



ENGLISH HERITAGE
SOUTH EAST REGION

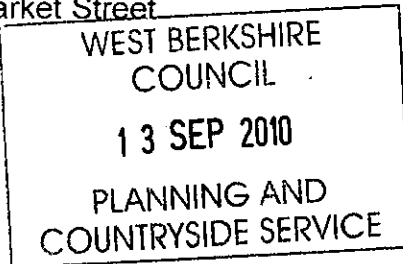
Ms Hazel Evans
West Berkshire District Council
Planning & Countryside Service
Council Offices, Market Street
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Our ref: P00091196

3 September 2010



Dear Ms Evans

Notifications under Circular 01/2001 & GDPO 1995

AWE ALDERMASTON, ALDERMASTON, WEST BERKSHIRE, RG7 4PR

Application No 10/01695/COMIND

Thank you for your letter of 9 August 2010 notifying us of the application for planning permission relating to the above site. We do not wish to comment in detail, but offer the following general observations.

English Heritage Advice

English Heritage's principal concern regarding the proposed Hydrus project is the impact that it would have on the setting of the grade II* listed Aldermaston Court. Aldermaston Court sits within a designed landscape which itself is grade II registered. The dominant aspect of its setting is its rural nature and the gardens and parkland around the building. This has been gradually eroded since the Second World War with the addition of car parks and office buildings to the north and south. The main Hydrus building would sit at the end of a double avenue of trees aligned with the south front of the house. While Hydrus would be partially screened from Aldermaston Court by a hedge running between the avenue and the house and a line of conifers near the boundary of the AWE site these are relatively transient features and the lighting protection masts would be clearly visible above them.

Hydrus is thus considered to have an adverse impact on the setting of Aldermaston Court, due to its incursion into a designed view and the way that it contributes to the gradual erosion of the parkland setting of the house. However, as the proposed new building would be partially screened and the new building is not in close proximity to the historic asset the damage to significance would be limited. In accordance with HE10.1 of PPS5 and draft English Heritage guidance on the Setting of Historic Assets any damage to significance needs to be weighed against the wider benefits of the



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application. As the AWE has made a clear case both for the necessity of the Hydrus project for their operations at Aldermaston and for the situation of the facility in this area English Heritage does not object to the principal and form of the development proposed.

Further mitigation of the impact of the development on Aldermaston Court by more thorough improved screening with native species trees at the end of the double avenue should be investigated.

Recommendation

We would urge you to address the above issues, and recommend that the application should be determined in accordance with national and local policy guidance, and on the basis of your specialist conservation advice. It is not necessary for us to be consulted again. However, if you would like further advice, please contact us to explain your request.

Yours sincerely

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