

## West Berkshire Local Plan Review 2023-2041 (adopted June 2025)

**Policy DM33****RAF Welford and Denison Barracks**

Development within the site boundary of RAF Welford and/or Denison Barracks will be supported where it directly sustains the functioning of these defence establishments.

Development in the areas around RAF Welford and/or Denison Barracks will not be supported where it would adversely affect the defence related operation or capability of these sites and/or the safety and wellbeing of those within the relevant statutory safeguarding zones.

**Supporting Text**

**12.14** RAF Welford and Denison Barracks provide important outputs that support national defence activities. The NPPF outlines that planning policies and decisions should recognise and support development required for operational defence and security purposes.

**12.15** National policy also seeks to ensure that operational sites are not affected adversely by the impact of other development proposed in the area and that existing businesses and facilities should not have unreasonable restrictions placed on them as a result of development permitted after they were established.

**12.16** RAF Welford is safeguarded due to its capacity as a military explosive storage area and as such it has statutory safeguarding zones to ensure that development and land uses will be compatible with MOD capability. The inner and outer safeguarding zones<sup>(136)</sup> are defined on the Policies Map and within the safeguarded area of RAF Welford the MOD is a statutory consultee under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (Safeguarded Aerodromes, Technical Sites and Military Explosives Storage Areas) Direction 2022 (DfT/ODPM Circular 01/2003).

**12.17** The MOD will object to development proposals which support people living, working, or congregating within the inner safeguarding zone of RAF Welford. In principle, the MOD does not object to land in the outer safeguarding zone being developed for residential, commercial and/or industrial land use purposes. However, within this zone, where applicable, requirements relating to the siting, design and construction of buildings, or changes to land use may apply.

**12.18** Whilst Denison Barracks in Hermitage does not have safeguarding zones around the site, consideration should be given to the impact of development proposals on the operation and capability of the site as a defence establishment and the local planning authority will consult with Denison Barracks and/or MOD as appropriate.

<sup>136</sup> The extent of the safeguarding zones shown on the Policies Map could change before the Plan is updated or superseded. Policy DM33 will be applied to the latest version of the RAF Welford safeguarding zones as determined by the MOD



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## RAF Welford





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Denison Barracks

