



# Defence Infrastructure Organisation

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Your reference: 25/00680/FUL

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Rachel Carney  
Rochdale Borough Council  
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Number One Riverside  
Smith Street  
Rochdale  
OL16 1XU

25 September 2025

## By email only

Dear Rachel,

### **Town and Country Planning Act 1990**

**The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015**

**The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017**

**Proposed development: Construction and operation of 17 wind turbines with a maximum height to the tip of the blade of 180 metres (above ordnance datum), together with associated ancillary infrastructure comprising crane pads and hardstandings; new access tracks; improvement and widening works to Scout Road; onsite substation; underground electrical infrastructure and cabling; fencing and boundary treatments; external lighting; drainage infrastructure; habitat and moorland restoration works; public right of way works; landscaping; temporary construction compound and staging area; underground electrical grid connection to the Rossendale Bulk Supply Point; and associated engineering works; alongside the retention of and improvements to existing access tracks associated with the existing Scout Moor Wind Farm.**

**Site address: Scout Moor Wind Farm, Rochdale.**

Thank you for consulting the Ministry of Defence (MOD) in relation to the planning application through your communication dated 26 August 2025.

The Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) Safeguarding Team represents the 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.

I am writing to tell you that, subject to the conditions detailed in Appendix A, the MOD has no objection to the proposed development.

The application concerns the construction and operation of 17 turbines with maximum blade tip height of 180 metres above ground level along with associated ancillary infrastructure. The development has been assessed using the location data (Grid References) provided in the developers document, 'Planning Design and Access Statement Scout Moor II Table 7.2: Proposed wind turbine co-ordinates', dated July 2025.

| Turbine no. | Easting | Northing |
|-------------|---------|----------|
| 1           | 386584  | 417511   |
| 2           | 386287  | 417715   |
| 3           | 386072  | 418157   |
| 4           | 386057  | 418580   |
| 5           | 386007  | 419011   |
| 6           | 385469  | 418509   |
| 7           | 385305  | 417929   |
| 8           | 385146  | 419146   |
| 9           | 385604  | 419634   |

| Turbine no. | Easting | Northing |
|-------------|---------|----------|
| 10          | 386115  | 420016   |
| 11          | 385182  | 419867   |
| 12          | 385635  | 420147   |
| 13          | 383671  | 418779   |
| 14          | 383369  | 419137   |
| 15          | 383047  | 419489   |
| 16          | 386086  | 419460   |
| 17          | 384943  | 419391   |

The principal safeguarding concern of the MOD with respect to this development is the erection of wind turbines and relates to the potential of the turbines creating a physical obstruction to air traffic movements.

### **Physical Obstruction**

In this case the development falls within Low Flying Area 8 (LFA 8), an area within which fixed wing aircraft may operate as low as 250 feet or 76.2 metres above terrain features to conduct low level flight training. The addition of turbines in this location has the potential to introduce a physical obstruction to low flying aircraft operating in the area.

To address this impact, and given the location and scale of the development, the MOD require conditions are added to any consent issued requiring that the development is fitted with aviation safety lighting and that sufficient data is submitted to ensure that structures can be accurately charted to allow deconfliction. Suggested condition wordings are set out in Appendix A.

The development proposed includes wind turbine generators that exceed a height of 150m agl and are therefore subject to the lighting requirements set out in the Air Navigation Order 2016. In addition to any Civil Aviation Authority requirements, the MOD will require the submission, approval, and implementation of an aviation safety lighting specification that details the installation of MOD accredited aviation safety lighting. As a minimum the MOD would require that all cardinal turbines are fitted with MOD accredited infra-red (IR) lighting.

### **Summary**

Subject to the conditions requested above and provided in Appendix A, the MOD has no objections to the development.

The MOD must emphasise that the advice provided within this letter is in response to the information detailed in the developer's documents "Planning Design and Access Statement Scout Moor II Table 7.2: Proposed wind turbine co-ordinates", dated July 2025, "Scout Moor II Wind Farm Infrastructure Layout Operational Phase Drawing No. SK04", dated 20 May 2025 and "Scout Moor II Wind Farm Typical Turbine Elevation Drawing No. SK06", dated 12 May 2025. 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 hope this adequately explains our position on the matter. If you require further information or would like to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Further information about the effects of wind turbines on MOD interests can be obtained from the following websites:

**MOD:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wind-farms-ministry-of-defence-safeguarding>

Yours sincerely,

*Andy White*

Andy White  
Assistant Safeguarding Manager

(Appendix A enc)

## **Appendix A**

### **Condition - Aviation Lighting**

Prior to commencing construction of any wind turbine generators, or deploying any construction equipment or temporal structure(s) 50 metres or more in height (above terrain features) the undertaker must submit an aviation lighting scheme for the approval of Rochdale Borough Council in conjunction with the Ministry of Defence defining how the development will be lit throughout its life to maintain civil and military aviation safety requirements as determined necessary for aviation safety by the Ministry of Defence.

This should set out:

- a) details of any construction equipment and temporal structures with a total height of 50 metres or greater (terrain features) that will be deployed during the construction of wind turbine generators and details of any aviation warning lighting that they will be fitted with; and
- b) the locations and heights of all wind turbine generators and any anemometry mast featured in the development identifying those that will be fitted with aviation warning lighting identifying the position of the lights on the wind turbine generators; the type(s) of lights that will be fitted and the performance specification(s) of the lighting type(s) to be used.

Thereafter, the undertaker must exhibit such lights as detailed in the approved aviation lighting scheme. The lighting installed will remain operational for the lifetime of the development.

#### Reason for condition.

To maintain aviation safety.

### **Condition - Aviation Charting and Safety Management**

The undertaker must notify the Ministry of Defence, at least 14 days prior to the commencement of the works, in writing of the following information:

- a) the date of the commencement of the erection of wind turbine generators;
- b) the maximum height of any construction equipment to be used in the erection of the wind turbines;
- c) the date any wind turbine generators are brought into use;
- d) the latitude and longitude and maximum heights of each wind turbine generator, and any anemometer mast(s).

The Ministry of Defence must be notified of any changes to the information supplied in accordance with these requirements and of the completion of the construction of the development.

#### Reason for condition.

To maintain aviation safety.