



Defence
Infrastructure
Organisation

St George's House
Defence Infrastructure Organisation
Head Office
DMS Whittington
Lichfield
Staffordshire



Canterbury Local Plan Team
Canterbury City Council Offices
Military Road
Canterbury
CT1 1YW

3rd June 2024

DELIVERED BY EMAIL:

Draft Canterbury District Local Plan to 2040

Dear Local Plan Team,

I am writing in response to the recent publication of the Draft Canterbury District Local Plan and your request for comments by Monday 3rd June 2024.

Background

As you will be aware the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) is seeking to establish the foundation for the 'right-sized' military estate of the future. There is a strong military imperative that the quality and performance of the Defence estate must be enhanced in order to sustain, and in places, improve, military capability. Given current and future funding pressures, this can only be achieved if the estate is significantly smaller and more efficiently utilised, in order to achieve the best value for money from Defence funds. As part of this exercise MOD is considering the future of Old Park Training Area, approximately 92 HA of land to the east of Canterbury which falls within the local plan area.

Old Park Training Area was submitted in the Strategic Land Availability Assessment (SLAA) for consideration for a variety of uses. It is noted that the SLAA deemed the site as not suitable for further consideration, stating "half of the site is located in a SSSI and there are concerns regarding landscape and ecology impact".

Following further discussions with Canterbury District Council MOD reserve their position but no longer intend to pursue an allocation for residential development on any part of the Old Park Training Area site at this point in time.

MOD note that an area of land totaling approximately 11.5 HA has been included within Draft Policy C20 – Land to the south of Sturry Road for the purposes of providing a strategic wetland to fulfill the need to offset the impact of development on phosphate and nitrogen levels at Stodmarsh as identified in the Canterbury Nutrient Mitigation Strategy.

As the owner of part of the land subject to this allocation MOD is supportive of the draft policy and welcomes further discussions regarding this matter.

It is noted that the Canterbury Eastern Movement Corridor [former Policy C16] has now been removed.

MOD trust the above will receive your full consideration and we would also be grateful if notification of any consultation on further stages of the plan could be sent to [REDACTED] and copied to;

Should you have any queries regarding the above please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Matthew Ellis | BA (Hons) MA MRTPI | Senior Town Planner | Estates |
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