

The Planning Inspectorate

Reference: OR-0008353/01

Customer reference: EN0110012

[via PINS portal]

11 August 2026

Dear Sir/Madam

**ENVIRONMENT AGENCY RESPONSE TO FURTHER INFORMATION OR SUBMISSIONS
ACCEPTED BY THE EXAMINING AUTHORITY. LIGHT VALLEY SOLAR.**

This letter constitutes the Environment Agency's response to any further information or submissions accepted by the Examining Authority (ExA). We will also be submitting a response which constitutes our response to the Applicant's comments on our Relevant Representation. This will be sent as a separate submission.

We have reviewed the submissions accepted by the ExA, in particular:

- 06.02.15.10 ES Volume 2 - Figure 15.10 Risk of Flooding from Rivers and Seas [\[PDA-011\]](#)
- 07.01 Crossings Schedule [\[PDA-013\]](#)

A summary of the Environment Agency's overall latest position is shown in Appendix A. The Environment Agency's position on individual issue IDs as raised in our Relevant Representation [\[RR-0419\]](#) is shown in Appendix B.

EA28 BESS and Substation Interaction with Water Table

Having reviewed 07.01 Crossings Schedule [\[PDA-013\]](#), this does not introduce any material changes to issue EA28 which we raised within our Relevant Representation [\[RR-0419\]](#). We note that approximately fifteen crossings proposed for trenchless methods, which may employ trenchless methods, lie within groundwater Source Protection Zone 3 associated with public water abstractions at Thorpe Willoughby and the majority of these are in areas with no superficial cover.

The Applicant should ensure that Hydrogeological Risk Impact Assessments (including water feature surveys) are undertaken to inform the design of all trenchless crossings and that trenchless works are carried out in accordance with a drilling fluid breakout plan to manage the risks of water pollution resulting from trenchless drilling activities.

This issue remains outstanding.

EA51 Functional Floodplain

Having reviewed Figure 15.10 Risk of Flooding from Rivers and Seas [\[PDA-011\]](#), we have no comments to make on the extent of Flood Zones 2 and 3, under current conditions.

However, the Flood Zone mapping with climate change extent shown appears blocky and is not characteristic of a modelled flood outline. This is likely because detailed Flood Map for Planning climate change data is not available for this area. As such, the climate change outline presented does not appear to represent future fluvial flood risk based on detailed hydraulic modelling.

The Applicant has undertaken detailed hydraulic modelling of the River Aire, River Ouse, and several smaller Ordinary Watercourses within Site 1 and Site 2. This modelling incorporates an appropriate climate change allowance in line with the vulnerability classification of the development. We have reviewed this modelling and all comments previously raised have been satisfactorily addressed. We therefore consider the models suitable for assessing flood risk associated with the proposed development. On this basis, the presentation of the climate change flood extent in Figure 15.10 does not affect the conclusions of the Applicant's Flood Risk Assessment, as the assessment is based on detailed site-specific hydraulic modelling rather than the Flood Map for Planning with climate change applied. We are therefore raising this point for awareness only, as other interested parties may make similar observations regarding the mapping presented. The Applicant may wish to consider adding a note to Figure 15.10 explaining the source and limitations of the climate change flood extent shown. However, from a technical perspective, we do not consider this absolutely necessary.

Figure 15.10 does not show the extent of Flood Zone 3b (Functional Floodplain). It should be noted that the Environment Agency's Flood Map for Planning does not distinguish between Flood Zone 3a and Flood Zone 3b. The delineation of Flood Zone 3b is ultimately a matter for the Local Planning Authority, although hydraulic modelling and other supporting evidence may be used to inform this determination.

Based on the Applicant's hydraulic modelling, all above-ground development associated with the River Aire and River Ouse is located outside the Functional Floodplain. The only element of the development located within the Functional Floodplain is the cable corridor crossing beneath the River Ouse.

This issue remains outstanding.

We trust this advice is useful.

Yours faithfully


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APPENDIX A – SUMMARY OF OVERALL EA POSITION

	Agreed / resolved
	Working on a solution / under discussion
	Not agreed

Subject	Work package	Scope	Method and Assumptions	Results of Assessment (i.e Impact)	Mitigation / Enhancements Agreed	Requirement	RR ID
Biodiversity	Ecological Assessment						EA06, EA07, EA08, EA09
Fisheries	Fish Impact Assessment						EA01, EA02, EA03, EA04, EA05, EA06
Water Resources	Water Supply Strategy						
Flood Risk	Flood Risk Assessment						EA45, EA46, EA47, EA48, EA49, EA50, EA51, EA52
	Hydraulic Model						EA48, EA50, EA53
	Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan						EA13, EA18, EA24, EA25
	Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan					13	EA09, EA11, EA13, EA19, EA24, EA55
	Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan						EA17, EA19, EA20, EA23, EA24
	Outline Battery Safety Management Plan						EA11, EA12, EA14, EA15, EA16, EA17
	Surface and Foul Water Drainage Strategy					10	EA10, EA15, EA16, EA23, EA25, EA54
	Water Environment Regulations Compliance						EA12, EA13, EA15, EA16, EA21
	Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan						EA13, EA31, EA34, EA37, EA38, EA39, EA40
Surface Water Quality							
Groundwater Protection							

	Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan					13	EA11, EA13, EA32, EA55
	Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan						EA30, EA41
	Outline Battery Safety Management Plan						EA11
	Water Environment Regulations Compliance						EA13, EA21, EA28, EA33, EA36

APPENDIX B - ENVIRONMENT AGENCY'S POSITION ON INDIVIDUAL ISSUE IDS AS RAISED IN OUR RELEVANT REPRESENTATION

	Agreed / resolved
	Working on a solution / under discussion
	Not agreed

Issue ID	RAG Status
EA01	
EA02	
EA03	
EA04	
EA05	
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