



**Ministry  
of Defence**

Secretariat  
Defence Infrastructure Organisation  
Kingston Road  
Sutton Coldfield  
B75 7RL

E-mail: [diosec-parli@mod.gov.uk](mailto:diosec-parli@mod.gov.uk)  
[www.gov.uk/DIO](http://www.gov.uk/DIO)

3 April 2019

Ref. FOI 2019/02907

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 5 March 2019 requesting the following information:

*"An article in today's edition of the Colchester Gazette\* contains the following quote attributed to an MOD spokesperson, with regard to the MOD's disposal of Middlewick Ranges, Colchester:*

*"Over the past two years we have undertaken extensive engagement with stakeholders, including local authorities, carried out detailed studies and completed further financial modelling to understand the best way to deliver our intended strategy."*

*Please provide a breakdown of these engagements, studies and models, and the results/conclusions where possible."*

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and I can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held.

The information you have requested can be found below and enclosed at Annexes A-F. However, some of the information falls entirely within the scope of the absolute exemption provided for at section 40 (Personal Data) of the FOIA and the qualified exemptions provided for at section 43 (Commercial) of the FOIA. This information has been redacted or withheld.

Section 40(2) has been applied to some of the information in order to protect personal information as governed by the General Data Protection Regulation and Data Protection Act 2018. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and therefore there is no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

Section 43(2) has been applied to some of the information requested because if released it would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it). This exemption is subject to a Public Interest Test (PIT) which means that the information requested can only be withheld if the public interest in doing so outweighs the public interest in disclosure. A PIT has been conducted and I am satisfied in this case that the balance of the public interest lies in withholding the information because if disclosed, it could prejudice the future use of the site.

With regards to MODs engagement with stakeholders, some of this information is exempt under Section 21 of the FOIA because it is reasonably accessible to you. I am pleased to inform you that you can access it via the following links:

<https://cbccrmdata.blob.core.windows.net/noteattachment/Colchester%20Local%20Plan%20Consultation%20Statement%20CBC-006-1-3.pdf>

<https://cbccrmdata.blob.core.windows.net/noteattachment/Colchester%20Local%20Plan%20Representation%20Schedule%20Section%202%20SDCBC-006-3-3.pdf>

<https://cbccrmdata.blob.core.windows.net/noteattachment/Colchester%20SCI%20Final%20Draft%20SCI%202018.pdf>

Further information relating to MODs engagement with stakeholders can be found enclosed at Annexes A-F.

With reference to studies and models carried out over the past two years and the subsequent results/conclusions, I can confirm the MOD holds no information in scope of this request.

Under Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note that the statement: *"Over the past two years we have undertaken extensive engagement with stakeholders, including local authorities, carried out detailed studies and completed further financial modelling to understand the best way to deliver our intended strategy"* relates to the Better Defence Estate Strategy as a whole and is not limited to Middlewick Ranges. Studies directly relating to the disposal of Middlewick Ranges were conducted however, these studies were undertaken over two years ago and are therefore outside the timeframe of your request.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk)). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made in writing within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

DIO Secretariat

# Meeting agenda



<b>Client:</b>	DIO	
<b>Project:</b>	Middlewick Ranges Local Plan Meeting	
<b>Date:</b>	22/02/2018	<b>Job/File ref:</b>
<b>Purpose of meeting:</b>	<b>Time start:</b>	
<b>Place of meeting:</b>	Colchester	<b>Time finish:</b>
<b>Agenda items:</b>	<b>Action:</b>	
1. Introductions		
2. Local plan update/timeframe.		
3. Scope for further submissions/attendance at [REDACTED]		
4. Transport		
5. Ecology		
• [REDACTED]		
• [REDACTED] Review – Status Update and Expected Formal Adoption, as well as Wildlife Trust Consultation to date		
• [REDACTED]		
• [REDACTED]		
• [REDACTED]		
6. Master plan - [REDACTED]		
[REDACTED]		
7. Next steps		



# Minutes of meeting



<b>Client:</b>	DIO
<b>Project:</b>	Middlewick Ranges
<b>Date:</b>	22 February 2018
<b>Purpose of meeting:</b>	Local Plan Meeting
<b>Place of meeting:</b>	Colchester

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Representing:</b>
[REDACTED]	DIO
[REDACTED]	DIO
[REDACTED]	JLL
[REDACTED]	PRP
[REDACTED]	Peter Brett
[REDACTED]	Colchester Council
[REDACTED]	Colchester Council
[REDACTED]	Colchester Council

<b>Minutes:</b>	<b>Action:</b>
<p><b>Introductions</b></p> <p>Introduced the Council to the DIO project team [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]</p> <p><b>Timescales</b></p> <p>Part 1 hearings had been undertaken but there may be a need to re-open the Inquiry and the additional hearings are likely to place in April</p> <p>No Inspector appointed as yet for Part 2 it may not be the same as Part 1 as all joint authorities will be needing their Part 2 plans heard at a similar time.</p> <p>June is more likely for Part 2 hearings</p> <p>[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]</p>	







# Minutes of meeting



<b>Client:</b>	DIO		
<b>Project:</b>	Middlewick Ranges		
<b>Date:</b>	27 June 2018		
<b>Purpose of meeting:</b>	Middlewick Ecology Meeting	<b>Time start:</b>	11 am
<b>Place of meeting:</b>	[REDACTED]	<b>Time finish:</b>	1 pm
<b>Present:</b>	<b>Representing:</b>		
[REDACTED]	JLL		
[REDACTED]	JLL		
[REDACTED]	DIO		
[REDACTED]	DIO		
[REDACTED]	DIO		
[REDACTED]	PBA (Senior Ecologist)		
[REDACTED]	Colchester Borough Council (CBC)		
[REDACTED]	Essex Wildlife Trust (EWT)		
[REDACTED]	Essex Wildlife Trust (EWT)		
[REDACTED]	Essex Wildlife Trust (EWT)		

Minutes:	Action:
<p><b>Allocation of Local Plan</b></p> <p>[REDACTED] confirmed that the Part 2 examination is now expected to take place in 2019, following the submission of the Inspectors comments regarding Part 1.</p> <p><b>Work to Date</b></p> <p>[REDACTED] ran through the ecological work which has been undertaken to date (desk study, extended Phase 1 habitat survey and more recent botanical walkover [REDACTED] which had led to the preparation of the draft Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA). [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED] explained that further ecological surveys would be required to inform masterplan design development, [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED] The PEA which would (once finalised) be submitted as part of the local plan evidence base would include reference to the scope and timing of survey work needed to support a planning application [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	







# Minutes of meeting



[Redacted text block 1]

[Redacted text block 2]

[Redacted text block 3]

[Redacted text block 4]

[Redacted text block 5]

[Redacted text block 6]

[Redacted text block 7]



- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Other discussions

[REDACTED] confirmed that the masterplanning to date was to give confidence that the numbers proposed were achievable. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] confirmed that once the PEA was final we would be happy to provide this to the WT.

[REDACTED]



# Meeting agenda



---

<b>Client:</b>	DIO		
<b>Project:</b>	Middlewick Ranges		
<b>Date:</b>	25 October 2018	<b>Job/File ref:</b>	
<b>Purpose of meeting:</b>	Middlewick Meeting	<b>Time start:</b>	10.30 am
<b>Place of meeting:</b>	Colchester Borough Council Rowan House CO3 3WG	<b>Time finish:</b>	12.30 pm

---

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Representing:</b>
[REDACTED]	JLL
[REDACTED]	JLL
[REDACTED]	DIO
[REDACTED]	DIO
[REDACTED]	Colchester Borough Council
[REDACTED]	Colchester Borough Council
[REDACTED]	Colchester Borough Council

---

## Agenda items:

1. Introductions and aim of meeting
2. Local Plan Update and Timeframe
3. DIO position - site allocation [REDACTED]
4. DIO Work to date
5. Stakeholder Consultation
6. Strategy and Next Steps
7. AOB



# Meeting Minutes- Confidential



---

<b>Client:</b>	DIO		
<b>Project:</b>	Middlewick Ranges		
<b>Date:</b>	25 October 2018	<b>Job/File ref:</b>	
<b>Purpose of meeting:</b>	Middlewick Meeting	<b>Time start:</b>	10.30 am
<b>Place of meeting:</b>	Colchester Borough Council Rowan House CO3 3WG	<b>Time finish:</b>	12.30 pm

---

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Representing:</b>
██████████	JLL
██████████	JLL
██████████	DIO
██████████	DIO
██████████	Colchester Borough Council
██████████	Colchester Borough Council
██████████	Colchester Borough Council

---

## Agenda items:

### 1. Introductions and aim of meeting

The aim of the meeting is for the DIO and CBC to update one another on work to date, the Local Plan timetable and strategy going forward.

### 2. Local Plan Update and Timeframe

████ provided an update on the Local Plan;

A letter (dated 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018) has been sent to the Inspector which sets out the approach of the █████ to go with Option 2- undertake further work to support the garden community proposals, but with some proposed changes to the Inspectors approach.

The further Sustainability Appraisal work, required to meet the Inspectors concerns, has already been commissioned and is underway. The Council have set out █████ timescales for this work to be completed but to undertake the work and re-consultation.

Land Use Consultants (LUC) have been instructed to undertake the SA work. LUC have previously undertaken the work in relation to Braintree's District Council Section 2 Local Plan



# Meeting Minutes- Confidential



The inspector found that the proposed housing numbers are sound and that the housing target has not been challenged. The main issues, in relation to the garden communities, include infrastructure and timings

A revised [redacted] is to be taken to Committee in December which will set out the proposed timetable. However, they are anticipating that they expect the Local Plan Section 1 examination to begin in June 2019, with the examination report following 1-2 months later and the Local Plan Part 1 to be adopted in Autumn 2019.

[redacted]  
[redacted]

The Part 2 examination will follow this and they expect the three [redacted] will have different inspectors for their Local Plan Section 2 examination.

### 3. DIO position - site allocation [redacted]

[redacted] provided an update on the DIO position;

Site disposal is planned in 2020.

[redacted]  
[redacted]

[redacted]  
[redacted]

[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]

[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]

[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]

[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]