SOUTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL – DELEGATED REPORT

Application for Screening Opinion (SCR)

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<th>Application No.</th>
<th>S/2016/0394/SCR</th>
<th>Case Officer:</th>
<th>Wayne Campbell</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Statutory Expiry Date:</td>
<td>25 February 2016</td>
<td>Consultation Expiry Date:</td>
<td>Consults: 29 February 2016 Re-consults:</td>
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<td>Site:</td>
<td>Royal Air Force Raf Croughton Road Croughton NN13 5NQ</td>
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<td>Proposal:</td>
<td>Screening Opinion for the SATCOM development</td>
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RECOMMENDATION

EIA Not Required for the reasons set out at the end of this report.

APPLICATION SITE
RAF Croughton is a military base located at Croughton near Brackley, and approximately 11 kilometres (km) south-west of Banbury. RAF Croughton covers an area of approximately 280 hectares (ha) and has an elevated ridge running east-west across the centre of the base with the terrain sloping northwards and southwards away from the ridge. The site is contained within security fencing, with controlled access to the B4031 at the north of the base, known as Village Gate. The base is bounded by the highway of the A43 to the south-east, approximately 4.5km north-east of the junction of the A43 with the M40 at Cherwell Valley Services. There is also emergency and over-sized vehicle access on to the base from the A43.

CONSTRAINTS
- Potential wildlife site;
- Within 2km buffer zone of local wildlife sites: The Moors, Old Astwick Village Moat, Slade Covert, Croughton Spinney, and Croughton Spring Copse;
- Grade II listed structure – fighter pens;

PROPOSAL
The planning application will seek a number of changes and alterations on this site in association with the use as a military base. These works include:

PL1 building: To house personnel and equipment associated with the adjacent satellite installations. Single storey building with ground footprint approximately 2800m2.

Administration building: To provide office accommodation and storage. Single storey building with ground footprint approximately 2000m2.

Entry control building: A secure point of entry into the compound. Single storey building with ground footprint approximately 20m2.

Infrastructure works for future satellite terminals: Six hardstanding satellite terminals located within a hardstanding and grasscrete antenna field. Total ground footprint covered by the satellite terminals, hardstanding and grasscrete approximately
7800m². These satellite terminals are for satellite installations that will be installed at a future date after the completion of the SATCOM development. It is anticipated that four of the six terminals will accommodate geodesic domes although the design specifics of the installations are not yet known.

Hardstanding: For external plant. Ground footprint approximately 760m².

Permanent carpark: To be constructed where existing SATCOM facilities on main development site are currently located. Ground footprint approximately 3600m².

Drainage systems: Surface water drainage system will be installed along with an infiltration basin for storm water attenuation. A new pump station for the foul water system will be installed to connect to existing network.

Fencing: Approximately 1400m of high security fencing around PL1 building and antenna field. Approximately 1050m of stock proof fencing around the remainder of the main development site.

Plant: Plant associated with the buildings including a local substation, pump house and sprinkler tanks. Ground footprint approximately 85m².

Roads: Access road to buildings and perimeter footpaths around sections of each building. Ground footprint approximately 3900m².

Car park (temporary): Approximately 120 spaces for personnel. Temporary use for a maximum two years. Ground footprint approximately 3600m².

In addition to the new build, the planning application will also include some demolition works which will include:

Existing SATCOM facilities on main development site: Existing SATCOM facility comprises one main building and two smaller buildings along with existing antennae. Ground footprint approximately 2225m². After demolition, the permanent carpark is to be constructed at this location.

Existing SATCOM facilities on secondary site: Administration building comprises one main building and one smaller building. Ground footprint approximately 6780m². After demolition, amenity grassland will be reinstated.

APPRAISAL
A screening request has been submitted for the above site, in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (EIA) Regulations 2011.

The development is not of a type listed in Schedule 1

The development is of a type listed in Schedule 2 (13 Changes and extensions [b]) in that it consists of (b) Any change to or extension of development of a description listed in paragraphs 1 to 12 of column 1 of Schedule 2, where that development is already authorised, executed or in the process of being executed.

The site is not within a ‘sensitive area’.

The development does meet the relevant criteria in Schedule 2.
The development does exceed the relevant threshold and criteria in Column 2.

Will the development be ‘likely to have significant effects on the environment’? No.

The development is not in an environmentally sensitive area but does exceed the indicative thresholds and criteria contained within the PPG. The selection criteria in Schedule 3 of the Regulations includes reference to the characteristics of the development (size, cumulation, use of natural resources, production of waste and pollution), the location of development and the characteristics of the potential impact.

In my opinion the most significant environmental impacts are likely to relate to the visual impact of the development on the surrounding area; impact on ecology; impact on the setting of the grade II listed fighter pens; and transport implications on the local highway network.

It is considered that the implications could be addressed properly through the Council’s normal consultation procedures.

**CONCLUSION**

In conclusion the development is listed in Schedule 2 of the Regulations but I am of the opinion that due to the scale of development, the site characteristics, its location and context and the nature of the development, the proposal is unlikely to give rise to significant environmental effects and hence an EIA is not required in this instance.

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<th>Case Officer Signature</th>
<th>Wayne Campbell</th>
<th>Authorising Officer Signature</th>
<th>Paul Seckington</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>07/03/16</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>7 March 2016</td>
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