



Hampshire County Council

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Date	1 February 2024	Email	swm.consultee@hants.gov.uk

Dear Sir/Madam,

Development of Solar Farm and Battery Storage with combined maximum grid export capacity of 27 MW, including solar panels, containerised battery storage, security fencing, CCTV cameras, internal access tracks, underground cabling, inverters, substations, grid connection, environmental enhancement measures and other ancillary development. at land between Allington Manor Farm, Roddington Forge & Chalcroft Farm, Allington Lane, West End, SO30 2HU(Application No. F/23/96527

Hampshire County Council as Lead Local Flood Authority has provided comments in relation to the above application in our role as statutory consultee on surface water drainage for major developments.

This response does not reflect the position of Hampshire County Council as the Highway Authority. If there is a potential for the drainage features to be offered for adoption, this will need to be discussed separately with Highways development planning as they might not be considered acceptable by the Highway Authority.

In order to assist applicants in providing the correct information to their Local Planning Authority for planning permission, Hampshire County Council has set out the information it requires to provide a substantive response at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/flooding/planning>

The County Council has reviewed the following documents relating to the above application:

- Technical Appendix 4: Flood Risk and Drainage Scheme (Neo Environmental, 8/12/23)

Director of Universal Services
Patrick Blogg

Solar farms are described as essential infrastructure in the NPPF, rather than water compatible development. This means that proposed development in Flood Zone 3 requires an exception test. Development should be directed to the parts of the site at lowest risk of flooding. The EA may wish to comment on the suitability of development where part of a site falls within Flood Zone 2 or 3. Surface water flow paths exist across the site, presumably following the routes of ditches and watercourses. These flow routes and watercourses must be retained through the site, along with any maintenance access.

Runoff rates have been calculated for the proposed impermeable areas (not including panels). Storage volume requirements have been calculated based on this runoff. There is mention of infiltration drainage being investigated but the outfall for the storage has not been confirmed. The strategy refers to both soakaways and discharges to watercourses. Outputs for the hydraulic calculations appear to be missing, only the inputs are present in the report. It is not clear how discharges to a watercourse would be reduced to the proposed rates without a risk of blockages at the outfall. Clarification is required on the appropriate climate change allowance to be used for the development type and anticipated lifespan.

A key consideration for solar farms is how to maintain the greenfield runoff rates for the fields below the panels. There is a risk of vegetation loss and soil compaction which would increase the rate of runoff and soil erosion. Maintenance documentation should be provided for the proposed drainage features and also for the ground cover, to supplement the detail in the report.

In order for us to provide a substantive response, the following information is required:

- Development should be directed to the areas of lowest flood risk, and any forthcoming EA comments relating to flood risk should be considered.
- Maintenance access for watercourses should be confirmed.
- Drainage layout is required.
- A discharge location should be clearly identified for the drainage system, with supporting evidence for its viability.
- Calculations outputs should be included in the report, including details on restricted discharges.
- Confirmation of a suitable climate change allowance.

Other details, including enhanced maintenance information could be provided through conditions.

We require this further information before we can make a decision on whether to recommend to the Local Planning Authority that planning permission is granted.

As a statutory consultee, the County Council has a duty to respond to consultations within **21 days**. The 21 day period will not begin until we have received sufficient information to enable us to provide a meaningful response.

Please ensure all data is sent to us via the relevant Local Planning Authority.

If you require additional guidance on providing the correct information, we recommend you use our **Surface Water Management Pre-application service** which will enable discussions with the reviewing engineer and scope out works that would address the points raised. For full details, please visit:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/flooding/planning> and click on [pre-application advice request form](#).

This response has been provided using the best knowledge and information submitted by the applicant as part of the planning application at the time of responding and is reliant on the accuracy of that information.

Yours faithfully,



Thomas Callaway
Senior FWM Project Officer

General guidance for the application

It is important to ensure that the long-term maintenance and responsibility for Sustainable Drainage Systems is agreed between the Local Planning Authority and the applicant before planning permission is granted. This should involve discussions with those adopting and/or maintaining the proposed systems, which could include the Highway Authority, Planning Authority, Parish Councils, Water Companies and private management companies.

For SuDS systems to be adopted by Hampshire Highways it is recommended that you visit the website at:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/developers/constructionstandards> for guidance on which drainage features would be suitable for adoption.

Where the proposals are connecting to an existing drainage system it is likely that the authorities responsible for maintaining those systems will have their own design requirements. These requirements will need to be reviewed and agreed as part of any surface water drainage scheme.

Works in relation to ordinary watercourses

PLEASE NOTE: *If the proposals include works to an ordinary watercourse, under the Land Drainage Act 1991, as amended by the Flood and Water*

Management Act 2010, prior consent from the Lead Local Flood Authority is required. **This consent is required as a separate permission to planning.**

Information on ordinary watercourse consenting can be found at the following link

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/flooding/c/hangewatercourse>

It is strongly recommended that this information is reviewed before Land Drainage consent application is made.

For guidance on providing the correct information, we recommend you use our **Ordinary Watercourse Consents Pre-application service** and help avoid delays occurring at the formal application stage. A Pre-application service for Ordinary Watercourse Consents is available, allowing consents to go through in a smoother, often more timely manner. For full information please visit:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/flooding/c/hangewatercourse>