From: [redacted]
To: Crown Casework
Cc: planning@cherwell-dc.gov.uk
Subject: Formal objection to the proposed change of use and development of Site A, MOD Bicester
Date: 12 September 2026 17:32:29

[redacted]

To: The Secretary of State / Crown Casework

Re: Planning Application PCU/RARE/C3105/3378843 – MOD Bicester Site A, Bicester Garrison

Dear Secretary of State,

I wish to submit a further formal objection to planning application **PCU/RARE/C3105/3378843**, with particular concern regarding the proposed use of large-scale diesel generators, the resulting air emissions, and the potential implications for human health, including for people who suffer from asthma and other respiratory conditions.

I also have serious concerns regarding flood risk and the potential interaction between flooding, diesel fuel storage and the local water environment.

Diesel generators and respiratory health

As an asthmatic and someone who has had lung surgery in 2010 and suffered pneumonia two years ago, I know that air pollution can worsen respiratory conditions.

I am, therefore, concerned that the introduction of substantial diesel mega-generators close to my home in Piddington could create an avoidable environmental-health risk to everyone living, working or spending leisure time in the surrounding area such as at the Jubilee Reserve in Piddington (which is directly adjacent to the proposed site) or at Launton FC playing field (which is directly opposite the main entrance to the proposed site).

Diesel combustion produces pollutants including nitrogen oxides and fine particulate matter. These pollutants are of particular concern where people with respiratory conditions such as asthma may be exposed.

The applicant should therefore provide a robust, site-specific assessment of the anticipated emissions from the proposed generators, including their number, size, location, operating hours, fuel consumption and exhaust arrangements.

Moreover, as someone who has recently installed solar panels and an air source heat pump in my home in pursuit of clean energy, I strongly believe that the proposal should demonstrate that reasonable alternatives to diesel generation have been properly investigated, including grid connection, battery storage, renewable energy and other lower-emission technologies.

Cumulative air pollution

The assessment should consider generator emissions together with emissions from additional traffic, deliveries, servicing and other activities generated by the development.

I request that the decision-maker obtains sufficient evidence to establish that the combined effect will not result in unacceptable deterioration of local air quality.

Flood risk, diesel pollution and Upper Ray Meadows

I am concerned about the relationship between the proposed diesel infrastructure and flood risk on the wider Upper Ray Meadows floodplain which the proposed site shares a

direct boundary.

Upper Ray Meadows is a substantial wetland and floodplain landscape managed by the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT). It is a patchwork of wet meadows on the Upper River Ray floodplain, with ponds, scrapes and ditches created specifically to retain water and support biodiversity. It is designated as a County Wildlife Site and SSSI.

If generators, fuel tanks or associated electrical infrastructure are located in this area which is vulnerable to surface-water flooding, a flood event could cause loss of power, damage to equipment and potentially release diesel or other pollutants into ponds or watercourses.

The ecological significance of the wider catchment, therefore, makes it essential that the development does not alter hydrology or introduce pollutants into downstream watercourses and wetlands by demonstrating that fuel-storage and generator infrastructure is appropriately located and protected against foreseeable flood events.

Great Crested Newts

This is particularly concerning in relation to Great Crested Newts.

BBOWT have created new, freshwater ponds within Upper Ray Meadows to benefit Great Crested Newts as they are prevalent in the surrounding area due to the existence of natural ponds. In my own garden, I have had the pleasure of spotting one Great Crested Newt hiding behind my wheelie bin and one hiding in a crack in a step in my back garden. My next-door neighbour, before having an extension built, had to obtain a 'Newt Licence' because of the presence of Great Crested Newts and their proximity to one of the natural ponds.

There is, therefore, a clear ecological reason why changes to drainage and water quality require careful consideration and the applicant should demonstrate, with appropriate hydrological and water-quality evidence, that this development cannot result in adverse ecological effects.

Conclusion

I respectfully request that permission is not granted unless the applicant can demonstrate that:

1. the need for large-scale diesel generation has been properly justified;
2. lower-carbon and lower-emission alternatives have been fully investigated;
3. generator emissions have been quantitatively assessed;
4. cumulative impacts on local air quality have been considered;
5. particular consideration has been given to vulnerable people, including those with asthma and other respiratory conditions;
6. generator exhausts will not create unacceptable exposure at occupied buildings or other sensitive receptors;
7. generator operation will be minimised wherever practicable;
8. fuel storage is secure against flooding and accidental release; and
9. the development will not increase flood risk or create an unacceptable risk of diesel contamination during flooding.
10. Assessment of potential effects upon the Upper Ray Meadows floodplain and associated wetland habitats;
11. Assessment of pollution pathways to ponds and ditches supporting Great Crested Newts;

The combination of; **large-scale diesel generation, air pollution and the potential exposure of people with respiratory conditions, fuel storage and flood risk and potential risk to the wider River Ray floodplain containing nationally and locally important wetland habitats and known Great Crested Newt habitat** warrants particularly careful scrutiny.

I therefore ask that this objection is formally recorded and given full consideration when

planning application **PCU/RARE/C3105/3378843** is determined.

Yours faithfully,

[redacted]