

**Item No.**

**Application** BDB/58343

<b>Details of Application:</b> Consultation on out of borough developmt DOE Circular 18/84 - proposed new laser facility 04/00945/CUT Lisa Smith Date Registered 26/04/2004
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<b>Location:</b> Address: Ministry Of Defence, Aldermaston, Reading, RG7 4PR Ward: Parish: OS: SU5962NE
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<b>Applicant:</b> AWE plc
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<b>Case Officer:</b> Claire Upton Brown 07899990749
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**General Comments**

Site Notice Date:

Officer Visit Date: 11/5/04

**Description of Site:**

The site is within the Aldermarston Defence site the immediate on-site area of the proposed development is heavily industrialized. The local area surrounding the site is generally rural in nature and contains good quality surface water and notable flora and fauna and Sites of Special Scientific Interest. To the west of the site adjacent to Wasing Wood is located in an area of historic gravel extraction which is currently utilised as a public waste amenity site.

**Proposal**

The application proposes the replacement of an existing laser facility at the West End of the Aldermaston site. The proposed building will be located within an area already populated by industrial buildings of similar height and mass. The development will be designed to meet modern standards and to accommodate approximately 50 staff, transferring from the existing facility on site. The building will be no more than 26m high on the eastern elevation and 21m high on the western elevation. The development will be visible from the public road, A340, at Paices Hill. The site will be well screened on the site perimeter further enhanced by new planting and landscaping.

There will not be a permanent increase in traffic at the West Gate entrance (A340) to site as a consequence of this development. As the staff are already employed at AWE they will continue to enter the site from the entrances they have previously used. No significant new employment will arise due to this development and no significant changes to traffic patterns will occur.

### Relevant Planning History

BDB/57150	Proposed laser research facility Miss Lisa Smith 03/02313/OUT	RNO 13/11/2003 09:35:39
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### Consultations

Parish Council: No comments

Local Highway Authority: No comments

### Public Observations

No letters of objection

### Planning Policy and Material Considerations

The proposed development will improve the visual impact of the Aldermaston site and will result in the removal and replacement of a large number of outdated and inefficient buildings and the creation of a modern and efficient technology environment.

The proposed building replaces an existing laser facility on site with a new building to the western end of the site.

The building will be visible from the public road though existing and proposed planting will provide screening to the building. The proposed development will be visually more acceptable than the buildings it replaces and would represent an overall improvement to the appearance of the area.

### RECOMMENDATION:

It is RECOMMENDED that NO OBJECTION BE RAISED

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