

Ms Michelle Dunne
Planning Department
Rushcliffe Borough Council
Rushcliffe Arena
Rugby Road
West Bridgford
Nottingham
NG2 7YG

Our ref: LT/2024/128711/01-L01
Your ref: 22/02241/FUL
Date: 05 July 2024

Dear Ms Dunne

ENQUIRY REGARDING FLOOD RISK AND EA REQUESTED CONDITION DURING THE APPEAL INQUIRY - FOR THE INSTALLATION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATING SOLAR FARM COMPRISING GROUND-MOUNTED PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR ARRAYS, TOGETHER WITH SUBSTATION, INVERTER STATIONS, SECURITY MEASURES, SITE ACCESS, INTERNAL ACCESS TRACKS AND OTHER ANCILLARY INFRASTRUCTURE, INCLUDING LANDSCAPING AND BIODIVERSITY ENHANCEMENTS

LAND EAST OF HAWKSWORTH AND NORTHWEST OF THOROTON SHELTON ROAD, THOROTON, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Thank you for your email enquiry dated 20 June 2024.

Subsequent to a discussion with the Area Flood Risk Officer, we wish to make the following comments.

1. Climate change allowance that is appropriate for this development

As per the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance, the higher climate change allowance for the 2080s epoch should be used, making the design flood the 1% AEP plus 39% climate change event. However, since we only hold data for the 1% AEP plus 20% climate change event, we ensured that the finished floor levels of the infrastructure impacted in flood zone 2 are raised above the 1 in 1000 year flood level.

2. Would all other inverter pairings be subject to the 300mm FFL requirement

Finished floor levels of the inverter pairings impacted by flooding as per our hydraulic modelling should be set to 18.20mAOD. All other vulnerable infrastructure outside of the climate change flood extent would be subject to floor levels which are 300mm above ground level. These conditions account for uncertainties in the modelling (we must ensure that all essential infrastructure will remain operational during a flood event). Since the Flood Risk Assessment committed to implementing this level of mitigation and safety, we conditioned these levels to ensure that any discrepancies between our modelled flood extents and impacts on the ground would be accounted for in the design of the infrastructure.

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Trent Side North, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 5FA.
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- 3. The FFL of all electrical infrastructure (e.g. inverters, control buildings, etc) will be raised above the peak climate change allowance water level whilst all panels will also be located above this level. The suggested condition does not appear to require this. Is there a reason for that?**

Most of the vulnerable infrastructure is sited outside the climate change floodplain. We have ensured through our conditions that any infrastructure impacted by the climate change flood extent is raised sufficiently above the flood height and therefore remains operational during times of flood.

We would expect the Local Planning Authority to be the decision maker on what is classified as vulnerable infrastructure.

Following your meeting with the Local Planning Authority barrister early next week, if you have any further questions please let me know.

Yours sincerely

**Ms Lydia Bond
Planning Specialist**

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