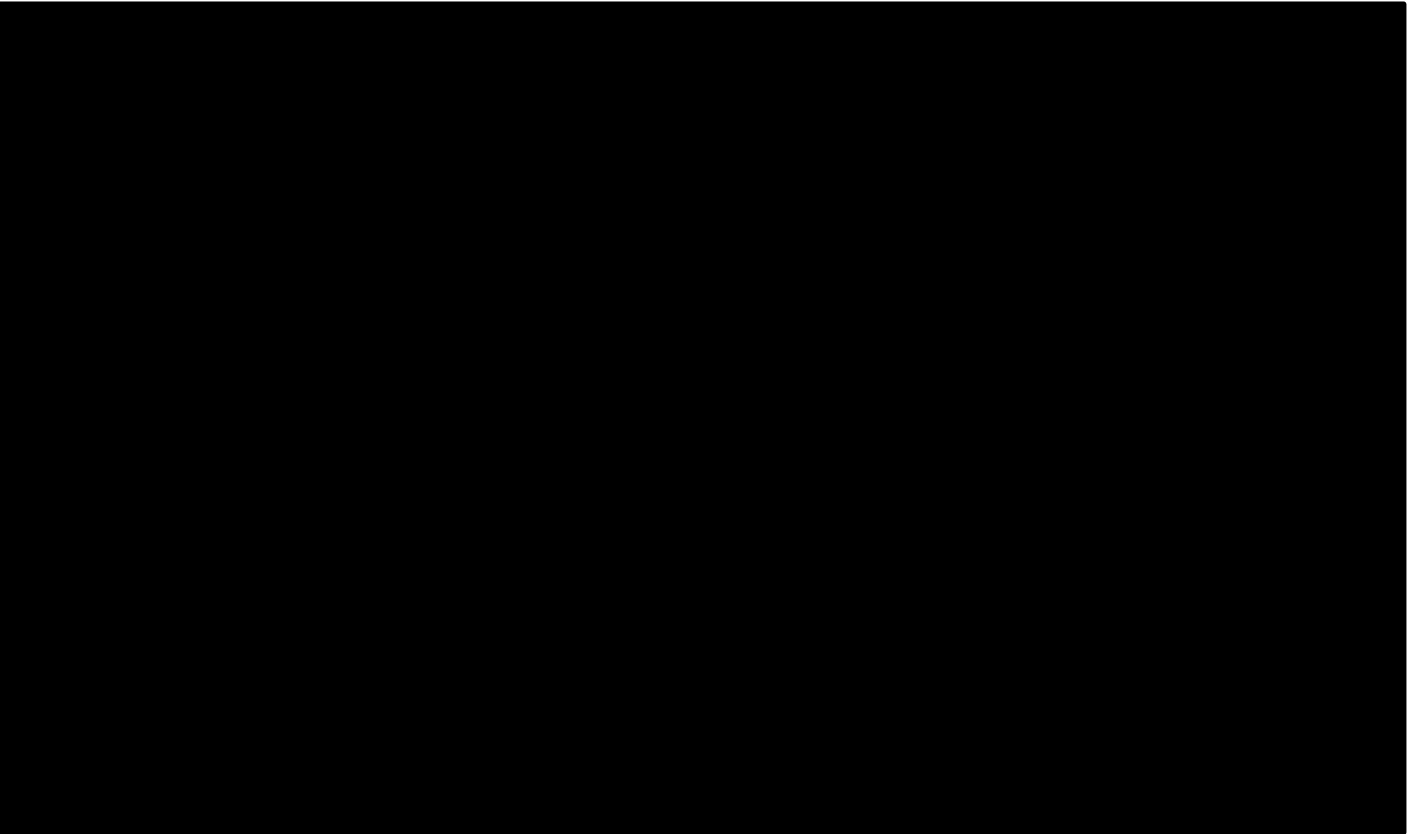


Phippen, Oliver

From: Norman, Emma
Sent: 28 August 2025 14:18
To: Phippen, Oliver
Subject: RE: PL/2025/05830 : Land at Flaxlands Farm, Royal Wootton Bassett, Swindon, SN4 8DY

Good afternoon Oliver,



EA

We are aware that the EA object to the Proposed Development *“because the proposed development would pose an unacceptable risk of pollution of groundwater”*.

We wanted to signpost the EA to the Outline Drainage Strategy (AECOM, dated April 2025), which outlines strategy in relation to the BESS area specifically (see paragraphs 5.1.4- 5.1.7 of the report):

“The substation area will be covered in a 300 mm gravel layer. This will allow runoff to be attenuated within the gravel layer and potentially infiltrate to ground. However, given the likely poor infiltration, a network of perforated drains will be installed within the gravel layer to assist draining the substation area. The captured runoff will then discharge to the proposed detention basin. Within the substation area, only the oil filled

transformers pose and an environmental risk. To ensure these transformers do not leak harmful substances, the oil transformer areas will be bunded and will have an oil separation system.

Like the substation area, the BESS will be covered in a 300 mm gravel layer. The BESS however, has the potential to leak harmful substances during a fire. To prevent these harmful substances infiltrating to ground, the BESS will be bunded and lined with an impermeable membrane to contain any firefighting runoff. A network of perforated drains will be installed within the gravel to drain the BESS. Runoff will then be conveyed to the proposed detention basin.

The proposed detention basin will receive runoff from the substation area and BESS. It has been sized to discharge at the equivalent greenfield runoff rate and to hold emergency firewater runoff. Runoff will then be discharged into a boundary swale which conveys the discharge to the existing catchment outfall where the substation area and BESS are located. Since firewater runoff from the BESS area potentially be contaminated, the detention basin will be lined with an impermeable liner and will have a sluice gate on the outfall to ensure any contaminated runoff can be isolated. Fire water must be isolated from the surface water network, and tested or removed from site, to prevent contamination to ground and waterbodies. This is discussed further in Section 5.C.

MV stations will be located across the Site. Like the substation areas and BESS, they will be covered in a 300 mm gravel layer. However, they will not include a perforated pipe network. Given the small size of the MV stations, they are not anticipated to cause large runoff volumes. The resultant runoff volume should be able to be attenuated within the gravel layer and infiltrate to ground. If the attenuation volume of the gravel layer is exceedance during a large storm”

We are also aware that we have received a positive response from the Drainage team, who advise that a planning condition is attached, should planning permission be granted, for “ground investigations, including soakaway testing...”, and therefore, suggest this is an appropriate mechanism for securing such works, post consent.

I would be grateful if you could confirm receipt of my email.

We welcome a meeting with you later in September to talk through consultee comments- please could you let me know which days/times work for you week commencing 29th September?

Kind regards,

Emma

Emma Norman, MSc, MRTPI
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Infrastructure Consents and Town Planning, Environment and Sustainability UK&I