



Ministry  
of Defence

Ministry of Defence  
Defence Infrastructure Organisation  
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Our Ref: 407/FYLD/03

Your Ref: NYM/2017/0533/CVC & NYM/2017/0892/CVC

Date: August 10th 2018

Rob Smith  
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Our Ref: 0407/FYLD/03

Your Ref: NYM/2017/0533/CVC and NYM/2017/0892/CVC

Dear Rob,

**RE: UPDATE ON DISCUSSIONS REGARDING CONDITIONS 14, 15 AND 30 OF PLANNING APPROVAL NYM/2014/0676/MEIA AT WOODSMITH MINE**

Further to my letters of the 21 December 2017, and June 20<sup>th</sup> 2018 I am writing to provide an update on discussions that have taken place between the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and Sirius Minerals PLC (SMP) regarding the discharge of conditions for planning consent NYM/2014/0676/MEA at Woodside Mine.

A meeting was held between SMP and the MoD on the 18 July 2018 to facilitate the establishment of monitoring equipment at the site in order to collect baseline information on vibration and subsidence in advance of the commencement of shaft sinking and mine activities at the Woodsmith Mine site. During the meeting a number of items of outstanding information (highlighted in my previous correspondence), were agreed, however, there remains a number of outstanding items that are required before we believe the conditions can be fully discharged.

NYMNPA

16/08/2018

## **Conditions 14 and 15 relating to Subsidence monitoring**

### **Monitoring Methodology**

We have previously highlighted that the anticipated accuracy of the subsidence monitoring should be identified and agreed. The SMP letter sent to North York Moors National Park Authority (NYMNP) of the 22<sup>nd</sup> confirmed that the anticipated accuracy of the GNSS survey technique is 5mm + 1mm plan (horizontal) and 10mm + 1mm in elevation (vertical). More precise levelling techniques would be used to confirm the accuracy of the GNSS positions and to provide a cross check of the GNSS survey data on an annual basis.

During the meeting, it was suggested that once the GNSS monitoring locations are established, and precise levelling can be undertaken, then the anticipated accuracy of the GNSS surveys can be more accurately defined. Whilst the MoD welcomes the suggestion that more accurate monitoring can be achieved by the proposed GNSS survey technique, the final anticipated accuracy has not yet been agreed and the MoD would like to explore whether greater accuracy can be achieved.

It is suggested that the anticipated accuracy of the system be revisited and confirmed by SMP following establishment of the GNSS monitoring locations and cross check by precise levelling methods. This will allow the MoD to review and provide a more definitive view on the acceptability of the anticipated accuracy.

### **Monitoring Equipment**

In line with our previous correspondence, and as suggested by SMP in their letter of the 22 March 2018, the MoD looks forward to receiving and reviewing full specification details of the proposed surveying equipment once a preferred supplier has been identified by SMP.

### **Monitoring Locations**

SMP has agreed to the installation of 2 additional monitoring locations to provide the basis for a north-south profile to be constructed from the future dataset. The plan below shows SMP's proposed monitoring locations and the MoD's suggested location for the 2 additional monitoring points.

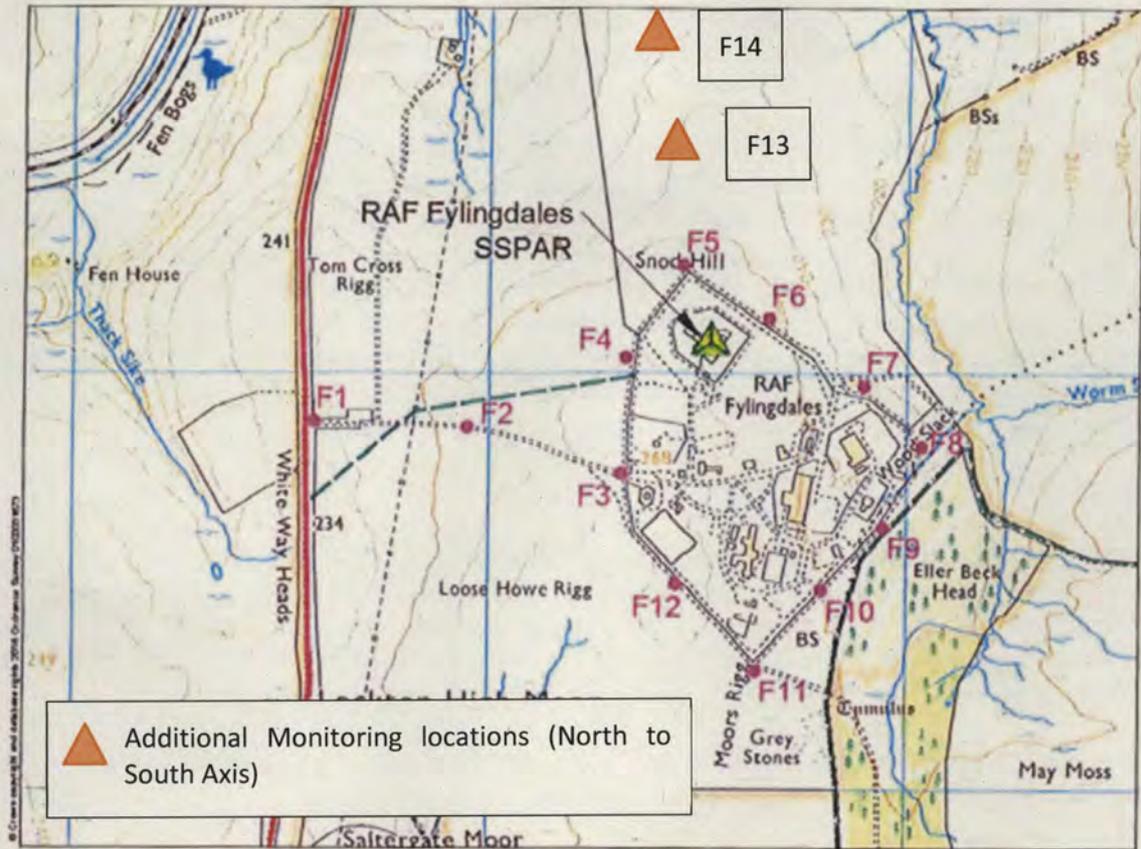


Figure 5-2 Indicative monitoring locations surrounding RAF Fylingdales

### Monitoring Stations

In line with our previous correspondence, and as suggested by SMP in their letter of the 22 March 2018, the MoD looks forward to reviewing a detailed monitoring station installation method statement for agreement prior to commencement of the installation works.

### Reporting

In line with our previous correspondence, and as suggested by SMP in their letter of the 22 March 2018, the MoD looks forward to receiving the following reports:

- Monitoring Station Installation Report
- Subsidence Monitoring Protocol (setting out details of the final approved subsidence monitoring programme and including access / notification procedures etc.)
- Baseline Monitoring Reports (quarterly from the date of installation of the monitoring stations to the commencement of mining operations)

### Vibration and Blasting Management Plan

#### Monitoring Equipment

The aim of the MoD/SMP meeting on the 18 July 18 was to facilitate installation of a Syscom MR3000C at Fylingdales to monitor existing vibration and establish the baseline situation.

The MoD has previously highlighted the need for confirmation of whether the optional specification to detect vibration in the range 0.5 microns/sec to 100 mm/sec would be available. SMP has confirmed that this will be provided.

During the meeting there was discussion regarding who is best placed to monitor the equipment with a suggestion this is carried out locally by MoD staff. There is, therefore, a need for the Vibration and Blasting Management Plan (BVMP), to be updated to reflect the change in responsibilities for taking readings from the equipment, and the protocols in place for notifying the MoD when blasting is due to occur and any subsequent reporting requirements. At the meeting SMP were in agreement that revision of the BVMP was required. As such, the feedback provided by the MoD in our letter to NYMNPA on the 12 December 2017 regarding the need for clarify on responsibilities, protocols and reporting, should be considered by SMP when updating the BVMP document.

### **Summary**

In summary, a constructive meeting took place between the MoD and SMP that will allow equipment and survey stations to be installed at Fylingdales. Although some clarification regarding the MoD's previous response to the Subsidence monitoring plan and BVMP has been provided, there remain a number of points that are yet to be finalised. As such, the MoD is of the view that planning conditions 14, 15 and 30 remain to be fully discharged.

I trust the above brings you up to date and provides the outstanding information you were seeking, and that our requests can be accommodated.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted Signature]  
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CC: Wg Cmdr. A. Walton - CO Fylingdales

Matt Wilmot SMP