

Midlands Air Ambulance Charity selected Neachley Lane as the optimum location for its new air base and headquarters with considerable care and having systematically tested all other possibilities. Following a successful planning application, work is now underway to construct the airbase with completion and occupation programmed for late summer 2022. Completion of the base in this optimised location will enable the Charity to deliver a world-class, pre-hospital emergency medical service to six million people in the Midlands area.

The Charity is cogniscent that in the consideration of this consent a balance had to be struck between the advantages of this service and potential harm to the Green Belt. For this reason, great effort was placed into developing building plans that are robust, flexible, spacious and to a large extent, future proof. The thought being to create an environment that will not need substantial change for a long period of time, minimising any further potential harm to the Green Belt. Similarly, a scheme of landscaping and ground remodelling has been consented and is now being constructed, the objective of which was to not just to limit harm to the Green Belt but actively improve it in several areas. A key facet of the design of this landscaping is creating an appropriate, robust 'edge' to the green belt on the Northern boundary of the site. This new planting will eventually enclose the site providing visual screening of the building, the air ambulance operation and events spaces. It will represent a clear defensible, delineation between the open countryside of the green belt and the more developed area of RAF Cosford.

MAAC's hope in seeking the site's release from the green belt is not to facilitate further substantial development but to provide some future flexibility in modifying what the currently consented scheme or making modest additions. While there are no plans for variation from the consented scheme it is reasonable to envisage future works possibly including:

- *Provision of gardeners' sheds or small pavilions within the landscaped areas*
- *The introduction of sculptural public artwork in memorial to patients and other minor built items marking significant donations*
- *Improvements to the events areas, planting of gardens*
- *Changes arising from different energy supply solutions such as different methods of helicopter fuel storage or placing additional solar panels on the roof of the building.*
- *Adaptation and development of delivery areas*
- *Making further ecology / wildlife / tree areas with other Charities or in conjunction with the local community*

These items, if ever required, would require planning consent and it would be substantially more difficult for the Charity to apply for, and acquire the necessary consents, if the site remains in the green belt.

The Charity therefore wish our site to remain described in the local plan consultation documentation as to be removed for the green belt.

Kind regards

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