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Doc no: 201110598
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Cambridgeshire County Council

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Proposal: Temporary ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) farm with battery storage, substation and associated works.

Land East of Guanockgate Road Sutton St Edmund Spalding Lincolnshire PE13 4PL

Comments from Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA)

Dear Mark,

Thank you for your consultation which we received on 17th April 2024.

At present we **object** to the grant of planning permission for the following reasons:

1. **Surface water drainage**
   Whilst it is broadly accepted that solar farms do not respond in the same was as impermeable surfaces, they can lead to localised channelling of rainfall, particularly on sloping sites. This has the potential to increase flood risk downstream.

   Options such as the inclusion of a French drains at the base of each row/ along access tracks to intercept flows and address water quality, inclusion of a swale(s) at the lowest parts of the site and designing panels with horizontal slots across the surface area should be considered as measures to manage surface water.

Informatives

IDB Consent
This site falls within the North Level District Internal Drainage Board (IDB) district. Under the Land Drainage Act 1991, any person carrying out works on an ordinary watercourse in an IDB area requires Land Drainage Consent from the IDB prior to any works taking place. This is applicable to both permanent and temporary works. Note: In some IDB districts, Byelaw consent may also be required.

Pollution Control
Surface water and groundwater bodies are highly vulnerable to pollution and the impact of construction activities. It is essential that the risk of pollution (particularly during the construction phase) is considered and mitigated appropriately. It is important to remember that flow within the watercourse is likely to vary by season and it could be dry at certain times throughout the year. Dry watercourses should not be overlooked as these watercourses may flow or even flood following heavy rainfall.

Construction Surface Water Maintenance
Prior to final handover of the development, the developer must ensure that appropriate remediation of all surface water drainage infrastructure has taken place, particularly where the permanent drainage infrastructure has been installed early in the construction phase. This may include but is not limited to jetting of all pipes, silt removal and reinstating bed levels. Developers should also ensure that watercourses have been appropriately maintained and remediated, with any obstructions to flows (such as debris, litter and fallen trees) removed, ensuring the condition of the watercourse is better than initially found. This is irrespective of the proposed method of surface water disposal, particularly if an ordinary watercourse is riparian owned.

Assistance For Developers

- Cambridgeshire County Council has a surface water guidance document which is available to view here. This document provides checklists and templates to help ensure you include sufficient information within your drainage strategies. Following this guidance will help reduce the risk of an objection which can hold up a planning application.
- We also offer a pre-application service which enables you to discuss your drainage proposals with the LLFA Officers prior to submission of a formal application.

Yours sincerely,

H Tandy

Hilary Tandy
Flood Risk Business Manager

If you have any queries regarding this application, please contact the Officer named at the top of this letter (contact details are above).

Please note: We are reliant on the accuracy and completeness of the reports in undertaking our review and can take no responsibility for incorrect data or interpretation made by the authors.

Cambridgeshire County Council