



Defence Infrastructure Organisation

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Ministry of Defence

Safeguarding Department

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Your reference: Thriplow and Heathfield
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Planning Policy Team
South Cambridgeshire District Council
Cambourne Business Park,
Cambourne
Cambridge
CB23 6EA.

30th September
2024

Dear Planning Policy Team,

It is understood that South Cambridgeshire District Council are undertaking a consultation regarding their Thriplow and Heathfield Neighbourhood Plan (NP) Submission public consultation. This document will guide and set a framework for future development in the plan area.

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 101 of the National Planning Policy Framework (December 2023) requires that planning policies and decisions take into account defence requirements by '*ensuring that operational sites are not affected adversely by the impact of other development proposed in the area.*' Statutory consultation of the MOD 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 to Local Planning Authorities by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) in accordance with the provisions of that direction.

Copies of these relevant plans, in both GIS shapefile and .pdf format are issued to Local Planning Authorities by MHCLG. An assurance review was conducted by the MOD in 2023 which confirmed that, at that time, Local Planning Authorities held the most recent relevant safeguarding data. Any subsequent updates to those plans were then issued by MHCLG. If there is a requirement for replacement data, a request can be made through the above email address

The review or drafting of planning policy provides an opportunity to better inform developers of the statutory requirement that MOD is consulted on development that triggers the criteria set out on Safeguarding Plans, and the constraints that might be applied to development as a result of the requirement to ensure defence capability and operations are not adversely affected.

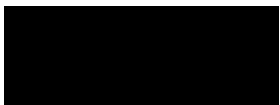
The area covered by any Thriplow and Heathfield NP will both contain and be washed over by safeguarding zones that are designated to preserve the operation and capability of defence assets and sites including Cambridge Airport and the Eastern 1 WAM (Wide Area Multilateration) Network.

To provide an illustration of the various issues that might be fundamental to MOD assessment carried out in response to statutory consultation, a brief summary of the main safeguarding areas of concern is provided below. Depending on the statutory safeguarding zone within which a site allocation or proposed development falls, different considerations will apply.

- Eastern WAM (Wide Area Multilateration) Network is a new technical asset, which contributes to aviation safety by feeding into the air traffic management system in the Eastern 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 pass through the Thriplow and Heathfield NP authority area.
- Technical assets that facilitate air traffic management, primarily radar, navigation, and communications systems are safeguarded to limit the impact of development on their capability and operation. The height, massing, and materials used to finish a development may all be factors in assessing the impact of a given scheme. Developments that incorporate renewable energy systems may be of particular concern given their potential to provide large expanses of metal at height, for example where proposals include a wind turbine or roof mounted solar PV system.

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



Chris Waldron
DIO Assistant Safeguarding Manager