



Technical Appendix 8: Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan

Kingston Solar Farm

06/01/2022



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INTRODUCTION

Background

- 8.1 Neo Environmental Ltd has been appointed by Renewable Energy Systems (RES) Ltd (the “Applicant”) to undertake an Outline Construction Environmental Plan (OCEMP) for a proposed 49.9MW solar farm and associated infrastructure (the “Proposed Development”) on lands circa 1.3km south of Gotham and c. 0.75km northwest of East Leake, Nottinghamshire (the “Application Site”).
- 8.2 Please refer to **Figure 4 of Volume 2: Planning Application Drawings** for the layout of the Proposed Development.

Development Description

- 8.3 The Proposed Development will consist of the construction of a 49.9MW solar farm with bi-facial solar photovoltaic (PV) panels mounted on metal frames, new access tracks, underground cabling, perimeter fencing with CCTV cameras and access gates, two temporary construction compounds, substation and all ancillary grid infrastructure and associated works.
- 8.4 The Proposed Development will result in the production of clean energy from a renewable energy resource (daylight) and will also involve additional landscaping including hedgerow planting and improved biodiversity management.

Site Description

- 8.5 The Application Site is located on lands circa 1.3km south of Gotham and c. 0.75km northwest of East Leake, Nottinghamshire; the approximate centre point of which is Grid Reference E453185, N328739. Comprising 16 agricultural fields and additional ancillary areas, the Application Site measures c. 80.65 hectares (ha) in total, with only c. 55.65 hectares accommodating the solar arrays themselves. See **Figure 1 of Volume 2: Planning Application Drawings** for details.
- 8.6 The Proposed Development Site is split into two sections, north and south, by an area of woodland, Leake New Wood. Both sections lie on elevated, gently undulating land ranging between 87 – 96m AOD. The northern section extends across several rectilinear agricultural fields largely contained by existing mixed woodland providing good screening for the wider area. These include Gotham Wood to the north, Cuckoo Bush to the east, Leake New Wood to the south and Crownend Wood to the west. The southern section is also surrounded by pockets of woodland including Oak Wood, Crow Wood and Ash Spinney.
- 8.7 The Application Site is in an area with an existing industrial presence with a telecoms mast located on the southwestern boundary of Field 7, a wood pole line along the boundary between Fields 7 and 8 and within the southern section of Fields 4 and 5 and overhead lines

located along the southern boundary of Field 16 and the eastern boundary of Field 15 (See **Figure 3 of Volume 2: Planning Application Drawings** for field numbers).

- 8.8 The surrounding area is semi-rural in nature with the site being surrounded by agricultural fields and woodland in most directions. The area is however punctuated by individual farmsteads and Rushcliffe Golf Club is located on the eastern boundary of Field 15 in the southern section of the site. There are also various industrial brownfield sites within the locality including Charnwood Truck Services located directly southwest of Field 4. Additionally, there is a large-scale power station located beyond the A453, circa 1.58km north of the site.
- 8.9 Recreational routes include a number of Bridleways (BW) which cross or abut the Site providing connectivity to the wider Kingston Estate. These include Gotham BW No. 10, 11 and 12 and West Leake BW's No. 5 and 13. West Leake BW No. 5, also known as the Midshires Way, is also a Long-Distance Walking Association (LDWA) Route bordering the southern boundary of Fields 15 and 16. While there are several field drains throughout the Application Site, it lies entirely within Flood Zone 1, an area described as having a "Low probability" of flooding.
- 8.10 The Application Site will be accessed from Wood Lane, which is an unadopted road. Delivery vehicles will exit the M1 at junction 24, signposted A453 Nottingham (S), onto the A453 and travel in a northeast direction for approximately 4.3km, before taking the exit onto West Leake Lane. This road will be travelled on in a southern direction for approximately 1.5km, before turning left onto Kegworth Road. Vehicles will travel northeast along this road for approximately 1.3km before turning right into Wood Lane.

Scope of Report

- 8.11 This OCEMP has been produced in support of the planning application to the Council and includes:
- Construction method statement which identifies works likely to impact upon water quality;
 - Pollution prevention and mitigation measures;
 - Drainage management plan; and
 - Waste management.
- 8.12 The OCEMP has been prepared with reference to the environmental assessments which have been undertaken in support of the planning application, these include: Flood Risk and Drainage Impact Assessment (**Technical Appendix 4**) and the Ecological Impact Assessment (**Technical Appendix 2**). Following the approval of planning consent, this OCEMP will be revised by the contractor and amended where necessary.

- 8.13 The Applicant will appoint a main contractor who will be responsible for the construction of the Proposed Development. The contractor will ensure that all measures and mitigation identified within this OCEMP are taken into account and implemented during the construction. In addition, the OCEMP will be monitored regularly throughout the duration of the construction phase to ensure best practice is implemented.
- 8.14 A Site Manager will be appointed and will be in charge of activities on site, including personnel. They will ensure that all personnel on site follow and adhere to the procedures outlined within the OCEMP.

Statement of Authority

- 8.15 This OCEMP has been produced by Neo Environmental, with input from Daniel Flenley BSc (Hons) MPhil MCIEEM, Dylan Donoghue BSc (Hons) and Michael McGhee BSc TechIOA. Neo Environmental have produced detailed OCEMPs for a range of development types, including for over 1GW of solar farm developments across the UK and Ireland.

LEGISLATION

8.16 Current legislation has been taken into consideration during the production of this OCEMP. The legislation covers all relevant areas including; water pollution, wildlife species protection, waste and noise. In the case of the Proposed Development, the following legislation has been considered:

- EU Directive on the Assessment and Management of Flood Risks [2007/60/EC]¹ implemented in England via the Flood and Water Management Act 2010² and the Flood Risk Regulations 2009³;
- The Water Framework Directive [2000/60/EC]⁴ as implemented in England via the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017⁵;
- The Groundwater Directive (GWD) (2006/118/EC)⁶ as implemented by the Groundwater (Water Framework Directive) (England) Direction 2016 and Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016.

Guidance

8.17 UK Pollution Prevention Guidelines have also been considered in the production of this Chapter. The suite of Pollution Prevention Guidelines (or Guidance for Pollution Prevention (GPP)), published by the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), the Environment Agency (EA) and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) were withdrawn on the

¹ European Parliament (2007). Directive 2007/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks. Available at <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:32007L0060>

² UK Government (2010). Flood Water a Management Act 2010. Available at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/contents>

³ UK Government (2009). The Flood Risk Regulations 2009. Available at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2009/3042/contents>

⁴ European Parliament (2000). Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for the Community action in the field of water policy ("The Water Framework Directive"). Available at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32000L0060>.

⁵ UK Government (2017). The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017. Available at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/407/contents/made>

⁶ European Parliament (2006). Directive 2006/118/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration ("The Water Framework Directive"). Available at <https://www.eea.europa.eu/policy-documents/groundwater-directive-gwd-2006-118-ec>

17th of December 2015. However, these documents provide sound advice and can be accessed online⁷. The PPGs which are most relevant to the Proposed Development include:

- PPG1 'General Guide to the Prevention of Pollution'
- GPP2 'Above Ground Oil Storage'
- GPP 5 'Works and Maintenance in or Near Water'
- PPG6 'Working at Construction and Demolition sites'
- PPG 7 'Safe Storage – The Safe Operation of Refuelling Facilities'

8.18 These PPGs/GPPs provide guidance as to the various environmental considerations and potential mitigation and prevention measures considered within this Chapter.

8.19 Other relevant guidance and regulation comprises the following:

- The Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA) Report C689 Culvert Design and Operation Guide;⁸
- CIRIA Report C532 Control of water pollution from construction sites;⁹
- CIRIA Report C648 Control of water pollution from linear construction proposed developments: technical guidance;¹⁰
- CIRIA Report C741 - Environmental Good Practice on Site Guide;¹¹
- CIRIA Report C753 - The SuDS Manual;¹²

Health and Safety Management

8.20 A site specific Health and Safety plan should be implemented and followed during construction of the Proposed Development. All work should be carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.¹³

7 SEPA, Guidance. Available online: <https://www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/water/guidance/>

8 CIRIA. Report C689 Culvert Design and Operation Guide (2010)

9 CIRIA. Report C532 Control of Water Pollution from Construction Sites (2001)

10 CIRIA. Report C648 Control of water pollution from linear construction proposed developments: technical guidance (2006)

11 CIRIA. Report C741 – Environmental Good Practice on Site Guide (2015)

12 CIRIA. The SuDS Manual (2007). Available at: https://www.ciria.org/Memberships/The_SuDs_Manual_C753_Chapters.aspx

¹³ UK Government Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, Available at Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 (legislation.gov.uk)

RESPONSIBILITIES

Key Contacts & Roles

8.21 The detailed CEMP will need to confirm the details outlined in **Table 8-1** below.

Table 8 - 1: Indicative Key Contacts & Responsibilities (governance subject to change)

	Name	Role	Address	Name & Contact Details
Developer	Renewable Energy Systems (RES) Ltd	To ensure all planning condition requirements are implemented	Beaufort Court, Egg Farm Lane, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire, WD4 8LR, England, UK	Edel Burke info@res-group.com (0)1923 299 200
Main Contractor	TBC	Responsible for the development of the CEMP in line with planning condition requirements	TBC	TBC
Site Manager	TBC	Responsible for the implementation of the CEMP with all site personnel	TBC	TBC
Environmental Compliance Officer	TBC	Responsible for the coordination and development	TBC	TBC
Consulting Engineers	TBC	Responsible for the development of method statements and design	TBC	TBC

ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITIES

- 8.22 The environmental assessments undertaken in support of the planning application identified some sensitivities on the Application Site.
- 8.23 Relevant potential sensitive receptors to the site preparation and construction works are identified in **Table 8-2** below. These potential sensitive receptors, the environmental considerations and potential impacts are to be considered as the basis for a future detailed CEMP.

Table 8-2: Environmental Considerations and Impacts

Environmental Issue	Potential Receptor	Potential Impacts
Designated Sites	Rushcliffe Golf Course SSSI/Rushcliffe District Golf Course LWS, Lockington Marshes SSSI, Attenborough Gravel Pits SSSI, Trent Meadows LNR, Crownend Wood (Western Assart) LWS, Leake New Wood Track LWS, Gotham Wood LWS	Damage / pollution
Priority Habitats	Ancient woodland	Loss, damage / pollution
Protected Species	Otter	Accidental trapping, restriction of movement through the site (commuting habitat)
Protected Species	Badger	Disturbance, destruction of setts, accidental trapping, restriction of movement through the site (foraging habitat)
Protected Species	Bats	Roosting habitat disturbance / destruction
Protected Species	Brown hare, brown hare, hedgehog	Restriction of movement through the site (foraging habitat)
Protected Species	Breeding birds	Disturbance / damage to nests
Protected Species	Herptiles	Disturbance, destruction of habitat

Water	Waterways adjacent to the Development	Contamination of aquatic environment
Water	Groundwater	Contamination of groundwater by additional pathways caused by piling Risk to aquifer recharge Risk to existing groundwater flow route
Soil	Soil on site	Contamination, compaction & soil degradation Reduced filtration

Ecology

Habitats

- 8.24 An extended phase 1 habitat survey of the majority of the Application Site was undertaken on 26th February 2021 by Kevin Johnson BSc Pgd PGCE MCIEEM. The remainder of the site was surveyed on 29th June 2021 by Daniel Flenley BSc (Hons) MPhil MCIEEM. The Ecological Survey Area (“ESA”) covered all land within the Application Site and a 50m buffer around the entire site.
- 8.25 Survey work was carried out in accordance with the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) guidelines (2010)¹⁴ in order to produce an extended phase 1 habitat map.
- 8.26 A total of 18 habitat types were noted within the ESA, comprising of Broadleaved Semi-Natural Woodland (A1.1.1), Coniferous Plantation Woodland (A1.2.2), Dense Scrub (A2.1), Broadleaved Parkland / Scattered Trees (A3.1), Improved Grassland (B4), Marshy Grassland (B5), Poor Semi-improved Grassland (B6), Tall Ruderal (C3.1), Arable (J1.1), Amenity Grassland (J1.2), Intact Hedge – Species-poor (J2.1.2), Defunct Hedge – Species-poor (J2.2.2), Hedge with Trees – Species-poor (J2.3.2), Fence (J2.4), Dry Ditch (J2.6), Buildings (J3.6), Bare Ground (J4) and Other Habitat (Garden) (J5).
- 8.27 The main impacts during the construction phase include the direct loss of habitat under the Proposed Development footprint, and indirect loss of habitat due to noise and vibration disturbance, dust and water pollution. **The loss of these primarily intensive agricultural habitat areas is considered to be of negligible significance** to nature conservation interest within the local area.

¹⁴ JNCC (2010). Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey

- 8.28 Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scriptus* is present occasionally within the ESA. This includes an onsite cluster adjacent to the hedgerow on the western edge of Field 5 (see **Figure 3 of Volume 2: Planning Application Drawings**). Bluebell is protected via Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981).
- 8.29 Spanish bluebell *Hyacinthoides hispanica*, sometimes considered an invasive non-native species in the UK, was the only non-native invasive or protected plant species identified during the survey. The species was encountered at rare locations within the ESA.
- 8.30 Please refer to the supporting **Technical Appendix 2: Ecological Impact Assessment** for full details on the habitats present within the Application Site.

Protected Species

- 8.31 As part of the Ecological Assessment, a desk-based data search was conducted through Nottinghamshire Biological and Geological Records Centre (“NBGRC”) to obtain information regarding protected/notable species within 2km of the Application Site boundary. In addition, the extended phase 1 habitat survey included a species scoping survey to identify the potential of the Application Site to support protected and notable species. Please see **Technical Appendix 2: Ecological Assessment** for details on the selection of study zones and ecology methodology.
- 8.32 There were no observations of badger or its field signs during the phase 1 habitat survey. However, all the hedge banks and nearby woodland areas are considered suitable for sett-building.
- 8.33 The Application Site contains no built structures that would be suitable for roosting bats. Numerous mature trees were recorded within hedges, along tree lines as well as throughout the woodlands surrounding the Application Site. Some of these trees contain features of low potential roosting suitability for bats. The Application Site offers a number of optimal habitats for commuting and foraging bats overall, with good habitat connectivity both within the site and linking it to adjacent areas. Key habitat features include hedges, tree-lined corridors, woodlands and woodland edges. No sightings or field signs of bats were made within the survey area.
- 8.34 The Application Site offers suitable sheltering / foraging habitat for hedgehog in the form of hedgerows and adjacent woodland. The site also offers suitable arable and grassland habitat for brown hare, which was observed during the site visit.
- 8.35 No signs of otter were noted during the habitat survey. The agricultural drainage ditches within the Application Site are considered to offer, at best, very limited opportunities for these species.
- 8.36 No signs of water vole were noted. The agricultural drainage ditches within the Application Site are considered to offer at best limited opportunities for these species.

- 8.37 Suitable aquatic habitats for great crested newt (“GCN”) and other amphibians do not exist within the ESA. The ditches within the ESA were observed to be agricultural drains and considered unlikely to support breeding great crested newts. There are three ponds within 500m of the Application Site boundary that offer suitable aquatic habitat for herptile species. Pond 2 (see **Figure 2.1.1, Technical Appendix 2: Ecological Assessment**) is considered to have poor habitat suitability for GCN. Pond 3 provides good habitat for GCN. It is therefore possible that GCN utilise terrestrial habitats within the site.
- 8.38 The Application Site contains hedgerows and woodland habitats which offer suitable terrestrial habitat for herptiles. Much of the site is considered unsuitable for these species, due to being intensively managed for grazing or cultivated crops. While some areas of the site include hedgerows noted to be fairly heavily shaded by dense shrubs, there are pockets of suitable habitat, including some hedge margins, that provide some opportunities for basking.
- 8.39 The trees and hedgerows within the Application Site are likely to support a variety of common nesting birds during the breeding season, as are the adjacent woodland areas. This assemblage includes two farmland birds of conservation concern (skylark and yellowhammer).
- 8.40 The vast majority of the Application Site (arable grass ley / improved grassland) is considered to be of very limited value to invertebrates; it is species-poor, with high levels of herbicide and fertilizer inputs. However, hedgerows, tree lines and adjacent areas of broadleaved woodland are all considered likely to support a more diverse invertebrate assemblage. The agricultural field drains within the ESA are likely to support a modest assemblage of aquatic invertebrates.
- 8.41 No sightings or signs of any other notable or protected species were observed within the ESA.

Environmental Designations

- 8.42 The desk-based assessment identified that within 15km of the Application Site boundary there are no Special Areas of Conservation (“SACs”), no Special Protection Areas (“SPAs”), no possible SACs (“pSACs”) and no potential SPAs (“pSPAs”) or Ramsar Sites. There are five Sites of Special Scientific Interest (“SSSIs”), no National Nature Reserves (“NNRs”) and seven Local Nature Reserves (“LNRs”) within 5km of the Application Site. In addition, there is a total of 26 non-statutory Local Wildlife Sites (“LWSs”) located within 2km.
- 8.43 All designated sites have been outlined and fully assessed within the supporting **Technical Appendix 2: Ecological Assessment**. The assessment concludes that the Proposed Development **will not lead to any significant adverse effects** upon any of the designated sites within the study area.

Ecology Construction Method Statement

- 8.44 This Ecology Construction Method Statement (“CMS”) outlines an ecological management plan for the construction and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development. This has specifically been requested in pre-application advice from Rushcliffe Borough Council.
- 8.45 Construction operations will proceed as specified in the general CMS (see paragraphs 8.55 to 8.61 below). However, the following measures will be added to safeguard wildlife features.

Design, Best Practice and Mitigation Measures

- 8.46 Measures specified or recommended within **Technical Appendix 2: Ecological Assessment** have been devised in line with best practice and advice from Rushcliffe Borough Council. The measures to be implemented include:
- All construction works must include a 15m+ buffer from ancient woodland, a 5m buffer from hedgerows and a 10m buffer from other woodland;
 - 12-30m buffers between PV panels and locally designated sites;
 - Security fencing with 10cm gap at base to allow free movement of mammals through the site;
 - Best practice pollution prevention measures, implemented prior to and throughout the construction phase, to prevent contaminants entering the aquatic environment;
 - Pre-commencement badger survey (further measures dependent on survey findings);
 - All excavations to be securely covered at the end of each working day to prevent accidental trapping of badger. An escape ramp will be provided if excavations unavoidably need to be left open.
 - In the event that any mature tree requires trimming or felling, survey the tree for potential bat roosting before any work commences (further measures dependent on survey findings);
 - Pre-construction nesting bird check (only if works are undertaken between March and August inclusive; see also below);
 - Careful removal of hedgerow performed with hand tools, only when air temperature is above 10°C, and not after long dry spells. Ecologist to be contacted if herptiles are found.

- Construction works affecting hedgerows to be undertaken during the active season (March to September). If such works are needed between October and February, removal will be overseen by a suitably qualified and experienced Ecological Clerk of Works.
- Employed contractors will be instructed on the potential for protected species prior to accessing the site for construction. If protected species are found during works, work will cease until a suitably qualified ecologist has been consulted.
- No works or storage of materials or vehicle movements will be carried out in or immediately adjacent to ecological buffer zones (see above) or ditches.
- Pre-construction nesting bird checks will be carried out by a suitably competent ecologist for nests immediately prior to the commencement of works. If any nests are found, work will not commence until a suitably qualified ecologist has been consulted.
- Any pipes over 200mm in diameter will be capped off at night to prevent animals entering.
- Materials such as netting and cutting tools will not be left in the works area where they might entangle or injure animals.
- No stockpiles of vegetation should be left overnight. If any need to be left overnight, these will be dismantled by hand prior to removal.
- Night working will be avoided.
- Root protection zones will be established around retained trees / hedgerows so that storage of materials and vehicles, the movement of vehicles and works are not carried out within these zones.
- Consideration will be given to the use of recycled materials and sustainable building methods. These could include recycled metal, glass or wood, greywater plumbing (where allowed) and structural 3D printing. The management of waste during and after construction is covered below.

8.47 A number of bird hazard management measures have been identified in **Appendix 2.4: Bird Hazard Management Plan** of the **Ecological Assessment**. The following of these apply to the construction phase:

- Pest and vermin control (not limited to bird species) will be undertaken where required;

- All skips used during the construction phase will be of designs that exclude birds;
- Measures relating to spill kits (see below);
- Environmental (compliance) officer to be nominated, as stated above;
- Any incidents or non-compliance issues will be reported to the Site Manager and project team;
- Provision of appropriate welfare facilities (see below);
- Use of a controlled area for waste storage and handling operations that may be susceptible to problems with windblown litter. Vehicles will be used to cover any vehicle with an ejector trailer. Drivers will check the nets are correctly installed and undamaged before leaving this controlled area. Only competent drivers with Category C and E licenses will be employed for such activities.
- Appropriate vehicle maintenance (see also below);
- Monitoring of bird activity by a suitably competent Ecologist / Bird Management Consultant. Records of numbers and species will be recorded in a designated log book.
- Monitoring of site attractiveness to birds.

Hydrology

8.48 According to the Environment Agency Catchment Data Explorer¹⁵, the Application Site lies predominately within the Humber River Basin District. Within this, the site lies in the Soar Management catchment and within the Soar River Operational Catchment. The small section of the site that does not lie within the Soar Management Catchment, Field 5 and the northern part of Field 6, is in the Trent Lower and Erewash Management Catchment. Furthermore, this area is within the Nottinghamshire South B Operational Catchment.

Local River Network

8.49 The Application Site is predominately within the catchment of the Kingston Brook which has an overall classification of "Poor" under the Water Framework Directive (WFD). The Kingston Brook leads into the Soar River approximately 3km southwest of the Application Site. Following this, the Soar River converges with the River Trent, which joins the River Ouse to form the Humber Estuary and empty into the North Sea.

¹⁵ Environment Agency, Catchment Data Explorer, Available at <https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/RiverBasinDistrict/4>

- 8.50 Some small areas to the north of the site are in the catchment of the Fairham Brook, which leads to the River Trent approximately 7.5km to the north. The Fairham Brook has an overall classification of “Moderate” under the Water Framework Directive (WFD).

Internal Watercourses

- 8.51 The drains that run through the Application Site between fields will drain all surface water of the Proposed Development to the Long Whatton Brook or the Kingston Brook, which eventually converge with the Soar River. **Photo 9: Appendix 4B of Technical Appendix 4** shows an example of the field drains within the Application Site.

Groundwater Vulnerability

- 8.52 Groundwater Vulnerability refers to the intrinsic geological and hydrogeological characteristics that determine the ease at which groundwater may be contaminated by human activities. The more vulnerable the groundwater is, the more easily it can be contaminated by surface water.
- 8.53 According to the Environment Agency Groundwater Vulnerability Maps, the Application Site has got areas of ‘High’ and ‘Medium-High’ groundwater vulnerability. The ‘High’ risk dominates the northwest fields of the Proposed Developments, meanwhile ‘Medium-High’ risk dominates the south east fields of the Proposed Development.
- 8.54 The Application Site is not located within any source protection zones (SPZs).

CONSTRUCTION METHOD STATEMENT

Introduction

8.55 This Construction Method Statement (CMS) outlines the management plan for the construction and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development. Employed contractors will be instructed on compliance with the contents of this document prior to accessing the site for construction.

Construction Operations

8.56 The Proposed Development will be constructed in accordance with the drawings submitted in support of the planning application.

Construction Activities

8.57 The following activities will be undertaken during the construction phase:

- Erecting construction traffic signage;
- Creation of internal site tracks;
- Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) installation;
- Erecting security fence;
- Erecting temporary construction compound;
- Site preparation, including mowing and marking out if required;
- Piling the frame supports into the ground;
- Affixing the mounting frames and panels;
- Concrete base formation for the substations and transformers;
- Inverter substation and grid substation construction;
- Cable route trenching and cable laying;
- Connecting cables and backfilling trenches;
- Removal of construction compound; and

- Installation of ecological and landscape measures as outlined within the supporting Ecology and Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP). Please see **Figure 1.14, Appendix 1A of Technical Appendix 1: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment.**

Schedule & Hours of Operation

- 8.58 The construction phase of the Proposed Development is anticipated to cover a period of up to six months. During this period, there will be a combination of HGVs for the component deliveries and cars/vans for construction staff. HGV movements are expected to be most intense throughout the early stages of construction, tailing off towards the final weeks. Car/van movements are expected to be constant throughout.
- 8.59 All traffic movements will be carried out between the hours of 07.00 to 19.00 on Monday to Friday and 08.00 to 16.00 on Saturdays. Outside of these times works are limited to:
- Works which do not require significant noise i.e. distribution of materials, assembly of structures and modules, commissioning and testing; and
 - Works required in an emergency where there is the potential of harm or damage to personnel, plant, equipment, or the environment, provided the developer retrospectively notifies the Council of such works within 24 hours of their occurrence.

Staff

- 8.60 It is forecast that there will be a maximum of 50 staff on site at any one time during the construction periods, although this will vary subject to the overall programme of works.

Equipment

- 8.61 As outlined in **Table 8-3 below**, plant equipment required for the construction phase may include but not be limited to the following:

Table 8 - 3: Plant Equipment

Equipment	Function
JCB Diggers / cable trenching machines	Trenching for cables
Dump trucks	Earth distribution as required
Vibrating roller	Compacting access tracks
Piling machine(s)	Ramming piles of mounting frames / fencing posts into the ground

Telehandler(s)	Distributing materials
Crane	Capable of lifting inverter and transformer cabinets into place
Fuel bowser	Refuel plant as required
Concrete mixer	Foundations for inverters

WASTE MANAGEMENT

- 8.62 Surplus or waste materials may arise from materials imported to the Application Site, or those generated on site during the construction and decommissioning phases.
- 8.63 The Waste Management Plan follows the waste hierarchy, as outlined within Article 4 of the Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC. The waste hierarchy, as defined within the legislation, is detailed below:
- Prevention;
 - Re-use;
 - Recycling;
 - Other recovery; and
 - Disposal.

Summary of Excavated Areas

- 8.64 Overall, the proposed footprint of the Proposed Development constitutes a relatively small percentage of the total area of the Application Site area (80.65ha), with the highest ground disturbance occurring from the proposed access tracks, temporary construction compounds and cable trenches. A lower area of ground disturbance will occur from excavations required for infrastructure such as the grid substation inverter substations. The cumulative 'pin-prick' ground disturbance occurring from the piling for the panels themselves will be less than 0.5% of the Application Site area.
- 8.65 The total ground disturbance area resulting from Proposed Development is outlined below:
- The ground disturbance for infrastructure is anticipated to be 42,568.63m² (c. 5.28% of the Application Site area); and
 - The cumulative 'pin-prick' ground disturbance occurring from the piling for the panels themselves will be 381.76m² (c. 0.05% of the Application Site area).
- 8.66 The total ground disturbance area resulting from the Proposed Development is therefore **42,950.39m²** or c. **5.33%** of the Application Site area.
- 8.67 In the unlikely event that some excess soil cannot be re-used on-site, it will be minimal and recycled offsite at a licenced facility.

Piling Impacts

8.68 There are a number of ways in which piling can cause contamination risks, however the Application Site would need to be contaminated in the first instance. These possible scenarios include¹⁶:

- Creation of preferential pathways, through a low permeability layer (an aquitard), to allow potential contamination of an underlying aquifer;
- Creation of preferential pathways, through a low permeability surface layer, to allow upward migration of landfill gas, soil gas or vapours to the surface;
- Direct contact of site workers and others with contaminated soil arisings which have been brought to the surface;
- Direct contact of the piles or engineered structures with contaminated soil or leachate causing degradation of pile materials (where the secondary effects are to increase the potential for contaminant migration);
- The driving of solid contaminants down into an aquifer during pile driving; and
- Contamination of groundwater and subsequently surface waters by wet concrete, cement paste or grout.

8.69 As the Proposed Development is on a greenfield site consisting only of agricultural land, the potential for contamination impacts is assessed as **Low to Negligible**. Furthermore, the underlying soil and geology that has been outlined in the flood risk assessment shows no potential for contaminants. With the pollution prevention measures outlined in this document, potential effects will be **negligible**.

Identification of Waste

8.70 There will be limited waste generated during the construction phase of the Proposed Development.

8.71 The contractor on site during each phase will ensure that all waste will be disposed of responsibly from the Proposed Development Site. Potential waste generated during the construction phase is likely to include:

- Wooden crates or cardboard boxes in which the materials will be packaged. These will be removed from the site and recycled appropriately at regular intervals.

¹⁶ Environment Agency (2001), Piling and Penetrative Ground Improvement Methods on Land Affected by Contamination: Guidance on Pollution Prevention.

- Packaging materials from various components including cabling, mounting frames screws, etc. These will also be removed regularly and recycled.
- Aggregate and substrate from groundworks – soil will be excavated for the construction of the access tracks, construction slabs, cable trenches, sub stations and inverter and transformer units. All of this is expected to be reused on site.
- As the Proposed Development involves a minor amount of groundworks, any topsoil and subsoil extracted will be kept separate on site to ensure contamination does not occur and to avoid damage to soil quality and structure. Any excavated soil which is not re-used or dispersed across the site shall be stored on an impermeable surface at the site compound and covered in order to prevent silt runoff and dust creation. Any spoil storage will be done in accordance with the development buffers specified, i.e. 2m from drains and ditches, outside badger exclusion zones, etc. Spoil heaps will be deposited as per standard spoil heap ratios.
- Site office waste will be collected separately in order to maximise the potential for recycling.
- Any kitchen waste will be taken off site in refuse containers and disposed of off-site.
- Oils/fuels, paints, solvents or other chemicals will be stored at the temporary site compound and disposed of appropriately.
- Burning of waste on site will be prohibited.

Waste Segregation and Storage

- 8.72 A specific segregation area within each of the temporary site construction compounds will be identified where the separation of materials will take place during the construction phase. This area will allow for the separation of materials into those which can be reused, recycled or disposed.
- 8.73 All waste containers should be appropriate to the nature of the substances stored and should be secure to ensure no waste can escape. In addition, all waste containers should be appropriately labelled to ensure that it is clear to all construction staff what types of waste can be stored in each container. These containers should be located appropriately to reduce any potential hazards and to ensure no waste is released into the external environment.
- 8.74 Relevant waste and resource management procedures will be communicated to all construction operatives during the initial site induction, which is mandatory for all staff working on site. This will include instruction on the segregation, handling, re-use and return

methods to be used by all parties at all appropriate stages of development. Where possible, waste will be eliminated, re-used or recycled as per the requirements of the waste hierarchy.

Storage of Fuels and Chemicals

- 8.75 As per Best Practice Guidance (Oil storage regulations for business)¹⁷, all fuels, oils and chemicals on site will have a secondary containment system of 110% capacity and be located more than 20m from any watercourse (i.e. outside of the water course buffer).
- 8.76 A bunded diesel bowser will be located inside a fenced off area within the temporary construction compound. Any other chemicals will be stored within a storage container with an accompanying Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (“COSHH”) Datasheet in accordance with health and safety regulations. If generators are used on site, these shall be bunded (the bund shall be capable of containing 110% of the fuel tank’s capacity). The bund shall be kept empty of water.
- 8.77 Where chemicals are required on site, they must be placed in an appropriate bund to prevent ground contamination. All chemicals must be stored in a correctly marked container clearly identifying the contents. Where labels are worn off, they must have a new label placed on them or the contents transferred to a correctly marked container. All safety data sheets for all chemicals should be filed on site as part of the CEMP.
- 8.78 Spill kits will be on site and, for ease of access, located in the site office. Contingency plans will be in place for dealing with a spillage should a spillage occur.

Refuelling

- 8.79 During construction, fuel and oil deliveries shall take place within the designated refuelling area within the temporary construction compound, the location of this area falls outside the watercourse buffers (discussed subsequently). The Contractor shall supervise site deliveries to ensure that the correct amount of material is delivered to the correct tank and the level is checked prior to refilling to avoid spillage.
- 8.80 Where refuelling of vehicles on site is necessary, the following guidelines will be strictly adhered to:
- Mobile plant will be filled in a designated area, on an impermeable surface well away from any drains or watercourses;
 - A spill kit will be stored (and clearly marked) near refuelling areas;

¹⁷ Environment Agency, Oil storage regulation for business. Available at:

[Oil storage regulations for businesses - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/oil-storage-regulations-for-businesses)

- A bunded tank / bowser will be used with capacity of the bund to be 110% of the fuel storage capacity;
- Vehicles will never be left unattended during refuelling and drip trays should be located under all static plant vehicles;
- Hoses and valves will be checked regularly for signs of wear, and will be turned off and securely locked when not in use;
- Vehicles will not be left running unnecessarily and low emission fuels will be used where possible; and
- Diesel pumps and similar equipment will be checked regularly and any accumulated oil removed for appropriate disposal.

Excavation and Earthworks

8.81 All excavation and earthworks will be carried out in accordance with BS6031:2009 Code of Practice for Earthworks.¹⁸ Soil handling, extraction and management will be undertaken with regard to waste management regulations.¹⁹

8.82 The following practices will be followed in relation to the excavation of cable trenches, topsoil stripping and any other earthworks:

- Any excavated material will be stored and re-used to infill excavations. Where the soil is to be re-used, this will be side casted. All side casted soil to be kept a minimum of 20m from any watercourse.
- Although unlikely, if any contaminated earth is uncovered, this will be stored separately and disposed of accordingly once the contaminant has been identified.
- Efforts will be made to ensure that water does not accumulate in excavated areas.
- All topsoil and subsoil will be stored separately, and care will be given to ensure the structure and quality of the soil is not damaged.

¹⁸ British Standards Institute (BSI), 2009. BS 6031:2009 Code of Practice for Earthworks

¹⁹ UK Government. The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011. Available at The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 (legislation.gov.uk)

- The amount of exposed ground and soil stockpiles will be kept to a minimum and any stockpiles in place for an extended period of time will be allowed to re-vegetate naturally.
- Earthworks shall not occur during unsuitable weather conditions, including when soils are waterlogged or very dry.
- The Proposed Development does not propose to change ground levels and only small sections of land are to be regraded around the buildings and possibly at the access track edges; however, this will only be over a few metres.
- Any excavated soil which is not re-used or dispersed across the site shall be stored on the impermeable surface at the construction compound and covered to prevent silt runoff and dust creation.

Concrete

8.83 Concrete will not be allowed to enter watercourses or drains under any circumstances, and drainage from excavations in which concrete is being poured will not be discharged directly into existing watercourses without appropriate treatment and consent from the relevant authority. Delivery trucks, tools and equipment will be cleaned at the wheel wash facility located at the temporary site compound.

8.84 Buffers from the site drainage ditches of 2m have been incorporated into the design of the Proposed Development and therefore there will be no concrete being used within the immediate vicinity of a watercourse.

Monitoring

8.85 Operations and activities that have the potential to impact on the water environment will be regularly monitored throughout the construction of the Proposed Development. This is to ensure compliance with planning conditions and environmental regulations.

8.86 The Site Manager is responsible for ensuring that all monitoring is carried out according to the Environmental Monitoring Programme, summarised in **Table 8-4** below.

Table 8 - 4: Environmental Monitoring

Environmental Aspect	Monitoring Location	Monitoring Frequency	Monitoring Arrangements
Site housekeeping	Entire site	Daily	Visual inspection

Surface watercourses	All watercourses	After periods of rain Weekly, if no rain	Visual inspection
Fuels and chemicals – appropriate storage	Entire site	Daily	Visual inspection

8.87 These records and results will be maintained by the Site Manager and will be stored on site during the construction phase.

Site Office Waste

8.88 The proposed site layout (**Figure 4 of Volume 2: Planning Application Drawings**) includes for two temporary construction compounds and all site waste will be stored in these areas.

- A Project Supervisor will be employed to ensure that welfare facilities in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974²⁰ are located at the proposed site for the duration of the construction. Welfare facilities will be provided within the construction compound to cater for the required staff members at any one time. The welfare facilities will include:
 - The provision of toilet, washing and changing facilities;
 - Clothing Storage;
 - Facilities for eating;
 - Rest room; and
 - Car Parking.
- Water will be held within a holding tank within the temporary welfare facility. There will also be a separate tank for waste. The Project Supervisor will be responsible for organising the tanks to be emptied/filled by an approved local contractor as and when required.

²⁰ UK Government Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, Available at Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 (legislation.gov.uk)

POLLUTION PREVENTION

- 8.89 This OCEMP identifies elements of the Proposed Development which are potentially capable of giving rise to pollution and identifying pollution prevention and mitigation measures.
- 8.90 The associated infrastructure will require earthworks, including the foundation construction for the accompanying electrical infrastructure and cable trench excavation.

Best Practice Measures

- 8.91 Suitable protection for watercourses potentially affected by the works will be installed prior to relevant works proceeding. These measures will be in-line with Environment Agency pollution prevention guidelines. Protection measures will include:
- Plant and equipment will be stored on dedicated hardstandings within the construction compound. This will minimise the risk of pollution caused by leakages occurring out of hours. Drip trays will be used where appropriate.
 - Plant and equipment will be regularly checked to ensure their correct operation and verify no leakages.
 - All plant and equipment will utilise biodegradable hydraulic oil.
 - Spill kits will be readily available to all personnel. The spill kits will be of an appropriate size and type for the materials held on site.
 - Diesel fuel will be stored in a bunded diesel bowser which will be located within a fenced off area in the construction compound.
 - Refuelling and maintenance of vehicles and plant will take place in designated areas of hardstanding.
 - All other chemicals will be stored in a secure area with an accompanying COSHH Datasheet.
 - Wastewater from the temporary staff toilets and washing facilities will be discharged to sealed containment systems and disposed via licensed contractors.
- 8.92 All staff on site will be made aware of the pollution prevention measures being implemented throughout the construction and decommissioning phases using appropriate toolbox talks and the site induction.

Noise and Vibration

8.93 Operating plant noise will be kept within the standards and time periods dictated for the Application Site. Any noncomplying plant will be stopped and stood down until it can be rectified or removed from the Application Site.

- The British Standard which gives guidance on noise from construction and mineral working sites is BS 5228. This document does not specify absolute noise limits relating to construction activities; however, it does provide detailed guidance on the steps that can be taken to minimise potential noise & vibration effects. Reasonable mitigating measures are as follows: vehicles and machinery will be switched off when not in use.
- Operation of plant, including fitting and proper maintenance of silencers and/or enclosures, avoiding excessive and unnecessary revving of engines and parking of equipment in locations which avoid possible effects on residential properties.
- Deliveries limited to:
 - 07.00 to 19.00 Monday to Friday.
 - 08.00 to 16.00 Saturdays.
 - Public holidays will be observed unless otherwise agreed with the local planning authority.
 - When loading and unloading material, attempts shall be made not to drop material from a height.

8.94 Any noise complaints shall immediately be directed to the Site Manager. Depending on the nature of the complaint, remedial action may need to be undertaken.

Dust

8.95 In order to control, prevent and minimise dirt on the access route and emissions of dust and other airborne contaminants during the construction works, the following measures will be implemented:

- Wheel washing equipment will be available and used on-site, as required to prevent the transfer of dirt and stones onto the public highway. All drivers will be required to check that their vehicle is free of dirt, stones and dust prior to departing from the site. Wheel washing will likely be a water bowser and power spray. It will not have any cleaning additives and will drain into the temporary drainage feature at the site compound.

- During windy conditions, any dust generating activities will be avoided or minimised, where practical.
- Any soil stockpiles will be covered when left for extended periods of time.
- Driving practices which minimise dust generation will be adopted.
- Loads into and out of the site will be covered where required.

DRAINAGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

8.96 The measures described in this section will be adopted during the construction phase in order to manage on-site drainage in accordance with current best practice and legislation.

Monitoring Records and Emergency Spill Response

Monitoring

8.97 To ensure compliance with the detailed Drainage Management Plans found within **Technical Appendix 4: Flood Risk and Drainage Impact Assessment of Volume 3**, drainage management works will be supervised by the site engineer.

Emergency Spill or Pollution Response

8.98 In the event of a liquid spill occurring on a construction site, the Contractor shall cease work immediately in the vicinity. Contractor's trained personnel shall have appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and do as follows:

- Locate the source of the pollution and stop/contain any further flow if possible;
- If spillage is flammable, extinguish all ignition sources;
- Immediately deploy the spill kit in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions;
- Clean up the spill; and
- All used spill kit materials should be disposed of in the proper manner as outlined in spill summary procedures.

8.99 The Site Manager shall contact:

- The Client;
- Environment Agency ("EA") 24-hour emergency incident line 0800 80 70 60. The pollution hotline number shall be referenced in the construction site rules and displayed in the Site Office and in the Emergency preparedness & response plan.

8.100 Each Contractor working with controlled substances shall supply appropriate spill kits which shall be kept on site. The spill kits shall be made accessible at all times to all site personnel.

8.101 In the event of a fire, all personnel must evacuate the site and assemble at the site entrance. The Site Manager is responsible for calling the Fire Service, who will handle the emergency.

Proposed Drainage Arrangements

8.102 As outlined within the supporting **Technical Appendix 4: Flood Risk & Drainage Impact Assessment**, SuDS will be installed as part of the sites preliminary works prior to the main equipment deliveries. This SuDS feature will take the form of filter drains / infiltration trenches and swales. The layout of the drainage design is indicated within **Figures 4.4: Appendix 4A of Technical Appendix 4**.

Construction Phase

8.103 Due to the addition of the two temporary construction compounds during the construction phase, additional drainage measures will be implemented to help attenuate the increase in surface water flows. Runoff from these areas is anticipated to have high silt loading due to mobilised soils from excavated surfaces, fines from track aggregate and sludge due to traffic.

8.104 Hardstanding runoff will be directed to a swale on each compound's lowest boundary. This drainage scheme will be removed at the end of the construction stage and the area reinstated.

Operational Phase

Proposed Drainage Strategy (Solar Farm)

8.105 It is proposed to construct multiple filter drains and swales within the Application Site. The location of the schemes have been chosen on the downward slope, near to the existing watercourse which run through the Application Site, see **Figure 4.4 and 4.5: Appendix 4A of Technical Appendix 4**. The idea is to capture any overland flow in the SuDS device, prior to releasing into the natural surface water system. Calculations are included in **Appendix 4C of Technical Appendix 4**.

8.106 The proposed filter drains will have an overall length of approximately 970m, with a base width of 0.5m, a 0.5m design depth and a 0.15m freeboard. It will be filled with crushed rock with a void ratio of 20% and will provide a total storage volume of approximately 48.5m³

8.107 The proposed swales will be of an overall length of approximately 360m, with a base width of 500mm, a 500mm design depth, 150mm freeboard and a maximum side slope of 1 in 3. It will provide a total storage volume of approximately 360m³.

8.108 In total, proposed drainage strategy will provide a storage volume of approximately 408.5m³. This is significantly greater than the volume of additional runoff generated as a result of the impermeable buildings (114.0m³). It is therefore considered that this not only adequately mitigates the increase in flow rates as a result of the minor increase in impermeable area but provides significant improvement.

8.109 The SuDS features will be implemented during the construction phase of the Proposed Development and the swales will be planted with vegetation to protect against soil erosion.

They will be maintained throughout the lifespan of the Proposed Development, generally in accordance with the recommendations in the appropriate guidance.

- 8.110 The proposed discharge points are into various existing field drains and can be viewed on **Figure 4.4: Appendix 4A of Technical Appendix 4.**

Proposed Drainage Strategy (Grid Substation)

- 8.111 It is proposed that surface run-off will be collected and conveyed by the provision of filter drains to a detention basin as shown in **Figure 4.5: Appendix 4A of Technical Appendix 4.** A notional freeboard level of 150mm shall be incorporated into the detailed detention basin for the 1 in 100-year storm event plus 40% climate change with the final design of the pond being submitted to the council prior to the construction period. Calculations are included in **Appendix 4D of Technical Appendix 4** and the design volume of the detention basin will be a minimum of 179m³.
- 8.112 As stated previously, the grid substation area is underlain by clays which exclude infiltration techniques for surface water disposal. QBar discharge rate restriction as noted in **Table 4-5** satisfies the requirements of the SuDS Manual '*Designing for Long Term Storage*'. Final discharge is restricted at the pond by the provision of a Hydro-Brake® vortex flow control device, or a device of similar quality.
- 8.113 Due to very infrequent site attendance that is required, the pollution risk is deemed negligible. On-plot surface water treatment is provided in the form of filter drains wrapped to intercept the conveyance of any silts within the drainage system. Further downstream, water quality polishing is provided within the detention basin prior to discharge from site.
- 8.114 The discharge point will be into the existing site field drainage to the north east of the detention basin.
- 8.115 Additional drainage measures to be implemented on-site include the following:
- Solar Panels: current grass cover is to be retained or reinstated adjacent to and under panels in order to maximise bio-retention;
 - Access Tracks: access tracks are to be unpaved and constructed from local stone. Swales or similar shall be utilised to collect runoff from access tracks, where required, however these will be designed at the detailed design stage. Where swales are utilised, check dams formed from gravels and other excavated material shall be placed in the swale at frequent intervals; and,
 - Inverter Substations, Spare Part Containers, etc: Filter strips will surround the concrete bases of the ancillary buildings to capture any runoff from the roofs. This will be discharged to a percolation area or into the sites drainage network where it is close

enough. Should surface water accumulate around any of these locations then a simple soakaway can be constructed to allow water soak into the underlying subsoils.

Foul Drainage

8.116 A permanent toilet is proposed within the substation compound which will be utilised by maintenance staff of both the solar farm and the substation as well as tour groups and visiting members of the local authority. This toilet will be one of the following:

- Composting toilet which is waterless and chemical free. The composting toilet uses a dehydration process resulting in an odour free compost which is collected annually for further processing off-site.
- Off grid toilet with water tank which is refilled as and when required. Will also have a foul tank which will be emptied when required by an approved contractor.

Drainage Mitigation

Clean Water Diversion

8.117 Where feasible, clean water (e.g. water that has yet to come into contact with any disturbed construction or working areas), will be kept separate from the watershed or intercepted by the solar farm construction drainage.

8.118 Up-gradient cut-off ditches and water diversion measures will be installed, where required, in order to intercept and divert clean water around the construction compound area. These measures will be installed ahead of the main construction works. This will reduce or prevent the amount of potential silt-laden or polluted water that might require treatment.

8.119 Clean runoff that has been diverted around an area of working should be discharged into an area of vegetation for dispersion or infiltration, in accordance with SuDS techniques.

8.120 Sediment control measures, such as silt traps, gravel, sand bags, anchored straw bales or silt fencing might be required at the discharge point to prevent erosion at the outlet and aid dispersion of the diverted water.

Silt Control

8.121 Silt-laden runoff should be expected from any areas of recently exposed soil or rock. There is also potential for pollution to occur from machinery used in the solar farm construction.

8.122 Any introduced or artificial materials required (e.g. silt fencing, straw bales, sand bags etc.) that might need to be deployed onsite, will be removed on completion of the works.

- 8.123 Discharge from the silt control measures will be discharged into an area of vegetation for dispersion or infiltration, in accordance with SuDS techniques or discharged into the existing drainage network within the Application Site.

DECOMMISSIONING – LAND RESTORATION

- 8.124 Upon the end of the operational phase of the Proposed Development, the subject land shall be reinstated to its former agricultural use within a year of the last export.
- 8.125 It is considered that the potential impacts during the decommissioning phase will be similar to those identified for the construction phase of the Proposed Development. Therefore, it is recommended that the pre-construction measures should also be applied at this stage of the Development.
- 8.126 The majority of the infrastructure will be removed from site and recycled. Due to the long-life span of the project, no details of this can be provided at present, however it is recommended that a pre-commencement condition outlining the requirement for a Decommissioning Method Statement is attached to any planning decision made by the Council.

SUMMARY & CONCLUSIONS

8.127 The best practice and design measures identified throughout this OCEMP have been summarised in **Table 8-5** below. Mitigation measures have been summarised in **Table 8-6** below.

Table 8 - 5: OCEMP Best Practice and Design Measures

Potential Receptor	Potential Impact	Recommended Measures
Ecology		
Habitats Designated sites	Pollution and damage / destruction	Avoidance of hedgerows, watercourses/field drains, woodland and trees 15m+ buffer from ancient woodland Limitation to less distinctive and lower-quality areas 12-30m buffers between PV panels and locally designated sites
Badger, brown hare, hedgehog	Exclusion from foraging habitat	Security fencing to have 10cm gap at base to allow free movement of badger through the site
Habitats (hedgerows, woodland)	Habitat loss	5m buffer from hedgerows 10m buffer from woodland
Aquatic environment	Pollution	Best practice pollution prevention measures implemented prior to and throughout the construction phase to prevent contaminants entering the aquatic environment and reduce potential groundwater contamination

Badger, deer, other mammals	Accidental trapping within fences or excavations	All excavations should be securely covered at the end of each working day An escape ramp should be provided if excavations unavoidably need to be left open 9.88km of deer fencing at 2.4m high with a 10cm gap at the bottom to be erected
Water		
Streams and Rivers outside the Application Site boundary where surface water runoff will be discharged to on exit from the site via field drains.	Pollution	Implementation of pollution prevention measures detailed within this OCEMP. 2m field drain buffer zone. 5 to 10m external boundary buffer.
	Increased surface water runoff	Implementation of Drainage Management Plan outlined within this OCEMP
Groundwater contamination	Pollution	Implementation of pollution prevention measures detailed within this OCEMP
Soil		
Soil	Pollution	Implementation of pollution prevention measures detailed within this OCEMP

Table 8-6: Recommended Mitigation Measures

Potential Receptor	Potential Impact	Recommended Mitigation
Ecology		

Badger	Disturbance and sett destruction	Pre-construction badger survey
Bats	Disturbance, destruction of roosts	Bat Roost Potential survey of any tree to be removed (Measures dependent on survey findings)
Breeding birds	Disturbance / damage to nests	Pre-construction breeding bird survey (if works are to commence between March and August inclusive).
Herptiles	Habitat disturbance / destruction, minor habitat loss	<p>Any vegetation removal from March to September to be carried out directionally towards retained habitat, in two stages</p> <p>Careful removal of hedgerow performed with hand tools, only when air temperature is above 10°C, and not after long dry spells. Ecologist to be contacted if herptiles are found</p> <p>Construction works affecting hedgerows to be undertaken during the active season (March to September) where possible</p> <p>If such works are needed between October and February, removal will be overseen by a suitably qualified and experienced Ecological Clerk of WorksWorks in other areas (open habitats) to be undertaken from October to February where possible</p>

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8.128 The overall objective of this OCEMP is to reduce the potential impact on the environment during the construction and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development. As outlined previously, the appointed contractor will adhere to the measures identified within this document.



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