemes that might result in the creation of attractant environments for large and flocking bird species hazardous to aviation.

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

Yours sincerely



Chris Waldron
DIO safeguarding Assistant Manager