

Arun District Council
Development Control
1 Arun Civic Centre
Maltravers Road
Littlehampton
West Sussex
BN17 5LF

Our ref: HA/2015/117383/01-L01
Your ref: BN/29/15/PL
Date: 27 August 2015

Dear Sir/Madam

SOLAR PARK INCLUDING THE ERECTION OF SOLAR ARRAYS, INVERTERS, TRANSFORMERS, EQUIPMENT HOUSING, SECURITY FENCING, INTERNAL TRACKS, ANCILLARY EQUIPMENT & ECOLOGICAL MITIGATION. THIS IS A DEPARTURE FROM THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN LAND AT BARNHAN COURT BARNHAM

Thank you for your consultation on this proposal. Please quote our reference number in any correspondence.

Environment Agency Position

We consider that planning permission should only be granted to the proposed development as submitted if the following planning condition is imposed as set out below. Without this condition, the proposed development on this site poses an unacceptable risk to the environment and we would wish to object to the application

Condition

The development hereby permitted shall not be commenced until such time as a scheme to ensure no net loss of floodplain storage has been submitted to, and approved in writing by, the local planning authority.

We advise that solar panels are erected 300 mm above the 1 in 200 year plus climate change level (minimum height of 4.74m above Ordnance Datum (AOD). This is opposed to the proposed level of just 2500 mm above existing ground level (around 3.5mAOD) as indicated in Drawing number 2768_04 (Typical Panel Elevations).

The scheme shall be fully implemented and subsequently maintained, in accordance with the timing / phasing arrangements embodied within the scheme, or within any other period as may subsequently be agreed, in writing, by the local planning authority.

Environment Agency
Guildbourne House Chatsworth Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN11 1LD.
Customer services line: 03708 506 506
www.gov.uk/environment-agency

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Reason

To prevent flooding elsewhere by ensuring no net loss of floodplain storage and ensuring flood flows are not impeded by the solar panel structures.

To reduce the risk of flooding to the development and subsequent damage.

Advice to Local Planning Authority and Applicant

Under the terms of the Water Resources Act 1991 and the Land Drainage Byelaws, the prior written consent of the Agency is required for any proposed works or structures in, under, over or within 15 metres of the top of the bank of the main river (Barnham Rife).

The site lies on Lambeth Beds and undifferentiated Chalk formation, the latter classified as a Principal Aquifer. Though the development does not pose a significant risk to the water environment, part of the former Chichester and Arundel canal has been historically infilled though the exact nature of the material is unknown. It is advised that the applicant carries out their own studies as to whether this part of the development presents a risk to the environment.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Sophie Brown
Sustainable Places Planning Advisor

