



# Defence Infrastructure Organisation

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26 March 2024

Your reference: EN010161-000013  
Our reference: DIO10062200

Dear Alison,

## **MOD Safeguarding – SOSA (Site outside of statutory safeguarding areas)**

**Proposal:** The project comprises the construction and operation of the Stallingborough CCGT generating plant and CCP which is anticipated to generate approximately 800 megawatts of electricity.

**Location:** South bank of the Humber Estuary.

**Grid Ref:** Easting: 520048      Northing: 411588

Thank you for consulting the Ministry of Defence (MOD) on the above proposed development. The consultation correspondence was received by this office on 12 February 2024.

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 seeks development consent for the construction and operation of a Combined Cycle Gas Turbine and Carbon Capture Plant with the capability of generating approx. 800 MW of electricity. The plans also include proposed pipelines for natural gas transportation, electrical grid connection route corridors, potential carbon dioxide absorber columns and stacks and a number of cooling towers.

## **Low Flying**

Fixed Wing military low flying training takes place throughout the United Kingdom down to a height of 250ft above ground level and in certain designated areas down to a height of 100ft above ground level. A development containing towers of the height and at the location you propose may have an impact on low flying operations. We have produced a map which indicates areas in the UK where the MOD is more likely or less likely to object to tower planning applications on the grounds of interference with low flying operations. The following link will take you to this map, which has been produced only for guidance and does not offer definitive advice on the MODs position.

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140802171818/https://restats.decc.gov.uk/cms/aviation-safeguarding-maps/>

In this case the development falls within Low Flying Area 11 (LFA 11), an area within which fixed wing aircraft may operate as low as 250 feet or 76.2 metres above ground level to conduct low level flight training. The addition of tall and narrow structures such as carbon dioxide absorber columns and cooling towers in this location has the potential to introduce a physical obstruction to low flying aircraft operating in the area.


At this scoping stage, where finalised details are not available for the design or maximum height of the carbon dioxide absorber columns and cooling towers, MOD representations are limited to the principle of the development only.

In principle, the MOD has no objections to the development at this location. Given that the application site falls within Low Flying Area 11 where the introduction of tall and narrow structures may impact low level flight training, MOD should be consulted on all further applications to ensure the capacity of any new structure to impact on defence operations is not compromised. MOD may specify requirements that would form part of any Development Consent Order (DCO) issued, which require aviation safety lighting and the submission of data to allow charting.

The MOD must emphasise that the advice provided within this letter is in response to the data and information detailed in the developer's document titled 'Scoping Report' dated February 2024. 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.

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

Yours sincerely

  
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