CLEVE HILL SOLAR PARK

UPDATES TO EXISTING DOCUMENTS
OUTLINE DECOMMISSIONING AND RESTORATION PLAN

October 2019
Revision B

Document Reference: 6.4.5.5
Submitted: Deadline 6

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SOLAR PARK

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OUTLINE DECOMMISSIONING AND RESTORATION PLAN

CLEVE HILL SOLAR PARK LTD

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1 INTRODUCTION

1. This Outline Decommissioning and Restoration Plan (DRP) is for the proposed Cleve Hill Solar Park, a solar photovoltaic (PV) array electricity generating facility and electrical storage facility, with a total capacity exceeding 50 megawatts (MW), and an export connection to the National Grid ('the Development'). This document has been prepared by Arcus Consultancy Services Ltd, on behalf of Cleve Hill Solar Park Ltd ('the Applicant').

2. When the operational phase ends, the Development will require decommissioning. The operational phase is potentially time limited by Requirement 17 of the DCO. Requirement 17 sets out that the Development would be required to be decommissioned after 40 years from commencement of operation in the event that the Environment Agency are able to secure the ability to undertake managed realignment of the coastal flood defences on the Development site (as set out in the Medway Estuary and Swale Strategy, September 2019[1]). Therefore, decommissioning must be considered.

3. All solar PV array infrastructure including modules, mounting structures, cabling inverters and transformers would be removed from the Development site and recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and market conditions at that time. The future of the electrical compound including the Development substation and the energy storage facility would be discussed with network operators and agreed with the landowner and the local planning authority prior to commencement of decommissioning.

4. These works should be undertaken according to legislation, regulations and best practice that are current at the time of decommissioning. At that time, it may be necessary to review and update this outline document.

5. A Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) and Decommissioning Traffic Management Plan (DTMP) will be prepared to accompany this DRP in order to ensure that decommissioning is undertaken in line with prevailing good practice at the time. The DEMP/DTMP will include similar measures to those included in the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) submitted with the Application, covering issues such as:

   - Transportation methods;
   - Pollution prevention; and
   - Noise management.

6. An inventory of the infrastructure on site will be kept during operation to ensure that the final DRP covers any replacements or upgrades that occur within the lifetime of the Development.

2 DECOMMISSIONING

7. Table 1.1 outlines how the decommissioning phase will be undertaken and sets out indicative timescales. In total, decommissioning is expected to take approximately 12 months, including the removal and disposal of the infrastructure associated with the Development, and site restoration.

8. Structures to be decommissioned are listed in Table 1.1. Some of the removal works are expected to occur concurrently in order to maximise efficiency and minimise time spent onsite.

9. Restoration of the site is anticipated to occur in tandem with the removal of structures, and is incorporated into the relevant timescales.

[1] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/medway-estuary-and-swale-flood-and-coastal-risk-management-strategy/medway-estuary-and-swale-flood-and-coastal-risk-management-strategy [accessed 02/10/2019]

10. The Environment Agency (or its successors) will be consulted on the methodology for decommissioning set out in this DRP to avoid actions being undertaken which are not necessary to facilitate the MEASS proposals for managed realignment (such as reseeding).

Table 1.1: Indicative methods and anticipated timelines for removal of structures and equipment associated with the Development

Project Element	Indicative Timescale	Removal Works	Disposal	Restoration
Solar Panels	Months 1 to 4	All electrical connections and equipment will be disconnected. The solar panels shall be removed from the mounting frame and temporarily stored onsite for disposal.	Disposal shall comply with manufacturer's instructions. Many manufacturers offer schemes for reuse or disposal, these should be utilised if available. Prioritise reuse, if not possible then recycle.	Excavations will be backfilled, using appropriate imported soil if required, otherwise with soil sourced on site, using appropriate soil management techniques. If necessary the soil will be tilled to mitigate for any compaction. The soil shall be reseeded with suitable native species, in liaison with the land owner, in order to integrate the newly restored soil into the future land-use.
Solar Panel Mounting Frame	Months 2 to 6	The mounting frame shall be dismantled and its component parts temporarily stored onsite for disposal.	Many manufacturers offer schemes for reuse or disposal, these should be utilised if available. The materials of mounting frames are widely recyclable.	
Below ground supports		The below ground supports shall be removed in their entirety, excavating if required and temporarily stored onsite for disposal.		
Transformers	Months 3 to 6	All electrical connections and equipment will be disconnected. Equipment and components shall be removed. Structures shall be dismantled and removed from foundations. Materials shall be temporarily stored onsite for disposal.	Components shall be taken to an appropriate facility for recycling.	Excavations will be backfilled, using soil sourced on site using appropriate soil management techniques. If necessary the soil will be tilled to mitigate for any compaction. The soil shall be returned to arable cultivation or reseeded

Project Element	Indicative Timescale	Removal Works	Disposal	Restoration
Transformer Foundations		Concrete transformer foundations shall be removed in their entirety, excavating if required, and materials temporarily stored onsite.	Concrete and any other foundation materials shall be taken to an appropriate facility for recycling.	with suitable native species, in liaison with the landowner, in order to integrate the newly restored soil into the future land-use.
Cabling (above and below ground)	Months 3 to 6	All electrical connections and equipment will be disconnected. The cables will be excavated and removed from the ground in their entirety, then temporarily stored onsite for disposal.	The cables shall be taken to an appropriate facility for recycling.	Excavations will be backfilled, using soil sourced on site using appropriate soil management techniques. If necessary the soil will be tilled to mitigate for any compaction. The soil shall be returned to arable cultivation or reseeded with suitable native species, in liaison with the landowner, in order to integrate the newly restored soil into the future land-use.
Internal Access Tracks	Months 6 to 12	If appropriate for the use of the restored site and agreed with the land owner the main spine roads and site access may remain. Otherwise the access tracks shall have the crushed stone and underlying geotextile excavated. The materials shall be separated and temporarily stored onsite prior to disposal.	Materials shall be taken to appropriate facilities for recycling and/or reuse.	Excavations will be backfilled, using soil sourced on site using appropriate soil management techniques. If necessary the soil will be tilled to mitigate for any compaction. The soil shall be returned to arable cultivation or reseeded with suitable native species, in liaison with

Project Element	Indicative Timescale	Removal Works	Disposal	Restoration
Security Cameras	Months 11 to 12	The cameras and pillars shall be removed, and the foundations excavated in their entirety.	Materials shall be reused or taken to a recycling facility as appropriate.	the landowner, in order to integrate the newly restored soil into the future land-use.
Fencing	Month 12	If appropriate for the use of the restored site and agreed with the land owner the fencing will remain. Otherwise the fencing will be dismantled, and supports removed in their entirety, and stored on site for disposal.	The fence components shall be recycled.	
Flood Protection Bund	Month 6 to 12	Otherwise the flood protection bund shall be demolished in its entirety.	The demolished material shall be utilised onsite. No material shall be removed from the site.	The topsoil shall be returned to its current use or reseeded with suitable native species in liaison with the land owner, in order to integrate the newly restored soil into the future land use.
Development Substation	Months 1 to 6	All above ground electrical connections and equipment will be disconnected. Equipment and components shall be removed. Structures shall be dismantled and removed from foundations. Materials shall be temporarily stored onsite for disposal.	Components and materials shall be taken to an appropriate facility for recycling.	Should the flood protection bund be demolished, the material can be used to restore the electrical compound ground level to pre-construction levels. If the flood protection bund is left in situ, the electrical compound foundations will be left uncovered.
Energy Storage Facility	Months 1 to 6		Disposal shall comply with manufacturer's instructions. Many manufacturers offer schemes for reuse or disposal, these should be utilised if available. Prioritise reuse, if not possible then recycle.	
Electrical Compound Foundations	N/A	The electrical compound foundations will be left in situ.	The electrical compound foundations will be left in situ. No foundation material shall be removed from the site.	

Project Element	Indicative Timescale	Removal Works	Disposal	Restoration
Landscaping	Month 12	Consultation with the landowner at the time of decommissioning will determine whether the landscaping will be removed.	Landscaping (trees, vegetation) will be removed from site and disposed of as green waste in accordance with the prevailing best practice at the time of decommissioning.	The existing arable land use will be restored. The landowner will be responsible for the future land-use following the completion of decommissioning.