



Defence Infrastructure Organisation

Kathe Kirimaa
Ministry of Defence
Safeguarding Department
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Your reference: 2025/09/WT01

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Our reference: DIO10059040

www.mod.uk/DIO

Georgina Wright
Wiltshire Council
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge
Wiltshire
BA14 8JN

24 February 2026

By email only

Dear Georgina,

Application Reference:	2025/09/WT01
Site Name:	High Post Salt Store
Proposal:	Installation of an 18-metre high, 11kW horizontal axis wind turbine (HAWT). The wind turbine will be freestanding tower-mounted with two blades.
Site address:	High Post Salt Store, High Post, Amesbury, SP4 6AS.

Thank you for consulting the Ministry of Defence (MOD) in relation to the above planning application.

The Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) Safeguarding Team represents the 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.

I am writing to advise you that the MOD **objects** to the proposal.

The application concerns a development of a single turbine with a maximum blade tip height of 24.5 metres above ground level (agl). The development has been assessed using the location data (Grid References) below provided in email communication with Wiltshire Council dated 10 December 2025, and in the document "Gaia-Wind 133-11kW Data Sheet", provided by the developer as part of the application.

Turbine no.	Easting	Northing
1	414754	136479

The principal safeguarding concerns of the MOD with respect to this development of a wind turbine relates to the impact on the MOD Boscombe Down Precision Approach Radar (PAR) and the turbine's potential to create a physical obstruction to air traffic movements.

Precision Approach Radar (PAR)

The turbine will be 4km from, detectable by, and will cause unacceptable interference to the PAR at MOD Boscombe Down.

The MOD's PAR is a very accurate radar used by air traffic controllers to guide aircraft down in inclement weather (although the procedure is practised in all weather conditions). The accuracy and integrity of this radar is critical as air traffic controllers must control the aircraft in descent and very close to the ground. Wind turbines constructed in line of sight of the PAR can cause localised "track seduction", leading to aircraft disappearing from the radar. A further possible effect is the overload of the radar's processor, in that wind turbines generate "false plots" which use up processing ability. Once its threshold is reached the radar may be unable to detect smaller targets, which are likely to be aircraft in head-on profile. Hence the MOD will object to any wind turbine constructed within the PAR's coverage. Technical details of the PAR are covered by International Traffic in Arms Regulations and therefore cannot be released by the MOD.

Physical Obstruction

In this case the development falls within a statutory safeguarded zone surrounding MOD Boscombe Down. In particular, the aerodrome height safeguarding zone. The aerodrome height safeguarding zones define areas around aerodromes to regulate the height of structures to prevent the obstruction of the critical air space encompassing the aerodrome in which the principal take-off, landing and circuiting procedures are contained.

The introduction of a wind turbine, and therefore a potential physical obstruction to aircraft, within close proximity to an aerodrome has the capacity to degrade aviation safety and as such the MOD must object to the proposal.

In the event that the developer is able to overcome the objection relating to the impact of the development on the Precision Approach Radar there may be scope to address this impact, additional assessment may be required.

Summary

The MOD **objects** to this proposal due to:

- the detrimental impact the development would have on the operation and capability of the Precision Approach Radar (PAR) deployed at and serving MOD Boscombe Down; and
- the potential for the introduction of a turbine to degrade aviation safety by introducing a physical obstruction to air traffic movements close to an aerodrome.

The MOD must emphasise that the advice provided within this letter is in response to the information detailed in the developer's documents titled "Supporting Documents", "Gaia-Wind 133-11kW Data Sheet", "Location of Proposed Wind Turbine 2025/09/WT01" and through email communication with Wiltshire Council dated 10 December 2025. 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 hope this adequately explains our position on the matter. If you require further information or would like to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Further information about the effects of wind turbines on MOD interests can be obtained from the following websites:

MOD: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wind-farms-ministry-of-defence-safeguarding>

Yours sincerely,

Kathe Kirimaa

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Assistant Safeguarding Manager