



NLA
(applies to all redacted caveats)

sent 4/10/07

MOD Screening Decision Form (MOD Form No. 1923)¹

for

The Nuclear Warhead Capability Sustainment Programme (NW-CSP)

All completed screening decision forms should be submitted to:

Post: SusDev5
Defence Estates
Estate Strategy and Policy Sustainable Development Team,
Rm14 K Block,
Foxhill,
Bath
BA1 5AB

Email: espsustainability@de.mod.uk

The answers to questions 1 to 9 (Part 1) should enable you to complete Part 2 of this Screening Decision Form. This Screening Decision Form should be read in conjunction with guidance provided in Chapter 2 of this document.

For an explanation of the terms used see Appendix B.

¹ An electronic version of this form is available within the library section of the MOD intranet.



[REDACTED]

Part 1: Information Gathering

1. Does your package of work fit within the definition of a plan or programme (refer to Chapter 2, Appendix A2 and Appendix B)?

Nuclear Warhead Capability Sustainment Programme (NW-CSP):

In November 2002 the Defence Management Board (nuclear) endorsed the proposals [REDACTED]

January 2004

This was endorsed by Cabinet committee in

s.26 + s.35

The capability sustainment programme represents a series of co-ordinated activities and construction projects which will underpin the requirement that the UK shall retain an independent capability to design, manufacture put into service and safely maintain a nuclear physics package for a warhead as a part of the UK's nuclear deterrent..

Therefore the NW-CSP fits within the definition of a MoD Programme.

2. What are the high level Government policy drivers for the Plan and Programme (PP)? Identify and describe the formal requirement from the Chain of Command for your PP.

The current high level policy drivers were defined by the 1998 Strategic Defence Review (SDR), and repeated in December 2003 Defence White Paper. The SDR stated:

"For as long as Britain has nuclear forces, we will ensure that we have a robust capability at the Atomic Weapons Establishment to underwrite the safety and reliability of our nuclear warheads, without recourse to nuclear testing. There are no current plans for any replacement for Trident...But...it would be premature to abandon a minimum capability to design and produce a successor to Trident should this prove necessary".

To fulfil the SDR commitment MoD let a 10 year contract with AWE/ML consortium in 2000, later evolving into a 25 year contract until 2025. This output-focused contract is based on an agreed series of assumptions to deliver a safe/secure site, Trident protection, and a minimum successor capability.

The NW-CSP was announced to the House of Commons by the SofS for Defence on 19th July 2005 and confirmed the Governments commitment to maintaining the effectiveness and safety of the nuclear deterrent. The announcement confirmed an agreement had been reached with AWE management Ltd to take forward a programme of investment in sustaining key skills and infrastructure facilities at the Atomic Weapons Establishment.

Based on the MoD commitment and existing long term contract with AWE/ML no other sites or locations were reviewed in line with this MoD plan. Since 1950 AWE is and will remain the sole repository of the UK's nuclear warhead capability.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

3. Was the "first preparatory act" on your PP before 21 July 2004? If Yes, go to question 3(a). If No, continue to question 4.

Yes:

1998 Strategic Defence Review (SDR), and repeated in December 2003 Defence White Paper.

3(a) Was or will your PP be "adopted" before 21 July 2006?

Yes:

The NW-CSP was announced to the House of Commons by the SofS for Defence on 19th July 2005

4. What is/are the purpose(s) of the PP?

The purpose of the programme is two fold:

- Ensure that the UK has the capability to maintain its existing warhead portfolio in a safe, secure and dependable state for an extended fixed period.
- To maintain a minimum UK capability to design and produce a successor nuclear warhead should this prove necessary.

This is to be achieved by investment into:

- Sustaining key skills:
The success of the nuclear warhead programme and stockpile stewardship programme in particular is highly dependent on AWE being able to continue to recruit, retain and develop scientists of the highest calibre.
[Source DMB(n) paper 3/02]
The investment programme will allow recruitment and training programmes to develop, enhance and retain key skills in a new generation.
- Replacing or modernising key infrastructure facilities.
The experimental, manufacturing and assembly facilities necessary for nuclear warhead production are mostly large, complex and can typically take ten years to design, build and commission.
[Source DMB(n) paper 3/02]
The existing infrastructure portfolio predominately dates from the second world war through to the 1980's and there has been a lack of investment in the maintenance and up keep of the infrastructure portfolio over the past two decades. The investment programme will allow individual facilities at the end of their design life to be replaced and other facilities to be modernised to meet current building and safety standards.



5. Does the PP set the framework for future development consent (e.g. planning application or land use design/zoning) of projects for which a Statutory Environmental Impact Assessment is required?

The top level requirements for the investment into the infrastructure facilities at the two existing nuclear licensed sites at Aldermaston and Burghfield will not mandate the need for any significant change in the existing land use framework.

The infrastructure investment programme is directed at replacing or modernising the current facilities; no new processes or activities are apart of the NW-CSP investment programme. As such there will be no significant change in the processes undertaken or the scale of the infrastructure footprint.

A Site Development Context Plan (SDCP) will be prepared to describe the land use framework and highlight potential infrastructure development projects within the land use framework. A Strategic Sustainability Appraisal (SSA) will also be prepared to accompany the SDCP and will identify potential environmental issues which could arise from the construction programme which may need to be managed.

Individual infrastructure construction projects will comply with the Town and Country Planning Acts with planning applications being submitted via the Local Planning Authority and where applicable Environmental Impact Assessments will be undertaken in support of the planning application.

6. Do any of the following form part of the purpose of the PP? Tick those which apply.

Town and country planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	Energy	<input type="checkbox"/>
Land use planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fisheries	<input type="checkbox"/>
Waste management	<input type="checkbox"/>	Forestry	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water management	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transport	<input type="checkbox"/>
Telecommunications	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tourism	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. Does the PP directly or indirectly effect a European designated² wildlife site? (the 'Precautionary Principle'³ should be used when answering this question).

There are no European designated wildlife sites which will be affected either directly or indirectly by the NW-CSP.

² Special Conservation Area, Special Protection Area or Ramsar site. Details of these sites can be found at www.incc.gov.uk.

³ This principle is based on the fact that the legislative processes for the protection of these sites require scientific evidence that the quality of the habitats and species will not be affected rather than assumption.



[REDACTED]

8. Is the PP likely to have significant environmental effects?⁴

The infrastructure investment programme is directed at replacing or modernising the current facilities; no new processes or activities are apart of the NW-CSP investment programme. As such there will be no significant change in the:

- Processes undertaken
- Scale of the infrastructure footprint.
- Discharge consents (all facilities will comply with current statutory requirements as regulated by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate and by the Environment Agency).

The replacement and modernisation of the infrastructure portfolio will provide the opportunity to have a more energy efficient building stock complying with modern building and safety standards.

The SDCP and SSA provide the basis for the assessment of environmental effects of the construction programme and environmental impact assessments will be undertaken on a case by case basis as required.

The SSA will provide the opportunity to review and up date:

- Travel and transport requirements of the site
- Biodiversity
- Heritage
- Flora and Fauna
- Energy demands and consumption

9. Does the PP contain facilities that will be built for the purpose of permanent joint or non-military/MOD civilian usage or can the purpose only be achieved by the involvement of commercial interests (this excludes the PPP/PFI procurement route itself but would be classified as commercial interest if the bidder was able to "sell" spare capacity to third parties or similar circumstance involving commercial gain)?

The NW-CSP solely relates to the maintaining the effectiveness and safety of the [UK] nuclear deterrent including making the necessary investment in the facilities at the Atomic Weapons Establishment at Aldermaston and Burghfield. None of the investment will be used for any purpose other than the achievement of this objective.

No part of the NW-CSP investment will have the potential for gain from third part revenue the NW-CSP's sole purpose is to serve national defence.

⁴ For further guidance on determining significant effects refer to Annex II of the SEA Directive. The SEA Directive can be accessed at www.sea-info.net. When identifying likely significant effects consideration should be given to source, pathway, receptor relationships and the likely frequency, extent and magnitude of effects.

[REDACTED]

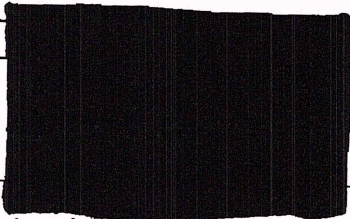


Part 2: Preliminary MOD decision and SRO authorisation:

The information gathered in Part 1 will assist in determining the requirement for SEA using the Screening Decision Tree (overleaf). This process should be recorded using the tables provided below.

Decision Box	Answer	Leads to (Insert number of subsequent decision box encountered)
DB 1	Yes	DB 2
DB 2	Yes	DB 3
DB 3	No	DB 4
DB 4	No	DB 5
DB 5	No	DB 5a
DB 5a	Yes	DB 5b
DB 5b	Probably no impact	DB7
DB7	Yes	Statutory SEA not required

SRO Authorisation	
Confirm decision (delete as appropriate)	
	✓ No - Statutory SEA NOT required
Comments on Decision	
Authorisation	
PRINT NAME of SRO:	S.38 + S.40
NICHOLAS BENNETT	



Completed Screening Decision Forms (Parts 1 and 2) should be sent to the Estate Strategy and Policy Sustainable Development Team (contact details provided at the beginning of this form). Estate Strategy & Policy (ES&P) will determine the need for consultation with Consultation Bodies and the final decision regarding the statutory requirement for SEA. This should be recorded using the table provided overleaf.



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DB 5b	Probably no impact	DB7
DB7	Yes	Statutory SEA not required

SRO Authorisation	
Confirm decision (delete as appropriate)	
	✓ No - Statutory SEA NOT required
Comments on Decision	
Authorisation	
PRINT NAME of SRO:	
NICHOLAS BENNETT	\$ 38 + \$ 40

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FINAL MOD DECISION

For Estate Strategy & Policy, Sustainable Development Team use ONLY:

Have Consultation Bodies been consulted? Briefly explain why and describe any comments received.

Consultation with the statutory consultation bodies was not required as the programme of work for NW-CSP is considered to fall within the scope of the defence exemption, and there is no likelihood of significant effects.

Has the final decision regarding the statutory requirement for SEA changed in light of consultation? If yes, briefly explain why.

No

Confirm the final decision regarding the statutory requirement for SEA (delete as appropriate).

✓ No - Statutory SEA NOT required

Will the Consultation Bodies be informed of the final decision?

No. It is not considered applicable in this instance.

PRINT NAME: NICHOLAS BENNETT

SIGNATURE:

5.38 + s.40

MOD DECISION	
<i>For Estate Strategy & Policy, Sustainable Development Team use ONLY:</i>	
Have Consultation Bodies been consulted? Briefly explain why and describe any comments received.	
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Has the final decision regarding the statutory requirement for SEA changed in light of consultation? If yes, briefly explain why.	
No.	
Confirm the final decision regarding the statutory requirement for SEA (delete as appropriate).	
	* No - Statutory SEA NOT required
Will the Consultation Bodies be informed of the final decision?	
It is not considered applicable in this instance.	
ES&P AUTHORISATION:	Date: 15/10/07
Checked by: [Redacted] S.38 + S.40	Authorised by: [Redacted] S.38 + S.40
Signature:	Signature: [Redacted] S.38 + S.40
Final MOD Decision - SRO Authorisation:	
Signature:	Print Name:
	Date: