

Hi Paul,

I hope you're well.

Please find below a response from our consultants, Weetwood, addressing the comments received from the LLFA in relation to our applications to discharge Conditions 17 (Ref. 25/01093/DOC) and 18 (Ref. 25/01209/DOC). The issues raised (shown in *italic*) are followed by Weetwood's responses (in plain text):

- *Attenuation basin required to be designed for the 1 in 100 plus climate change allowance event.*

During the construction phase, the attenuation basins have been designed to contain contaminated runoff in up to the 50% AEP event so that it can be treated prior to being discharged from the site. Runoff generated by events exceeding the 50% AEP would be sufficiently diluted that it would not cause a deterioration in water quality within receiving watercourses in accordance with the requirements of planning condition 18. Furthermore, there is no requirement to consider the impacts of climate change during the construction phase because the impacts of climate change will not have been realised.

- *Evidence to be provided to ensure the temporary drainage does not increase flooding elsewhere.*

The temporary drainage scheme has principally been designed to manage increased sediment loads associated with construction of the solar farm. Construction activities may also result in compaction of the ground in places, but the site will remain largely permeable and runoff rates/volumes would not be expected to increase significantly. Nevertheless, the bunded overland flow management areas form part of the temporary drainage scheme and have been shown to reduce flows leaving the site by 12.1% and 14.0% during the 3.3% AEP and 1.0% AEP events respectively. As such, the temporary drainage scheme would not increase flood risk elsewhere and is likely to provide betterment.

- *Incorrect climate change allowance used for simulation of drainage network.*

A 25% allowance for climate change (Central allowance; 2070s epoch; Upper and Bedford Ouse Management Catchment) has been used in accordance with Environment Agency guidance. The guidance states that "for development with a lifetime between 2061 and 2100... use the central allowance for the 2070s epoch". The solar farm has a development life of 40 years (i.e. 2065) and the climate change allowance that has been adopted would apply to the year 2100.

- *No calculations provided for greenfield runoff rate.*

Please find attached the greenfield runoff calculation record (2024-06-28 5208 Greenfield Runoff Rates).

- *No simulation calculation provided for 30 year plus climate change allowance.*

Please find attached the revised outputs from the surface water drainage models including the 3.3% AEP event plus 25% climate (2025-06-25 SW Storage N1-N3...).

- *Cv value of 1 required to be used.*

The attached outputs from the surface water drainage models adopted a Cv value of 1. A Cv value of 1 is expected to overestimate the volume of runoff reaching the attenuation basins given the depression storage associated with the access tracks and interception storage associated with the filter drains. Nevertheless, the attached drainage layout drawing (C-5208 100-104 P8 105 P6 Drainage Layout) has been updated to reflect the revised calculations.

Kind regards

Anna