

Summary of Written Representation by Cassington Parish Council (Reg. 20055026) on Flood Risk Report by Clive Carpenter, Independent Consultant on Water Management.

This independent review of flood risk and drainage follows on from a review undertaken in 2024 by the same consultant on the PEIR. It identifies that the Applicant has done little to address the critical inadequacies and omissions in the earlier stage of the project design and assessment process. Specifically, the Applicant's submissions on Hydrology and Flood Risk fail to adequately consider the increase in pluvial flood risk to surrounding village communities due to storm rainfall run-off from the solar panels. Consequently, there is no consideration given to the significant water management infrastructure required to be compliant with the statutory regulatory regimes.

The additional analysis and optioneering work undertaken by the Applicant to inform pluvial storm water flood risk reduction measures for Cassington village – notwithstanding its own limitations and lack of risk reduction measure detailed design and assessed effectiveness - highlights the inadequacies of the Applicant's approach for other storm water flow routes leaving the site. Without such risk measures being put in place, the development will increase downslope and downstream flooding risks, a situation which is not permitted under planning.

Furthermore, the Applicant has not demonstrated they will be able to adequately manage surface water run-off and sediment mobilisation during the construction period, which given the size of the scheme and natural terrain geometry will cause challenges which could prevent delivering the proposed development.

Accordingly, we consider the DCO cannot be approved, and these issues should be subject to a public hearing.