



Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Defence
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DIO Ref: 10069854

Planning Ref: PL/2026/00198

09 September 2026

Sarah Hill,
Wiltshire Council,
Bythesea Road,
Trowbridge,
BA14 8JN

Dear Sarah,

MOD Safeguarding – MOD Boscombe Down

Re: Erection of a 900 sqm (Gross External Area) warehouse, with associated yard areas and improved internal access following demolition of an existing building.

Location: Chemring Countermeasures Ltd, Netton, Salisbury, SP4 6AS

Thank you for consulting the Ministry of Defence (MOD) on the above full 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.

The applicant is seeking approval for the erection of a 900 sqm (Gross External Area) warehouse, with associated yard areas and improved internal access following demolition of an existing building. The proposed development site falls within the MOD statutory safeguarding zones surrounding MOD Boscombe Down, in particular the aerodrome height, technical and birdstrike safeguarding zones.

There are no safeguarding concerns with this proposed development in relation to birdstrike and technical safeguarding requirements, but the MOD does have aerodrome safeguarding concerns.

Aerodrome heights

The airspace above and around aerodromes is safeguarded to maintain an assured, obstacle free environment for aircraft manoeuvre. This development site sits beneath a piece of protected airspace called the Obstacle Limitation Surface (OLS). The OLS 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. We do not expect the new development to cause an infringement of MOD Boscombe Down OLS.

However, the MOD recognises that cranes, tall plant equipment, or other tall temporary structures may be required during the implementation of development on any part at this site. The deployment of such equipment could impact upon the safe and effective operation of the aerodrome. It will therefore be necessary for the condition in Annex A to be applied to any consent granted.

Birdstrike

Within this zone any application for a development that might result in the creation of an environment attractive to those large and/or flocking bird species hazardous to aviation safety would likely result in a MOD objection. Features of particular concern would include any areas of open water created for aesthetic or for drainage purposes, planting/ landscaping schemes that would introduce fruiting or berry bearing plants, trees or roof types which provide roosting or nesting opportunities for birds. It is not expected that the proposed warehouse at this location will increase the birdstrike at MOD Boscombe Down.

Technical

The technical safeguarding zones define areas within which the height of development, the materials used in construction, and the potential introduction of sources of electro-magnetic fields are of particular concern as they can impact the operation and capability of radars, radio transmitter/ receiver sites and other types of technical installations supporting operational defence or national security requirements. It is not expected that the proposed warehouse at this location will impact MOD Boscombe Down technical capacity.

The MOD must emphasise that the advice provided within this letter is in response to the data and/or information detailed on the Wiltshire Council website as of the date of this letter. 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.

It is important that the conditions requested in this response are included in any planning permission granted. As per Planning Circular 01/03: Safeguarding Aerodromes, Technical Sites and Military Explosives Storage Areas, if the Wiltshire Council decides to grant planning permission contrary to our advice, then we must be notified 28 days prior to a decision being made.

I trust this is clear however should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely

DIO Safeguarding Team

Annex A

No development shall take place unless or until such time as a crane management plan has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority in consultation with the Ministry of Defence (MOD). The crane management plan shall provide:

- details of any cranes, tall construction equipment, or temporary structures which may be deployed or erected on the application site and/or any adjoining land which may be used during the construction period;
- a schedule setting out when those cranes, tall construction equipment, or temporary structures would be present on site;
- a protocol through which amendments to the schedule would be communicated, and
- details of any lighting that would be displayed on the cranes/plant/structures that would be deployed.

The development shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the details approved and there shall be no departure from those details without the express written consent of the Local Planning Authority in consultation with the MOD.

Reason: To ensure that construction work and construction equipment on the site and adjoining land does not obstruct air traffic movements and/or impede the effective operation of technical assets used to facilitate air traffic management.