



Defence Infrastructure Organisation

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Ministry of Defence

Safeguarding Department

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Your reference: South Warwickshire Local Plan Issues and Options Consultation and Call for Sites

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Dear Sir/Madam

I write to confirm the statutory safeguarding position of the Ministry of Defence (MOD) in relation to Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Council's joint South Warwickshire Local Plan Issues and Options Consultation. Once adopted this will form the principal element of the development plan for the geographic area to 2050.

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

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

The South Warwickshire Local Plan (Issues and Options) area is partially covered by the explosives safeguarding zone that is designated to protect the operational capabilities of the explosives storage and handling facilities at the Defence Munitions (DM) Kineton site. This MOD explosives safeguarding zone extends across parts of the South Warwickshire geographic area, and is within the local authority area of Stratford-on-Avon District Council.

The MOD explosives safeguarding area is comprised of two distinct zones, an inner zone bounded by a yellow line and an outer zone bounded by a purple line.

The Inhabited Building Distance (IBD) is defined by a 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), which surrounds the IBD zone and the outer extent of which is defined by a purple line on the statutory safeguarding plan. Within this zone all inhabited buildings need to be deemed as being 'non vulnerable' structures. This means they should be of robust design and construction so that should an explosion occur at the MOD explosives storage facilities, buildings nearby will not sustain damage that could cause critical injury to the occupants. Developments and land use that directly support large gatherings of people outside can also be of relevance to the management of explosives safeguarding requirements for this zone.

The local plan sets out a number of objectives and policies that are relevant to these safeguarding zones

Issue S9: Settlement Boundaries and infill development: The MOD recognises that infill development implemented in accordance with the current and emerging policies relating to this may affect the explosives safeguarding zones surrounding DM Kineton. The MOD has no objection to the implementation of the existing policies in relation to those settlements that occupy the outer explosives safeguarding zone. However, the MOD would wish to be consulted in its capacity as a statutory consultee upon relevant applications for infill development in accordance with the consultation procedures set out in in the Town and Country Planning (Safeguarded Aerodromes, Technical Sites and Military Explosives Storage Areas Direction 2002 (as updated)).

Chapter 8: A well designed and beautiful South Warwickshire. Issue D1: Strategic design Principles: The MOD has no comments or concerns with the topic headings that have been identified in this consultation for inclusion in a strategic design policy. It should be noted that it is possible that development undertaken in accordance with any strategic design policy that is defined may be relevant to MOD explosives safeguarding requirements should relevant development occur within the area contained within the MOD statutory explosives safeguarding consultation zones surrounding DM Kineton.

Chapter 8: A well designed and beautiful South Warwickshire: Issue D2: Design Codes and design guides: The MOD has no preferences or requirements with respect to the approach taken in how design guidance is organised. The MOD would wish to be consulted on the preparation of design guidance for inhabited buildings that would be applicable to those settlements or types of development that are assigned to occur within the area contained within the MOD statutory explosives safeguarding zones surrounding DM Kineton.

Chapter 8: A well designed and beautiful South Warwickshire: Issue D3: Designing adaptable, diverse and flexible places: The MOD has no preferences or requirements with respect to the approach taken in relation to defining density ranges. The MOD would wish to be consulted on the preparation of design guidance that would be applicable to inhabited buildings which would be relevant to development that is assigned to occur within the area contained within the MOD statutory explosives safeguarding zones surrounding DM Kineton.

Issue C1: Solar and wind power: The MOD has no preferences or requirements with respect to the approach that is taken to identifying and allocating land that is considered suitable for wind and solar energy generation schemes. However, in relation to any policy that may be adopted, the MOD would need to be consulted on any proposed allocations of land or development proposals entailing the erection of wind turbines 11metres or greater in height (to blade tip), or, that have a rotor diameter of 2 metres or more. This will enable the MOD to review any such proposals in relation to the effective operation of defence radars and military low flying training activities. The MOD would also wish to review any proposed allocations of land or development proposals for large scale renewable energy developments, including solar energy development and battery storage infrastructure, on land occupying the MOD statutory explosives safeguarding zones surrounding DM Kineton.

The,MOD would wish to be consulted upon any proposals for developments that would have a total height of 50m or more above ground level in relation to the management of military low flying training activities that may be conducted over non-built up areas throughout the UK

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