

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Planning Committee

1 October 2014

AUTHOR/S: Planning and New Communities Director

Application Number: S/1427/14/FL

Parish(es): Melbourn

Proposal: Solar Farm and Associated Development

Site address: Land Between Railway and Sewage Disposal Works, Royston Road

Applicant(s): Solar Planning Ltd.

Recommendation: Delegated Approval (as amended)

Key material considerations: Countryside
Landscape Character
Heritage Assets
Archaeology
Ecology
Biodiversity
Trees and Landscaping
Flood Risk
Public Footpaths

Committee Site Visit: Yes

Departure Application: No

Presenting Officer: Karen Pell-Coggins

Application brought to Committee because: Major Application of Local Interest

Date by which decision due: 30 September 2014

Update to report

Paragraphs 20 - Consultation by South Cambridgeshire District Council as Local Planning Authority

1. **Environment Agency** – Following a telephone conversation with the consultant, the proposed installation of swales/filter drains and detention basin to the proposed solar farm development would ensure any increase in flood risk from surface water runoff is mitigated. The applicant will need to submit a revised Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and plans detailing the changes to ensure any increase to flood risk is managed effectively on site. It is likely that we would recommend a planning condition implementing the mitigation measures proposed within the FRA.

Paragraphs 44, 47 and 49 - Material Planning Considerations

2. There was evidence of badger activity on the site and an outlier sett identified but this was considered inactive as it has not been recently used.
3. Additional landscaping details to address the Landscape Officers comments will be submitted very shortly.
4. Additional information in the form of an update to the Flood Risk Assessment and a plan showing the location of swales along the northern boundary and alongside the access tracks together with a detention basin in the north east corner of the site has been submitted to address the Environment Agency's concerns. .

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