Lime Down Project
Comments to Applicant's Responses to written Summary of Oral Submissions at the Open Floor Hearing 2

Ref	Applicants resume of original comment	Applicants Response	Comment to Response
GP-001	Mr. Philipps introduced himself as a local resident who lives on Mill Lane, Corston, and spends a lot of time in his garden which has a 300metre frontage to the Gauze Brook and bridleway MALW 51. He referenced Storm Bert in November 2024 which caused the Brook to flood 17 times that winter, with the increased runoff identified by Professor Skeffington which will increase the speed at which waters rise. This means that A429 bridge gets more easily overwhelmed, raising the flood level and increasing risk to Corston Residents. This would render stillborn and thoughts on flood alleviation by the local Council should Lime Down go ahead.	The Applicant notes Mr Philipps' comments regarding existing flooding from the Gauze Brook at Corston, including the flooding experienced during and after Storm Bert. The Applicant does not dispute that Gauze Brook is an existing source of flood risk during high flow conditions. The relevant question for the DCO is whether the Scheme would materially increase flood risk to Corston or worsen flooding at existing downstream structures, including the A429 bridge. The Applicant does not agree that the Scheme would increase runoff in a way that would cause Gauze Brook to rise more quickly, increase flood levels at Corston, or undermine potential future flood alleviation measures. The flood risk assessment for Lime Down D has been informed by hydraulic modelling of Gauze Brook. The submitted assessment does not identify a material increase in flood risk to Corston as a result of the Scheme. Solar PV panels would be elevated above ground and would not operate as impermeable hardstanding or as a connected drainage catchment. Rainfall would continue to drain to ground beneath and between the panel rows. Formal impermeable infrastructure would be subject to controlled drainage, attenuation and discharge controls through the relevant FRA and Drainage Strategy and the detailed drainage	Environmental Statement Volume 3, Flood Risk Assessment and Outline Drainage Strategy – Lime Down D / BESS addresses the flood risk within the confines of Lime Down only and all the maps are limited to the site and in particular do not address any potential impact down stream of D13 or D14 (which are stated as being in flood zones 2/3) except for paragraph 2.4.4 which states: "any potential surface water flooding arising at or near to Lime Down D would be directed eastwards, away from Lime Down D, following the local topography and the watercourses." Furthermore 2.9.1 states: "It can be concluded that the risk to Lime Down D from all sources of flooding is Negligible to Flood Risk". Downstream of D13 & D14 the available flood plain narrows substantially and as Gauze Brook enters Corston it is approximately 60m wide between the 75m contours with the river bank at 70.58m AOD some 4m below the level of D14 where the 75m contours are some 500m apart according to OS Maps. There appears no consideration of the flood risk to Corston as implied in the applicant's response. The water course further narrows to pass under the A429 bridge. It is noted that the recommendation is that the panels be located 600m above the ground presumably to ensure that the panels themselves are not impacted by flood water. The fact that the run off from the panels would be concentrated to the bottom edge of the panels suggests that there would be an impact on permeability below these strips – Has any study been provided as to the potential impact of this aspect? Paragraph 2.3.21 provides for wide mesh fencing to be used in Flood Zone 3 areas which would include D14. The fields

		design secured under Requirement 11: Surface Water Drainage of the Draft DCO [REP3-005]. Construction phase runoff, sediment mobilisation and soil compaction risks would be managed through the Outline CEMP [REP3-092] and Outline Soil Resources Management Plan [REP3-098]. On this basis, the Applicant does not agree that the Scheme would materially increase flood risk to Corston or make flooding at the A429 bridge more severe.	downstream of D14 are fenced with conventional sheep netting against which there is a substantial build up of debris every time Gauze Brook floods; causing water to back up further. A mesh size larger than sheep netting would impact the applicant's ability to exclude deer etc from the site.
GP-002	There are on average 20 to 30 groups passing by the garden daily and perhaps 100 on a summer's weekend, with families, dog walkers, cyclists, hikers and horse riders. The footpath is set to close, eroding the main benefit of MALW 51 and cutting off 45-minute circular routes to Mill Lane	MALW 51 will remain open throughout the lifetime of the Scheme and will connect to HULL7 to the west. Maintenance of the PRoW surface, furniture and waymarking within land under freehold acquisition by the Applicant is their responsibility to maintain, and is secured through the Outline Public Rights of Way and Permissive Paths Management Plan [REP1-104] by Requirement 16 in Schedule 2 to the Draft DCO [REP3-005].	The Applicant has taken the comment re footpaths out of context. It was acknowledged that MALW51 will remain open throughout albeit enjoyment of it will be decreased. MALW51 is relatively short but it is important, its main benefit being that it leads into HULL7 and HULL6 to provide circular routes back to Corston. It would appear that both HULL7 and HULL6 will be subject to closure removing the prime benefit of MALW51