

This matter is being dealt with by:  
**Ross Marshall**



Planning ref:  
23/01990/CONSUL  
Consultation received:  
22/11/23

Mr Matt Lamb  
Director of Growth and Regeneration  
Newark and Sherwood District Council  
Castle House  
Great North Road  
Newark  
NG24 1BY

11 December 2023

Dear Mr Lamb

**PROPOSAL: Development Consent for the Great North Road Solar Park - Scoping Consultation** To view the documents, please follow the link:  
<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/east-midlands/great-north-road-solar-park/>

**LOCATION: Great North Road Solar Park,**

Nottinghamshire County Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) has reviewed the pre-app advice application which was received on the 22 Nov 2023.

As no specific information has been submitted with regards to drainage for this pre-app enquiry, we have made some general comments on the information that we would expect see when the application is submitted for planning approval.

Given the proposed scale of the development to satisfy the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) further details would need to be submitted to support this application. Paragraph 163 fn.50 of the NPPF requires that applications in Flood Zone 2, 3 and in Flood Zone 1 over 1 hectare should be accompanied by a site-specific flood risk assessment, reviewing the potential flood risks to the development from all sources. An FRA is vital if the local planning authority is to make an informed planning decision.

As LLFA we also require details of the proposed surface water drainage strategy for the development. Paragraph 165 of the NPPF states that major developments should incorporate sustainable drainage systems unless there is clear evidence that this would be inappropriate. The LLFA expect that any proposed drainage strategy is in accordance with CIRIA C753 and current best practice guidance. Any FRA or drainage strategy should include following information:

- An assessment of the nature of SuDS proposed to be used and demonstration that design is in accordance with CIRIA C753 and NPPF Paragraph 169.
- Details of a proven outfall from site in accordance with the drainage hierarchy. The following options should be considered in order of preference:
  - Infiltration
  - Discharge to watercourse
  - Discharge to surface water sewer

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- Discharge to combined sewer
- Justification for the use or not of infiltration, including the results of soakaway testing, in accordance with BRE 365.
- Evidence the maximum discharge is set to the QBar Greenfield run-off rate for the positively drained area of development.
- Demonstrate the site drainage system should cater for all rainfall events up to and including the 1 in 100-year event including a 40% allowance for climate change.
- Provide details for exceedance flows; surface water should be contained within the site boundary without flooding any properties in a 1 in 100 year plus 40% climate change storm.
- Evidence to demonstrate the viability (e.g Condition, Capacity and positive onward connection) of any receiving watercourse to accept and convey all surface water from the site.
- Details of STW approval for connections to existing network and any adoption of site drainage infrastructure.
- Evidence of approval for drainage infrastructure crossing third party land where applicable.
- A surface water management plan demonstrating how surface water flows will be managed during construction to ensure no increase in flood risk off site.
- Evidence of how the on-site surface water drainage systems shall be maintained and managed after completion and for the lifetime of the development to ensure long term effectiveness, and the party responsible for this.

This is only a brief outline of the minimum information we would be expecting to see and not an exhaustive list.

### **Informative**

1. SuDS involve a range of techniques and SuDS methods can be implemented on all sites. SuDS are a requirement for all major development as set out within paragraph 165 of the NPPF.
2. The LLFA does not consider oversized pipes or box culverts as sustainable drainage. Should infiltration not be feasible at the site, alternative sustainable drainage should be used, with a preference for above ground solutions.
3. Surface water run-off should be controlled as near to its source as possible through a sustainable drainage approach to surface water management. Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) are an approach to managing surface water run-off which seeks to mimic natural drainage systems and retain water on-site as opposed to traditional drainage approaches which involve piping water off-site as quickly as possible.

Yours sincerely

*Ross Marshall*

Ross Marshall

Principal Flood Risk Management Officer  
Nottinghamshire County Council

Please ensure any consultations are sent to [flood.team@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:flood.team@nottscc.gov.uk)

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT**

**HIGHWAY REPORT ON PROPOSALS FOR DEVELOPMENT**

<b>DISTRICT:</b>	Newark	Date received	22/11/2023
<b>OFFICER:</b>	Amy Davies		
<b>PROPOSAL:</b>	Development Consent for the Great North Road Solar Park - Scoping Consultation To view the documents, please follow the link: <a href="https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/east-midlands/great-north-road-solar-park/">https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/east-midlands/great-north-road-solar-park/</a>	D.C. No.	N/23/01990/CONSUL
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Great North Road Solar Park		
<b>APPLICANT:</b>	Elements Green Trent Ltd		

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The approach of the scope set out appears to be in accordance with DMRB and DfT Guidance so the principle appears acceptable.

Specific details of the Transport Assessment should be agreed with the Highway Authority at a later date.

Please note that we are a direct consultee for this proposal so further formal consultation from the District Council will not be necessary (but we will be happy to make such consultation responses available if requested).

Sarah Hancock  
Principal Officer – Highway Development Control

11<sup>th</sup> December 2023

## Great North Road Solar Park – Historic Environment Comments Newark & Sherwood District Council

The Environmental Impact Assessment scoping report for the Great North Road solar Park sets out the proposed approach regarding cultural heritage and archaeology at Chapter 8.

We appreciate the early consultation as stated in section 8.2 and would also add that the County Archaeologist for Nottinghamshire (Nottinghamshire County Council) was also present in the consultation meeting.

The scoping report recognises the extensive and diverse range for archaeological remains within the site boundary (Section 8.3.2) and acknowledges the potential for direct and damaging impacts from the proposed development (Section 8.4).

The scoping report makes provision for a full desk-based assessment (DBA), geophysical survey of the full site boundary and a programme of evaluation trenching to be completed as part of the application process and to inform the Environmental Statement (ES) chapter of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application. This is an appropriate and reassuring approach.

The scope of evaluation trenching has not been stated; however, this should include a programme that covers the full impact zone within the Order Limits and the connection cable route corridor.

Sections 8.4.4 seeks to scope out impacts from the operational phase. We would advise that there is a significant potential for impacts associated with site maintenance and redevelopment during the operational life of the solar park. Many older solar sites are currently undergoing 'midlife' redevelopment, including complete removal of panel infrastructure and highly intrusive groundworks. For areas where preservation *in-situ* is preferred, measures will need to be implemented in the OEMP to ensure there is no impact to the archaeological resource during any operational site works. Anticipated impacts during the operational life of the solar farm will need considered as part of the application process.

Section 8.4.5 seeks to descope the decommissioning phase on the basis that all impacts will have been addressed by the construction phase. We would recommend that decommissioning is considered at the application phase and mitigation measures agreed and implemented prior to construction work commencing.

In conclusion, we are broadly supportive of the approach presented, although the details regarding the scope of evaluation trenching will need to be agreed as soon as possible. This should cover the full site impact zone to ensure there is a sufficient level of understanding of the site-specific archaeological potential for the ES chapter. The provision of sufficient baseline information to identify and assess the impact on known and potential heritage assets is required by Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (Regulation 5 (2d)), National Planning Statement Policy EN1 (Section 5.8), and the National Planning Policy Framework.