



Defence Infrastructure Organisation

Ministry of Defence
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Ms Menaka Sahai
National Infrastructure Planning
Temple Quay House
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2 May 2023

By email only

Dear Ms Sahai

National Infrastructure Planning: Sheringham and Dudgeon Extension Projects

I write following Issue Specific Hearing 6 (ISH6) to provide an update the position of the Ministry of Defence (MOD) in relation to the proposed Sheringham and Dudgeon Extension Projects.

The development proposed consists of extensions to the existing Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon wind farms, adding a total of up to 53 wind turbine generators (up to 23 to Sheringham Shoal Wind Farm and up to 30 to Dudgeon Wind Farm) as well as the associated infrastructure, export cables, landfall, and onshore export cables.

The MOD originally objected to the above development, through a letter to the National Infrastructure Planning Team dated 19 January 2023, on two grounds:

- the unacceptable impact the development would have on air defence (AD) radar systems sited at RRH Trimmingham and RRH Neatishead; and
- the unacceptable impact the development would have on technical assets (communications equipment) sited at RAF Weybourne.

The first of these objections remains unchanged.

The second of these objections has formed the subject of discussions between the applicant and MOD. Following the submission of additional information, the objection due to the impact of the development on Technical Assets sited at RAF Weybourne has been withdrawn as set out in the MOD letter dated 20 February 2023.

Air Defence Radar

The proposed development would be sited approximately 18.7km from RRH Trimmingham, approximately 34.5km from RRH Neatishead, and would be visible to radar systems deployed at that/both sites.

Wind turbines have been shown to have detrimental effects on the operation of AD radar. These include the desensitisation of the radar in the vicinity of wind turbines, and the creation of "false" aircraft returns. The probability of the radar detecting aircraft flying over or in the locality of the turbines would be reduced, hence turbine proliferation within a specific locality can result in unacceptable degradation of the radar's operational integrity. This would reduce the RAF's ability to detect and manage aircraft in United Kingdom sovereign airspace, thereby preventing it from effectively performing its primary function of Air Defence

of the United Kingdom.

Our assessments have determined that, when operational, the proposed wind farm will cause unacceptable and unmanageable interference to the effective operation of this AD radar. It is for this reason that MOD objects to this application.

Address of MOD Safeguarding Concerns

The applicant has made submissions to MOD regarding the impact of the development on AD radars. MOD is considering the applicant's submission though, at this time, MOD is unable to provide any update to the position set out in letters dated 20 February 2023. MOD will update all parties when further information is known, noting the Examination timetable.

I trust this adequately explains our position on this matter.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any additional information, or should you wish to discuss matters.

Yours sincerely

James Houghton
Senior Safeguarding Manager