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**Lead Local Flood Authority
Growth and Environment
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Contact: Flood Risk Management Team
Email: FRMConsultations@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Date 9 December 2024

Dear Ben

RE: 24/02455/FP – Proposed solar farm measuring 35.5 hectares with associated battery storage and ancillary infrastructure – Land Opposite Wymondley Grid Station and to the South of Sperberry Hill, St Ippolyts

Thank you for your consultation on the above site, received on 6 November 2024. We have reviewed the application as submitted and wish to make the following comments.

The applicant has provided a Flood Risk Addendum and updated Drainage Strategy. These are to account for the local flood risk issues and surface water drainage at this location. Following a review of the submitted documents, the details are in accordance with NPPF and local planning Policy NE8 – Sustainable Drainage Systems (Reducing Flood Risk) and Policy NE9 – Water Quality and Environment.

We have **no objection subject to conditions being attached to any consent** if this application is approved. We suggest the following wording.

Condition 1: Evidence of detailed infiltration testing in accordance with BRE Digest 365 (or equivalent) along the length and proposed depth of the proposed infiltration feature/s. Following this infiltration testing the drainage strategy for Plan A (to infiltrate) will be updated and submitted to the and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. If infiltration is not favourable, then Plan B (connection and discharge of runoff to a watercourse) will be implemented as per the Drainage Strategy (dated 22 October 2024, REF 14855).

Reason:

To prevent flooding in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework paragraphs 173, 175 and 180 by ensuring the satisfactory management of local sources of flooding surface water flow paths, storage and disposal of surface water from the site in a range of

rainfall events and ensuring the SuDS proposed operates as designed for the lifetime of the development.

Condition 2: All development shall be constructed in accordance with the submitted and approved Flood Risk Assessment (December 2021) and Drainage Strategy (dated 22 October 2024, REF 14855), plus any updates as required by **Condition 1** [LPA to link to condition above] unless otherwise first approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure the flood risk is adequately addressed and not increased in accordance with NPPF and Policies of North Herts Council.

Condition 3: Construction shall not begin until a detailed construction phase surface water management plan for the site has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The scheme shall subsequently be carried out in accordance with the approved details.

Reason: To ensure that the construction of the site does not result in any flooding both on and off site and that all Surface water Drainage features are adequately protected.

Condition 4: Upon completion of the surface water drainage system, including any SuDS features, and prior to the first use of the development; a survey and verification report from an independent surveyor shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The survey and report shall demonstrate that the surface water drainage system has been constructed in accordance with the details approved pursuant to condition 2. Where necessary, details of corrective works to be carried out along with a timetable for their completion, shall be included for approval in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Any corrective works required shall be carried out in accordance with the approved timetable and subsequently re-surveyed with the findings submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure the flood risk is adequately addressed, not increased and users remain safe for the lifetime of the development in accordance with NPPF and Policies of North Herts Council.

Yours sincerely

Ellie

Ellie Miller
SuDS and Watercourses Support Officer
Growth & Environment

Annex

The following documents have been reviewed, which have been submitted to support the application;

- Report: Drainage Strategy Addendum, prepared by Waterco, October 2024, REF 14855-Drainage Strategy Addendum-03
- Report: Flood Risk Assessment, prepared by Weetwood, December 2021