

# DESIGN & ACCESS STATEMENT

*IN RESPECT OF INSTALLATION OF 2no. NEW ANTENNA*

*AND REMOVAL OF 2no. EXISTING ANTENNA*

**RAF BARFORD ST JOHN**

**OXFORDSHIRE**

**OX15 OPR**

**JUNE  
2018**

**OUR REF:  
181/P/071**

CLIENT:

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## **1.0 PURPOSE OF STATEMENT**

- 1.1 This statement has been prepared in support of an Application for the proposed installation of 2no. antenna and the removal of 2no. existing antenna at RAF Barford St John.
- 1.2 The statement's purpose is to explain how the proposals will impact upon the existing landscape and surrounding areas.

## **2.0 THE SITE**

- 2.1 The application site (see attached Site Location Plan) lies north of Barford st John and south of Milton. The main entrance is located along Barford Road along the western boarder of the site. The single two-way road into the site exists adjacent to the secure facility on site and the existing antenna. 11 no. antenna exist of site and one secure building is located centrally to site.
- 2.2 The perimeter fence encloses a very large area of land predominately of agricultural use and the secure facility located centrally within the site occupies a relatively small part of the site. The antenna will be situated within close proximity to the existing secure facility.
- 2.3 In 1951, as part of the development at RAF Croughton, the USAF opened a transmitter facility on the airfield. Over the years the scale and complexity of the transmitter nests at Barford grew, reaching a peak in the 1980s. Since then, as new digital communication technologies have shifted towards satellite-based systems

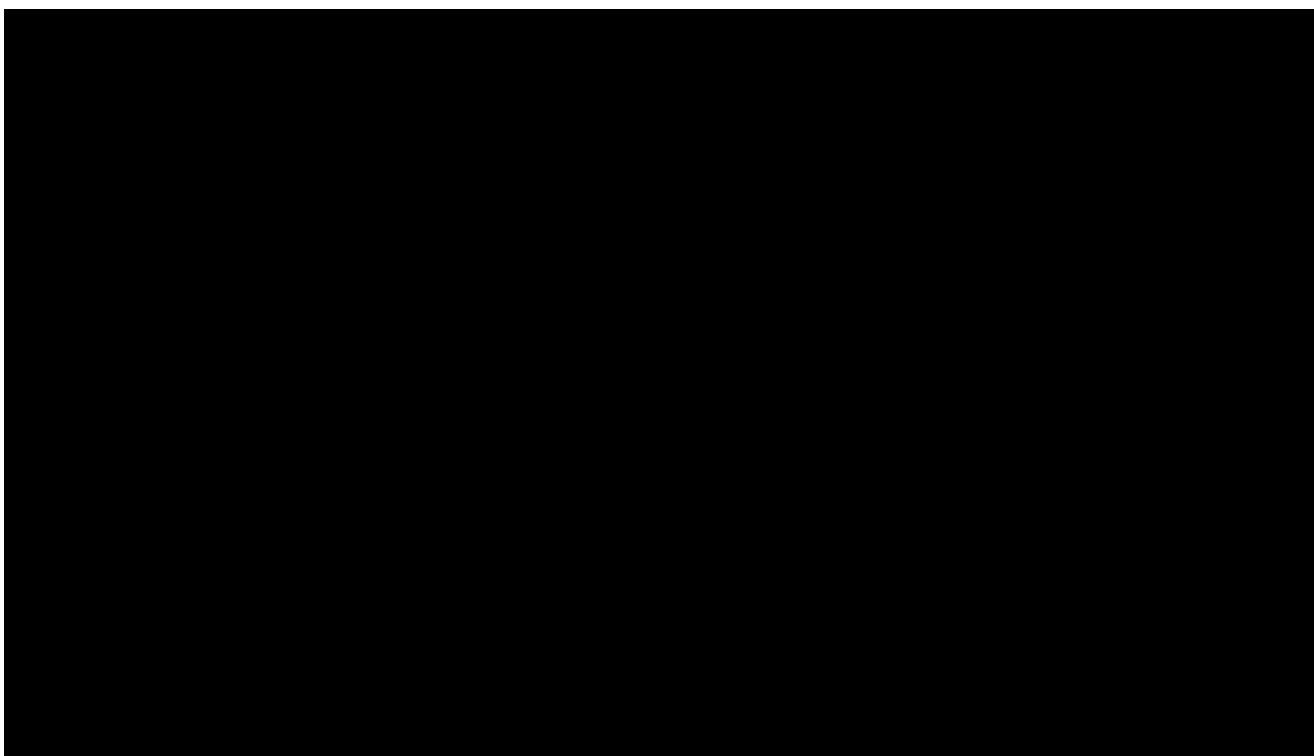
## **3.0 THE PRESENT ACCESS**

- 3.1 Access to the site is via the main gate along Barford Road. The gate and the immediate boundary of the site is not manned, and the facility is secure. Access can only be made by pre-arrangement only. The single two-way road into site is located adjacent to the secure facility and the existing antenna.

#### **4.0 CHARACTER OF THE AREA**

- 4.1 The application site is situated within the immediate proximity of a high-profile MOD Building and surrounded predominantly by agricultural land. The land is currently grazed on a regular basis by sheep and managed by the tenant farmer.

#### **5.0 ECOLOGICAL**



#### **5.0 EXISTING BUILDING**

- 5.1 The existing antenna were built circa 1980 although some have been dismantled and removed and others upgraded.

## **6.0 MATERIALS AND QUALITY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 6.1 It is intended that the 2no. new antenna are to be constructed in close proximity of the existing antenna to be removed. They will be similar in height and circumference and constructed using similar materials.

This is to reduce the impact of the surrounding area and cause minor visual impact on the surrounding landscape. Please refer to Appendix C for further details.

## **7.0 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY**

NOT APPPLICABLE

## **8.0 CONCLUSION**

- 8.1 At current there are 11 antenna already in situ and the removal of 2no. existing and installation of 2no. new is believed to have minimal impact on the surrounding landscape and environment.
- 8.2 Natural England will be fully consulted prior to commencement on site to ensure that every measure has been put in place for the protection of the natural environment and wildlife within the boundary of the site and as necessary.
- 8.3 The antenna installation is important for upgrading communications standards within the secure facility and surrounding area of the site and directly related to national security. These upgrades are deemed required by the Defence Infrastructure Organization and the United States Visiting Forces.

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**APPENDIX A**

**SITE LOCATION PLAN**

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**APPENDIX B**

**PHOTOGRAPHS**



Image 1 – Existing Antenna

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Image 2 – Existing Secure Facility



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**APPENDIX C**

**PROPOSED ANTENNA DETAILS**