

Design and Access Statement
SATCOM Electronic Communications Apparatus
and Hard Standing

17/8

RAF Menwith Hill
Defence Estates USF Division

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RAF Menwith Hill
Harrogate
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1.0 Introduction

RAF Menwith Hill is located north of Harrogate, with the site covering approximately 200 hectares. Development across the site is wide ranging, comprising of a mix of military structures.

The proposed development is for the installation of electronic communication apparatus, comprising of a 6m diameter dish antenna, which will cater for national security.

2.0 The Location

The proposed installation is located at the north-eastern part of the camp. This is shown as an inset on drawing number DR6107.

The proposed development lies within the boundary of the existing SATCOM compound. In the immediate vicinity of the proposed development are three existing radomes and building 743, which lie to the north. To the south and east lies the existing operations car park.

This location is considered most suitable since it falls within the boundary of the designated SATCOM compound.

3.0 Use

The proposed use will be for national security purposes. The equipment will be removed after 24 months.

4.0 Amount

The proposed electronic communication apparatus will be a green dish antenna measuring 6m in diameter. Its maximum height will be 6.5m. The proposed control cabin trailer will be (H) 3.6m x (W) 2.5m x (D)12.1m.

5.0 Layout

The proposed development will be one dish antenna measuring 6m in diameter will sit in the centre, with a control cabin trailer, sitting directly to its north-east. The proposal will also include the installation of double gates within an existing security fence. These gates will be directly to the east of the proposed development. Drawing number DR6107 shows the general layout.

6.0 Appearance

The electronic communication apparatus will be a green dish antenna measuring 6m in diameter and will be mounted on a framework which is in turn bolted to a hard standing. The maximum height of the development will be 6.5m high. Plan and elevation drawings are shown as insets on drawing number DR6107.

7.0 Landscaping

7.1 Wider Landscape

Menwith Hill is very prominent in the wider landscape and is particularly noticeable when viewed from the higher ground of the south and west around Blubberhouse Moor (A59), Blubberhouse to Otley road and B6451 around Sandwith Moor. Other conspicuous views are from the Sandwith Moor to Beckwithshaw road.

From a northerly vantage point elevated views can be gained from around Blazefield on the B6265 and the Summerbridge to Brimham Rocks road. Occasional glimpses of Menwith Hill are also possible around Hanging Moor. To the east the views to Menwith Hill are curtailed by a foreground ridge around Kettlesing.

However, it should be noted that many of the more open elevated views are some distance away as the following table demonstrates:

Location	Distance km
Brimham Rocks	8
Blazefield/ Summerbridge	8-9
Hanging Moor	4.5
Blubberhouse Moor	7
Sandwith Moor	5.5 – 6.5
Otley Road	5.5-8

7.2 Local Views

Whilst the site is prominent in the wider landscape, local views are limited to some extent by the combined effects of the undulating topography and the intervening trees, scrub and hedgerows. The site boundaries are strongly contained by scrub, trees and copses and only occasional glimpses through a foil of vegetation can be obtained when travelling along the A59, B6451 and eastern and northern side roads.

The proposed development will be not visible from the southern, eastern or northern boundaries of the camp. Views of the proposed development will be visible from the B6451 carriage way which lies to the west of the camp. However, these views will be occasional through the existing trees and foliage.

7.3 Landscape Effects and Impacts

Whilst it is acknowledged that RAF Menwith Hill is prominent in the landscape and has a significant impact on the wider and local landscape and users of the AONB, the proposed development will be largely unnoticeable.

It is considered that the proposed development will make no additional impact.

8.0 Access

Pedestrian access to the SATCOM compound will be from an existing pedestrian gate. Vehicular access will be through the proposed new double gates on the eastern elevation from the existing car park, as detailed in drawing number DR6107.

There will be no impact to the flow of traffic in the car park.

9.0 Conclusions

From the various criteria detailed above, it has been concluded that the proposed works will have no impact to the landscape, local community of Menwith Hill or to those who work within the immediate vicinity of the site itself.