



Crowborough Camp Security Statement

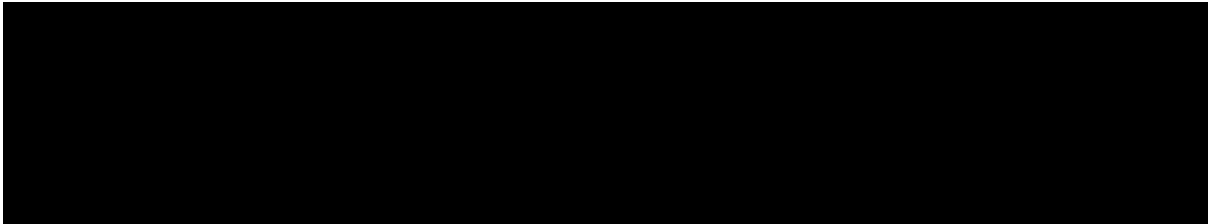
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Crowborough Camp
Security Statement

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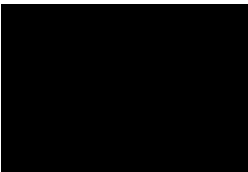


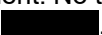
Revision History

Revision	Revision date	Details	Authorised	Name	Position
V1	14th Aug 2026	Draft Issue			Associate Director
V2	25th Aug 2026	Issue			Director
V3	9th Oct 2026	Revised			Project Manager
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1. Purpose of the Security Statement

This statement has been prepared to assess the security implications associated with the proposed extension of the existing Class Q use at Crowborough Training Camp and to support an application for the continued use of the site for a further three-year period under an Urgent Crown Development Order. It considers the potential consequences should approval not be granted. Whilst the proposal delivers a range of welfare and operational benefits, the primary purpose of this statement is to evaluate the security advantages of the continued use of the site and the risks associated with reliance upon alternative accommodation solutions.

Crowborough Training Camp (hereafter, the site) is a MOD facility, part of which has been handed over to the Home Office, with established security infrastructure, controlled access arrangements and a site layout capable of supporting the effective management of a large resident population within a single, secure environment. The extension of the current authorised use of the site will ensure continuity of accommodation provision whilst maintaining the security measures and operational controls that are already in place. The retention of this use for a further three years under the Urgent Crown Development Order will enable the ongoing delivery of accommodation within a proven, secure, and well-managed setting, thereby reducing the security, operational and community risks that may arise from the need to identify and mobilise alternative sites at short notice.

2. Brief Description of the Site

The site comprises 19.68 hectares and is located 2.5km southwest of Crowborough Town Centre with the entrance of the Training Camp on Uckfield Road (A26). There is an extensive training area to the west of the site. The site is mostly surrounded by woodland and there are a number of trees within the camp. Immediately to the south of the camp is a timber yard and other businesses, with agricultural land beyond. The site has a capacity to house 540 Service Users but at the time of writing 490 were accommodated.

The site is surrounded by an inner and outer perimeter fence, both 2m high, and contains 95 individual single storey buildings arranged within a broadly rectangular central area of the site. There are [REDACTED] main access points to camp, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Access and egress to the site is controlled by the Service Provider and security personnel are responsible for checking that only authorised persons, including newly arrived Service User (SU) receptions and departures, contractors, staff and visitors are granted access to site. A series of internal roads and footpaths link the buildings onsite. There are no public rights of way within 200m of the site, and the site is not open to the public.

3. Security Baseline Assessment

The principal security risks associated with the ongoing operation of asylum accommodation facilities include:

- Unauthorised access to the site
- Resident safeguarding concerns

- External protest and demonstration activity
- Community safety and public order issues
- Criminal or anti-social behaviour
- Emergency incidents requiring coordinated response arrangements
- Operational disruption arising from the management of accommodation across multiple locations

Crowborough Training Camp benefits from existing infrastructure and management arrangements that assist in mitigating these risks through physical security measures, controlled access, monitoring systems and an established on-site operational guard presence.

The site operates a layered security approach [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

4. Strategic and Operational Need

The principal security benefit of the proposal is the ability to continue accommodating residents within a controlled and professionally managed environment through the extension of the existing use of Crowborough Training Camp. The site benefits from perimeter fencing, CCTV coverage, secure access arrangements and a dedicated operational presence. The concentration of SUs within a single location enables a unified security strategy, clear lines of accountability and efficient incident response procedures while allowing security resources to be focused on one location rather than dispersed across numerous facilities. The existing infrastructure significantly reduces implementation risk and ensures that robust security controls can be maintained throughout the proposed extension period.

The proposed continuation of use is also necessary to assist the Home Office in responding to ongoing pressures on the asylum accommodation system whilst maintaining the effective delivery of its statutory asylum functions. The site provides an established and operationally proven accommodation facility capable of continuing to meet this requirement without the delays, costs and security risks associated with identifying and mobilising alternative sites.

Should the proposed extension not be approved, the current temporary use of the site would cease, and the facility would be required to be decommissioned and handed back to the Ministry of Defence by January 2027. This would result in the loss of a secure and established accommodation asset at a time of continued demand for asylum accommodation and would increase reliance on alternative forms of provision that may offer lower levels of security control and less effective management arrangements. The retention of the site for a further three years under the Urgent Crown Development Order therefore provides significant security and operational advantages.

Security arrangements at the site are informed by an ongoing Threat, Vulnerability and Risk Assessment (TVRA) process which considers crime, public order, safeguarding and terrorism-related risks. Security measures are reviewed periodically to ensure that controls remain proportionate and responsive to the prevailing risk environment.

5. National Importance and Public Protection

The continued operation of safe and secure asylum accommodation forms part of the Home Office's wider statutory responsibilities and contributes to the effective functioning of the national asylum accommodation system. The retention of existing operational accommodation assets assists in maintaining resilience across this system and reduces the need for emergency or short-term accommodation solutions.

Should the proposal not be approved, accommodation requirements would likely need to be met through a combination of hotels, contingency facilities, modular units and dispersed accommodation. While such arrangements may provide capacity, they are inherently less effective from a security management perspective. Accommodation spread across multiple sites creates a fragmented operational environment requiring separate management structures and additional staffing resources. The dispersal of Service Users can reduce operational visibility and increase the complexity of monitoring occupancy, visitor activity and day-to-day operations. In addition, it may also increase the time required to identify and respond to incidents which introduces varying levels of risk that could otherwise be mitigated.

By contrast, Crowborough Training Camp provides a secure, existing environment in which accommodation and security functions can be delivered in a coordinated manner. The site's established perimeter security, controlled access arrangements, CCTV coverage and dedicated on-site management presence support a comprehensive safeguarding and security regime that is difficult to replicate across numerous dispersed locations. The contained nature of the site enables effective oversight of both Service Users and visitors, ensuring that access is appropriately managed and that any security or operational concerns can be identified and addressed promptly.

The proposal therefore delivers benefits not only for the security and welfare of residents but also for the safety of staff, service providers and the wider local community. Accommodation within a managed and controlled environment reduces the likelihood of unmanaged movements between sites, limits opportunities for unauthorised access, and provides a clear framework for engagement with local emergency services, statutory agencies and community stakeholders. The ability to concentrate resources in a single location also facilitates enhanced safeguarding arrangements, more effective incident management procedures and provides a consistent approach to Service User support and behavioural management.

From a public security perspective, the continued use of the site supports the Home Office's ability to maintain asylum accommodation functions within a secure setting at a time of sustained pressure on the national accommodation system. The site represents an established strategic asset that can be operated with a high degree of control and accountability.

The operation of the site includes established liaison arrangements with relevant emergency services and statutory partners to support effective incident management and public safety.

6. Protest Management

Experience has demonstrated that asylum accommodation sites can occasionally attract organised protest activity. A significant advantage of this site is its ability to manage such activity within an established secure environment. The physical separation between operational areas and the public realm, together with controlled access arrangements and security infrastructure, provides resilience against disruption and enables coordinated responses where required. If accommodation were instead provided across several locations, protest management and community liaison activities could be required in multiple areas simultaneously, increasing operational complexity and potentially placing additional pressure on local policing resources.

Refusal of the proposal could require equivalent functions to be duplicated across a number of alternative locations which is likely to result in additional requirements for guarding, CCTV provision, transportation, community liaison, incident management and coordination with emergency services. The cumulative impact would be a more resource-intensive accommodation model with higher operating costs and reduced efficiency.

7. Sensitive Security Information

This statement has been prepared at a level appropriate for inclusion within the planning submission. Detailed information relating to operational security arrangements, staffing levels, surveillance systems, access control procedures and site-specific vulnerabilities has been withheld where disclosure could prejudice the effective security management of the Site.

8. Conclusion

From a security perspective, Crowborough Training Camp provides a robust, resilient and highly suitable accommodation solution. The site enables Service Users to be accommodated within a single, professionally managed environment supported by established physical security infrastructure, including perimeter security measures, CCTV surveillance, controlled access arrangements and a dedicated guard presence. These features facilitate effective oversight, coordinated incident management and a consistent approach to safeguarding SUs, staff and visitors, whilst enabling the efficient deployment of security resources and effective coordination with local police, emergency services and other stakeholders.

Failure to achieve the extension would adversely affect the Home Office's ability to provide accommodation within a secure, resilient and operationally efficient environment. It would increase reliance upon dispersed accommodation solutions resulting in a more fragmented security environment, reduced operational oversight, increased demand on security and management resources, and greater complexity in responding to incidents, safeguarding concerns and external protest activity. Consequently, the continued use of the site represents a significant security and operational benefit when compared with alternative accommodation options and supports the provision of accommodation within a controlled and well-managed setting.

9. Supporting Documents and Appendices

This Security Statement has been informed by a review of the following documents and information sources:

- Threat, Vulnerability and Risk Assessment (TVRA)
- Security Management Plan
- Operational Management Plan
- Site inspections and observations
- Existing site security infrastructure and operational arrangements
- Information provided by the Home Office relating to the operation and management of the Site

The findings and conclusions set out in this statement have been developed with reference to these documents and the existing operational performance of the facility.