

Closing Statement A J Barker BSc FRICS 20034503

I have made written representations & attended/spoken at hearings during the examination period. Nothing that the Applicant(MP)has proposed for the scheme has persuaded me that this proposal should receive approval.

I am making this closing statement in my personal capacity . I remain totally opposed to the application on a number of planning grounds but for this closing statement will concentrate on the potential increased flood risk to Greatford if the development proceeds. I reiterate the following;

1 By their own admission MPs proposal to install 530000 solar panels will significantly increase surface water run off compared to the current baseline position. Inevitably this will increase the river levels in the West Glen River which in turn exacerbates flood risk in Greatford.

2 The limited attenuation measures proposed by MP ie driplines to solar panels , swales & 6m buffer zones to watercourses are very unlikely to be sufficient & the residents of Greatford will be left with problem.

3 MP at the hearing on 26th September refused to commit to establishing a mature grass sward prior to any construction on site. This is crucial to the ground absorbing surface water run off in periods of intense rainfall which as we are all aware is more frequent due to climate change. No thought is being given to the residents of Greatford with MPs primary objective to increase profitability by a start on site as soon as possible. If no condition is imposed on MP establishing a mature grass sward the site will almost certainly turn into ' mud bath' with the clay soils heavily compacted with the end result of increased surface water run off. Greatford Parish Council responded (Deadline 8) to the Grassland Establishment Management Plan(GEMP) provided by

MP. This response highlights that the applicant does not give any commitment to how far in advance sowing should take place . The response concludes that if sowing occurs either during or after construction ' establishing sward will be severely compromised & will take several years to recover before it is able to provide the functions it will be required to undertake'

4 Greatford Parish Councils deadline 9 submission in respect of MPs proposed 60 year time frame refers to an ADAS report dated March 2023. This is crucial information relating to the impact of solar photovoltaic (PV) sites on agricultural soils & land quality. The report highlights the evidence of poor vegetation establishment & soil erosion.

This will increase surface water run off & increase flood risk downstream.

5 Throughout the consultation & examination process MP have fobbed off residents concerns .From day one the original Arcus FRA did not consider flood risk issues outside of the development site. No engagement was made with the village flood warden to utilise his knowledge of flood risk . Why not? The Surface Water Model included in MPS OSWDS is not representative of the site as a whole being a small scale site & not having the same topography .As I asked at the hearing on 26th September why was there not a study for the whole scheme? As far as I am aware there has been no response from MP . MP have hidden behind the response from the Environment Agency raising no concerns. But as we are aware the Agency are not responsible for managing surface water run off flooding issues but should be dealt with by the relevant Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA). Rutland County Council identified the flood risk from the proposal in their response Submission REP2048. As far as I am aware Lincolnshire County Council in their role as LLFA have not carried out any detailed investigation unlike Greatford Parish Council which is very disappointing.

6 My conclusion is that MP are totally driven by profit rather than protecting our village from increased flood risk. I request that in the event you are minded to recommend approval for the scheme a full flood prevention scheme needs to be a condition of the consent.

Notwithstanding the above I remain totally opposed to the proposal not only on flood risk but also the following planning grounds:

- i) Overwhelming size & scale of the solar farm.
- ii) Loss & damage of BMV agricultural land
- iii) Irreparable damage to a rural landscape & character.
- iv) Major disturbance to local communities during the construction period (HGV traffic. noise dust etc.
- v) Loss of recreation amenity
- vi) Loss of habitat

For all these reasons I request the application is refused

Yours Faithfully

A J Barker Bsc FRICS