

1. The application for DTC is not tied into the application for ABP. There are two distinctly separate applications, one for each scheme. Each individual application is presented with common infrastructure to ensure that if for any reason one application is unable to progress, the remaining application is able to proceed without and programme delay.

The Environmental Statement has been presented as an assessment of the entire development of the site and covers both DTC and ABP, which is the appropriate approach agreed between the parties, and with Vale of Glamorgan Council.

2. The training requirement at St Athan includes a series of military elements which will ensure that trainees maintain their Phase 1 skills and are prepared for deployment following completion of their course if required. These elements include obstacle course, respirator testing, firearms training, and field training. It is essential that these elements are carried out as close to the site as possible to maximise training efficiency.

There will be noise associated with the range and the external training area however there is mitigation of these activities proposed as part of the scheme to ensure that noise levels are contained within acceptable limits. Times of use of these elements have been included in the planning application to cover all possible scenarios, as well as all possible scenarios with respect to weapon types. In general terms the use of these facilities will be during the training day, and will involve standard small arms. The use of larger firearms, and at times outside the training day would be unusual.

The provision of an indoor range presents a number of issues relating to the type of training provided at St Athan and has environmental impacts in terms of ventilation, the mitigation measures mentioned above will ensure that the facility does not significantly impact noise level to local residents.

Other options are constantly being explored for the external training, all major external exercises will be undertaken away from the St Athan site, and only smaller scale military training and training directly associated with the courses being delivered on site will be undertaken on the Picketston and Castleton sites.

3. Castleton Farm will be used for low level external training, camping, orienteering, outdoor activities, but will not include the use of blank firing weapons. This original proposal for the area was removed prior to the application being made due to the issues of noise and the effects on local residents.

4. A number of options for the access to the proposed development have been considered, and these details have been included in the planning application. Following assessment of the various options available, including access adjacent to West Camp the Northern Access Road has been concluded to be the most appropriate in terms of value for money, environmental considerations and programme.

Unfortunately there is a considerable confusion over the height of the Northern Access Road, which became apparent at a recent meeting with Llanmaes and Llantwit Major Community Councils. It is clear that the conclusion drawn from the documents is that the road is elevated at a great height above the surrounding land which is not the case, the highway is generally around 600mm – 1m above the ground and has a Devon Bank either side with a hedge planted on top to provide appropriate screening.

5. There is a popular misconception that Military personnel are somehow different to the local population and cannot live together without conflict. Experience of both the design team and the St Athan MOD team will disagree with any statement of this kind and would always direct towards the fantastic record of the St Athan base with the local communities. You will note that the existing Service Families Accommodation associated with MoD St Athan now consists of a mix of military and non military families that currently coexists harmoniously.

Within the planning application documentation is the sequential test for the housing sites which identifies the process and the ultimate selection of the proposed sites.

The location of the sports facilities within the site are carefully selected to ensure they meet the requirements of agencies from a training perspective, and that they are located in an area which is publically accessible to ensure community use of the facilities without the need to enter a restricted site.

6. Streetlighting levels have been assessed and the fittings used will be designed to minimise light pollution. The streetlights themselves are required to illuminate the combined cycle/footway to ensure safety for pedestrians, these same lights are also used to ensure that the bat population are able to make best use of the existing and proposed habitat.