



# Defence Infrastructure Organisation

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Ministry of Defence  
Safeguarding Department  
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Your reference: 2023/01076/FUL  
Our reference: DIO10060911

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Mr Ceiri Rowlands  
The Vale of Glamorgan Council  
Dock Office  
Barry Docks  
Barry  
CF63 4RT

12<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Dear Ceiri,

<b>MOD Safeguarding:</b>	<b>St Athan MOD</b>
<b>Proposal:</b>	<b>Proposed provision of above and below ground utilities, associated infrastructure and reprofiling of land.</b>
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Land at Bro Tathan, St Athan</b>
<b>Grid Ref's:</b>	<b>E: 300054    N: 168776</b>

Thank you for consulting the Ministry of Defence (MOD) on the above proposed development. The Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) Safeguarding Team represents the Ministry of Defence (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 full permission for underground utility works which include approximately 20km of trenching to install and/or replace services including electricity, water, gas, and drainage; to install ducting for telecommunications equipment; the relocation of a substation; and the sustainable reuse of materials to reprofile parts of the site.

The application site occupies statutory technical safeguarding zones surrounding MOD St Athan and wraps around the aerodrome.

### **Technical safeguarding**

The proposed development site occupies the technical safeguarding zones that ensure air traffic approaches, and the line of sight of navigational aids and transmitters/receivers are not impeded.

The MOD have reviewed the documents and has no aerodrome height or technical safeguarding objections to the proposals.

However, the MOD recognises that cranes and large construction equipment/plant may be used to implement the works proposed. The siting or storage of this construction equipment/plant may affect the performance of a High-Resolution Direction-Finder (HRDF), an asset which contributes to air traffic management and safety. If the development proposed does progress, it will be necessary

to ensure that construction equipment/plant is stored outside the radio site protection area drawn around the HRDF to assure its operation and capability.

As such, the MOD request that a condition is attached to any consent that might be issued to require that the locations of all construction compounds and any other enclosures that might be used to store construction equipment/plant are submitted to the Local Planning Authority for approval, which would only be issued following MOD consultation.

A suggested condition wording is provided below:

**Submission of a Construction Compound Details**

No development shall take place unless or until a plan showing the location and form of all compounds or enclosures used to store construction equipment and plant during the implementation of the scheme has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority in consultation with the Ministry of Defence. The details submitted should also provide a schedule showing when these compounds will be required and for how long. The development shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the details approved unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority in consultation with Ministry of Defence.

**Reason:** To ensure that construction work and construction equipment on the site and adjoining land does not impede the effective operation and capability of a technical asset which contributes to air traffic management and aviation safety.

The MOD must emphasise that the advice provided within this letter is in response to the data and information detailed in the developer's documents provided in support of application 2023/01076/FUL for which the MOD were consulted by Vale of Glamorgan Council on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023. 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 Vale of Glamorgan 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,

Stefany Alves Veronese  
Assistant Safeguarding Manager