



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Mr Gareth Durrant
Principal Planning Officer – Major projects
Planning and Regulatory Services
Forest Heath District Council
District Offices
College Heath Road
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Your Reference: DC/14/2073/FUL
Our reference: DIO/SUT/43/2/48 (2015/012)

Dear Gareth

MOD Safeguarding – RAF Lakenheath

Proposal: 120 dwellings comprising of 15 one bedroom bungalows; 25 two-bedroom bungalows; 1 four bedroom bungalow; 28 two-bedroom houses; 38 three bedroom houses and 13 four-bedroom houses together with associated access, landscaping and open space.

Location: Land adjacent to 34 Broom Road, Lakenheath, Suffolk

Grid Ref: 572282, 282394

Planning Ref: DC/14/2073/FUL

Further to my letter of 24 July 2015, I write to update the statutory safeguarding position of the Ministry of Defence (MOD) on the above full application.

Since the MOD last completed a safeguarding review of this application the number and types of housing units included in the scheme have been revised and the layout of the scheme has been changed.

The proposed development will occupy statutory height, birdstrike, explosives and technical safeguarding zones surrounding RAF Lakenheath. Having assessed the proposed development we have determined that the proposed structures will not adversely affect our safeguarding requirements.

In my previous response I raised concerns relating to the potential for the new development to increase user demand upon the public open space in the nearby Maids Cross Hill nature reserve which occupies the inner explosives safeguarding zone surrounding explosives storage facilities at RAF Lakenheath.

Defence Infrastructure Organisation

WORKING PAPER 3

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In this zone the MOD monitors land use changes and the associated level of occupation to maintain explosives licensing standards. If the development increases the number of people using the reserve this could impact upon defence requirements.

I identified that the MOD considers that the development proposed should make provision for public open space and leisure areas needed to support the new housing without relying on the open space at Maids Cross Hill to provide such facilities.

The applicant has taken this recommendation into account. The revised layout scheme includes more amenity open space mitigating our safeguarding concern as far as is reasonably possible.

Therefore, whilst the MOD remains concerned that the proposed development may increase usage of the Maidcross Hill nature reserve, I can confirm that the MOD maintains no statutory safeguarding objections to this revised application.

Due to the proximity of the application site to the aerodrome the proposed development may be affected by aircraft noise. My colleagues from Defence Infrastructure Organisation - Town and Environmental Planning Team have made a separate representation on this issue which remains applicable to this application.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Wilson', with a stylized, flowing script.

Jon Wilson