

Item 3 Initial Assessment of Principal Issues

Cassington Parish Council submit that the Issue of Ecology has not been included in the List of Principal Issues. As outlined in our Relevant Representation we have identified likely significant impacts of the proposed solar power station on bats, farmland birds and potentially mammals. The site has been identified in the ES as of international significance for bats and there is clear scientific, peer-reviewed evidence of significant impacts on bat population by solar farms in the UK (RR-0135). We also contest the applicants have not adequately considered habitat connectivity in the ES and the likely impacts on farmland birds of this proposal. Furthermore, the effectiveness of skylark plots in maintaining the current population of breeding skylarks across the development site is unproven in terms of its effectiveness. We contest that the matter of impacts on Ecology are significant, especially for bats and farmland birds and therefore this topic should be in the list of Principal Issues for Assessment.

Item 4 Draft Examination Timetable

Cassington Parish Council is in the process of hiring a consultant hydrologist for the Principal Issue of Flood Risk, Hydrology and Water Resources. We have very limited financial resources and so request that hearings on this specific topic are identified clearly in advance and that we are able to give a firm date for the presence of our expert at the hearing and when his input will be needed. Our expert charges by the day for presence at the hearing and so we cannot afford to have him attend hearings where he may not get the opportunity to speak or be examined.