

The Planning Inspectorate
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Our ref: KT/2024/132122/01-L02
Your ref: EN010135
Date: 10 December 2024

Dear Planning Inspectorate Team

Summary of Environment Agency Relevant Representation on Stonestreet Green Solar Park Development Consent Order Application

This document is a summary of the Relevant Representation submitted in September 2024 by the Environment Agency. However, for further information we recommend that our Relevant and Written Representations are considered in their entirety.

Pre-application consultation

1. We have worked with EPL 001 Limited and their consultants and throughout the pre-application stage of the DCO to advise them on the evolving proposals for Stonestreet Green Solar Park. Since EPL 001 Limited first approached us in April 2023, we have had several meetings and have made comprehensive comments in response to each pre-application consultation.
2. It was agreed with EPL 001 Limited that they would not be disapplying any of our permit requirements and therefore we confirmed that we will not be requesting any protective provisions.

Outstanding issues of concern and structure of our response

3. From our review of the submitted documents, we have identified a few remaining outstanding issues that we expect to be worked through to prevent environmental harm.
4. In the body of the detailed comment, we identify the issues we would like the Examining Authority to take into account when considering this DCO application including what their impacts are, and how to resolve them.
5. We outline these issues below:
 - 6.1. **Flood Risk:**
 - Issue 1 – Buried cables
 - Issue 2 – Flood risk associated with precast concrete block ballasts
 - Issue 3 – Flood storage calculations

- Issue 4 – Unrestricted access
- Issue 5 – Drainage and impact on the East Stour water levels
- Issue 6 – Aldington Flood Storage Area standoff area

6.2. **Ecology:**

- Issue 7 – Invasive species (giant rhubarb *Gunnera*)
- Issue 8 – Invasive species (mink)
- Issue 9 – Tree planting
- Issue 10 – Beavers
- Issue 11 – Aquatic/Marginal planting provenance

7. We believe that these issues can be resolved, subject to further endeavours by EPL 001 Limited in accordance with the suggested solutions.

Yours sincerely,

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Planning Specialist, Sustainable Place

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