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Environmental Statement Appendix 5.3 – Outline DEMP

October 2025



Helios Renewable Energy Project

Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan

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Prepared on behalf of Enso Green Holdings D
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1. Introduction

1.1. Introduction

- 1.1.1. This outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan ('oDEMP') has been prepared on behalf of Enso Green Holdings D Limited (the 'Applicant') in support of an application to the Secretary of State ('SoS') for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero ('DESNZ') under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 ('the PA2008'). The application seeks a Development Consent Order ('DCO') for the Helios Renewable Energy Project ('the Proposed Development') on land near Camblesforth (the 'Site').
- 1.1.2. The Proposed Development has an operational lifespan of 40 years limited by DCO requirement, after which it will be decommissioned. The decommissioning of the Proposed Development is anticipated to take approximately 12 months and will include the dismantling and removal of all solar infrastructure and the return of the Site to its existing condition (agricultural land).

1.2. Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan

- 1.2.1. The purpose of this oDEMP is to outline the controls that will be implemented to prevent / mitigate potential significant effects during decommissioning of the Proposed Development. The oDEMP has been prepared based on best practice, information from the detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the Proposed Development, and the Applicant's experience of delivering solar PV generating stations. As a Requirement of the DCO, a detailed DEMP, or multiple detailed DEMPS for phases of the Proposed Development will be prepared and approved by North Yorkshire Council ('NYC') prior to commencement of the Proposed Development's decommissioning phase. The structure and content of this oDEMP will inform of the detailed DEMP(s).
- 1.2.2. The nature of the decommissioning activities and the potential for significant effects is anticipated to be similar to construction. The oDEMP will therefore include similar measures to those included in the **outline Construction Environmental Management Plan ('oCEMP') [EN010140/APP/6.3.5.1]** submitted within the DCO Application.
- 1.2.3. The detailed DEMP(s) will adhere with regulations and guidance applicable at the time, but it is expected to include:

- An overview of the Proposed Development, relevant decommissioning activities, and programme;
- Clear description of the controls /mitigation measures to prevent or reduce potential adverse effects;
- Monitoring measures to ensure effectiveness of the controls / mitigation;
- Corrective action procedure; and
- Links to other complementary plans and procedures associated with the decommissioning phase.

1.2.4. The overall responsibility for implementation of the detailed DEMP(s) will lie with the Applicant, as the Applicant is ultimately responsible for compliance with the Requirements of the DCO.

1.2.5. This oDEMP has been prepared in accordance the relevant environmental legislation. Any additional licences, permits, or approvals that are required will be listed in the detailed DEMP(s), including any environmental information submitted in respect of them.

1.3. The Site

1.3.1. The Order Limits for the Site are defined in **Figure 1.1 Order Limits Location Plan [EN010140/APP/6.2.1.1]** and includes all land falling within the DCO application boundary (the 'Order Limits'). The Site covers an area of 475 hectares entirely located within the administrative area of NYC. It is located to the south-west of the village of Camblesforth and to the north of the village of Hirst Courtney.

1.3.2. The Site contains 47 fields and the Solar Farm Zone (where decommissioning activities will be focused) is bound to the north-east by the A1041, to the west by agricultural fields between the Site and the Selby Branch of the East Coast Mainline railway further west, and to the south by agricultural fields, and agricultural and horticultural development surrounding Moss Green Lane. A full Site Description is set out in **ES Chapter 3: Site and Development Description [EN010140/APP/6.1.3]**.

1.4. The Proposed Development

1.4.1. The Proposed Development comprises the installation of ground mounted solar arrays, battery energy storage system and associated development comprising

grid connection infrastructure and other infrastructure integral to the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of the development for the delivery of over 50 megawatts (MW) of electricity.

1.4.2. As shown on **Figure 3.2 Parameter Plan [EN010140/APP/6.2.3.2]**, the Site comprises the Solar Farm Zone, Underground Cable Corridor, and Substation and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) compound.

1.4.3. The principal components of the Solar Farm Zone comprise the following :

- Solar PV modules (silicon glass with anti-reflective coating between 0.9m and 3m above existing ground levels, at least 2m between the panels, and a maximum angle of 60°);
- Mounting structures (anodised aluminium alloy or galvanized steel with rough matte finish, installed by piling (up to 2.5m) or concrete feet foundation);
- Field Stations (dark green in colour, installed on concrete feet on a gravel sub-base and up to 12.2m in length x 2.4m in width x 3.5 in height, including supports 600mm in height, above a 300mm deep gravel sub-base);
- Distribution cables (trench dimensions up to 0.9m in depth and 1.5m in width (typically 20m working width for trenchless drilling method));
- Grid connection cables (trench dimensions Up to 0.9m in depth and 1.5m in width (typically 1.2m working width and up to 10m in depth for trenchless drilling method));
- Ancillary infrastructure such as fencing, security systems, and CCTV (with a maximum height of up to 3m);
- Access tracks (up to 6m in width made of permeable aggregate);
- Access gates (galvanised steel gate up to 6m in width, up to 2m high);
- Green Infrastructure; and
- Archaeological mitigation (comprising ground footed mounting up to 0.15m deep and topsoil strip for access roads of up to 0.3m).

1.4.4. The Substation and BESS Compound comprises (please note not all the items listed below

- 132kV substation (up to 6.48m in height) and BESS (Up to 12.2m in length x 2.4m in width x 3.5m in height, including supports 600mm in height);

- Access tracks (up to 6m in width made of permeable aggregate);
- Access gates (welded steel wire mesh (SR2) up to 6m in width and 2.4m high);
- Fencing (welded steel wire mesh (SR2) up to 2.4m high);
- Earth flood defence bund (At least 600mm above the combined fluvial and tidal design flood level and up to 1m in width at the top of the bund);
- Attenuation ponds;
- Cabling;
- CCTV(with a maximum height of up to 3m); and
- Water tanks.

1.4.5. A full description of the Proposed Development is provided in **ES Chapter 3: Site and Development Description [EN010140/APP/6.1.3]**.

1.5. Decommissioning Activities

- 1.5.1. During the decommissioning phase, all above ground infrastructure such as the solar PV modules, mounting structure, cabling (within the Solar Farm, Substation and BESS compound and Underground Cable Corridor Zones), inverters and transformers will be removed and recycled, or disposed of in accordance with good practice and market conditions at that time. Compounds will also be removed once decommissioning is complete, and the land returned to the landowner.
- 1.5.2. Any requirement to leave internal access tracks would be discussed and agreed with the landowners at the time of decommissioning.
- 1.5.3. To ensure protection of soils throughout the lifetime of the development, the soil resource within the Order limits will need to be managed throughout construction, operation and decommissioning. Excavations will be backfilled using soil sourced on site, otherwise with appropriate imported soil if required, using appropriate soil management techniques as set out in the **Outline Soil Management Plan (oSMP) [EN010140/APP/6.3.14.3]** is included in the DCO. A detailed Soil Management Plan would be secured through requirement of the DCO.
- 1.5.4. The effects of decommissioning are likely to be similar to, or often of a lesser magnitude than construction effects, and these are considered in the relevant sections of the ES. However, there needs to be a degree of flexibility regarding

decommissioning as engineering approaches and technologies are likely to change over the anticipated 40 year operational life span of the Proposed Development.

2. Decommissioning Principles, Site Rules and Communication

2.1. Roles and Responsibilities

2.1.1. The key roles for the decommissioning team will be assigned after the Principal Contractor has been appointed and will be confirmed within the detailed DEMP(s). All personnel will be made aware of the requirements of this plan that are relevant to their work.

2.1.2. The management structure and environmental responsibilities including those of sub-contractors are summarised below:

- Principal Contactor's Project Manager will have overall responsibility for the performance of the contract and for the environmental performance of the contract and the safe decommissioning of the project with particular responsibility for safeguarding the environment;
- Site Manager will be responsible to the Project Manager and will have overall responsibility for the operation of the decommissioning site including safeguarding the environment as well as traffic and waste management issues arising from the project;
- Foreman will be responsible to the Project Manager and will have particular responsibility for decommissioning and assisting with safeguarding the environment;
- Environmental Manager/Liaison Officer will produce the detailed DEMP(s) to ensure relevant environmental mitigation is implemented and carried out in accordance with UK environmental legislation, guidance, and good practice.
- Environmental Specialists (including Ecological Clerk of Works) will be responsible for:
 - Obtaining the necessary environmental consents;
 - Liaising with external third party organisations and individuals;

- Responsible for environmental monitoring (except water levels) and the maintenance of records; and
- Act as a main point of contact for Regulatory Authorities on environmental issues.

2.2. Environmental Requirements and Legislation

- 2.2.1. The Applicant is committed to best practice standards of working to ensure safe and secure implementation of the project with the minimum possible environmental harm.
- 2.2.2. The Principal Contractor will closely monitor the environmental, health and safety performance of all contractors subject to compliance with the detailed DEMP's through all normal electronic and written media, telephone conversations and regular visits.
- 2.2.3. The Principal Contractor will seek to remedy within the law any breach of the requirements of this document by any contractor.
- 2.2.4. All works will be carried out in accordance with current legislation and approved codes of practice and guidance, where applicable.
- 2.2.5. The Environmental Manager will maintain the register of all relevant environmental legislation and guidance presented in **Appendix 1** which will be communicated to all relevant site workers. The list is not exhaustive and does not absolve decommissioning staff from complying with other relevant legislation.
- 2.2.6. Decommissioning activities will be undertaken in accordance with best practice guidelines at the time of works, a list of relevant guidance will be provided in the detailed DEMP(s).

2.3. Method Statements

- 2.3.1. Method statements will be prepared by all contractors engaged to carry out works in consultation with: the engineers or other appropriately experienced personnel; on-site environmental staff; and, where necessary, environmental specialists. Their production will include a review of the environmental risks and commitments, so that appropriate control measures are developed and included within the decommissioning process.

2.3.2. The Environmental Manager shall decide which of the works have environmental implications using the following criteria:

- The work may result in an adverse effect on the environment or human health;
- The work is within 5m of a ditch or watercourse;
- The work is within 15m of woodland habitats; and
- The work is within 50m of ponds and badger setts.

2.3.3. Where the works have environmental implications, the method statements will be written or approved by the Environmental Manager in conjunction with any environmental specialists prior to work commencing. If the method of working is changed from the approved method statement, then work will cease. Any environmental changes deemed necessary will be approved in writing by the Environmental Manager and the relevant personnel informed before implementation. Where necessary, method statements will be submitted to the Regulators (Natural England, Environment Agency and Environmental Health Officer etc.) as appropriate. Method statements will contain at a minimum:

- Location of the activity and access/egress arrangements;
- Work to be undertaken and method of decommissioning;
- Plant and materials to be used;
- Labour and supervision requirements;
- Health, safety and environmental considerations;
- Planning restrictions; and
- Any permit or consent requirement.

2.4. Risk Assessments

2.4.1. All activities undertaken within the Site will be subject to an environmental risk assessment which will be presented in the detailed DEMP(s). The activities associated with the contract are identified, with individual tasks broken down into effects that could arise or are likely to arise. The probability and importance of each effect is then determined.

2.4.2. The risk assessment will be undertaken by trained staff and agreed with the Environmental Manager following an approved procedure which will:

- Identify the significant environmental effects that can be anticipated;
- Assess the risks from these effects;
- Identify the control measures to be taken and re-calculate the risk; and
- Report where an inappropriate level of residual risk is identified so that actions can be taken through design changes, re-scheduling of work or alternative methods of working to reduce the risk to an acceptable level.

2.4.3. The residual risks are only considered acceptable if: the severity of outcome is reduced to the lowest practicable level; the number of risk exposures are minimized; all reasonably practicable mitigating measures have been taken; and the residual risk rating is minimized. The findings of the risk assessment, and in particular, the necessary controls will be agreed with the Environmental Manager and then explained to all operatives before the commencement of the relevant risks using the agreed instruction format.

2.5. Site Environmental Standards

2.5.1. The Site Environmental Standards will be agreed with the Environmental Manager and will detail the minimum measures that should be achieved for general options which fall outside the risk assessment/method statement procedures designed to cover the majority of decommissioning activities. They will cover issues such as storage of materials, management of waste, water pollution, dust, noise and vibration and water pollution control. The standards will be printed on A3 posters, placed on site notice boards and used as a briefing tool on site. Routine toolbox talks will be conducted by suitably qualified persons.

2.6. Working Hours

2.6.1. Core working hours are proposed to be 08:00 to 18:00 Monday to Friday and 08:00 to 13:00 on Saturdays, and no work will be conducted on Sundays or Bank Holidays.

2.6.2. Some start up and closing down time may be required outside of these hours, for example between 07:00 - 08:00 and 18:00 - 19:00, which is likely to include decommissioning workers arriving and leaving Site. Equipment likely to cause a disturbance would not be used during these hours.

- 2.6.3. All works outside the hours agreed with NYC will be subject to prior agreements, and in accordance with terms of DCO requirement governing construction hours (this includes carve-outs for certain works outwith the core working hours). It is not envisaged that work will be required during night time or bank holidays.

2.7. Traffic Management and Parking Provision

- 2.7.1. A separate Decommissioning Traffic Management Plan (DTMP) will be produced and agreed with NYC prior to the commencement of the decommissioning works within the Order limits. The DTMP will consider the methods by which materials, equipment and construction workers will arrive at and depart from the Order limits.

Deliveries and Removals

- 2.7.2. Decommissioning vehicles will leave the M62 at Junction 36, proceed on the A614, subsequently joining the A645 and finally proceeding on the A1041 Bawtry Road and accessing the Site through the main Site Access Points (Access 1 and 2).
- 2.7.3. Decommissioning vehicles Site will be directed to the Site access points through suitable signage on the road network. Drivers will be asked to report to the office during working hours, and a banksman will be used where necessary.
- 2.7.4. Vehicles will not be permitted to queue, stop or park on the local highway network or deviate from the permitted construction route defined within the final DTMP.

2.8. Public Safety and Protection

- 2.8.1. As advised in **Chapter 10 Transport and Access [EN010140/APP/6.1.10]**, it is anticipated that access to the existing PRoWs will be maintained through all phases of the Proposed Development.
- 2.8.2. All plant and materials will be secured and supervised outside of working hours and when not in use.

2.9. Public Communication and Liaison

- 2.9.1. Boards will be displayed at relevant locations on-Site detailing the nature of the work being undertaken, with key contact details including a telephone number and postal address for any enquiries and complaints.
- 2.9.2. Communication will be maintained with neighbouring residents and Parish

Councils (including but not limited to: Long Drax; Camblesforth; Carlton; Hirst Courtney; Temple Hirst; Burn; and Chapel Haddlesey) throughout the duration of works to provide updates on the construction programme.

- 2.9.3. A register of complaints will be kept which will include the complainants name, date and time of the complaint, cause of complaint and the action taken to resolve the complaint. All complaints will be dealt with by the Site Manager.

2.10. Security

- 2.10.1. During the decommissioning phase the security of the Site will be managed by the appointed principal decommissioning contractor. The appointed Contractor(s) will ensure works areas are fully enclosed to ensure security of the Site from trespassers / members of the public.

2.11. Health & Safety and Inductions

- 2.11.1. All Site personnel will be required to sign in and out every day. Appropriate induction training will be given to all persons visiting or working on the Site. All persons will be provided with a copy of the Principal Contractor's 'Environmental Site Induction' upon entering the Site for the first time. The Principal Contractor and their sub-contractors will fully comply with the site-specific rules contained in the 'Environmental Site Induction' and this oDEMP. During the site induction all Site personnel will be advised of escape routes and firefighting equipment and a copy of the fire plan will be kept in the Site file.
- 2.11.2. The Principal Contractor will ensure that contractors employ an appropriately qualified and experienced workforce. The Principal Contractor will also be responsible for identifying the training needs of their personnel to enable appropriate training to be provided. It will also be the responsibility of the Principal Contractor to ensure that all site visitors and site operatives are given appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for the tasks being undertaken.
- 2.11.3. Comprehensive health and safety assessments are an essential part of the construction process and would be carried out prior to decommissioning by the contractor in accordance with legislation. A Decommissioning, Design and Management (DDM) co-ordinator will be appointed and be responsible for the provision of a pre-construction information pack, as required under the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015.

2.12. Welfare Provision

- 2.12.1. The Principal Contractor will provide full welfare facilities in accordance with Schedule 2 of the CDM Regulations 2015 – these facilities will be in place prior to decommissioning works commencing on-Site and this will be confirmed by the Principal Designer to the Client. Welfare facilities shall be placed in a convenient location on Site and as a minimum these will comprise an office and canteen double, a toilet block, and stores.

2.13. Emergency Contact Details

- 2.13.1. A notice displaying emergency contact details will be displayed in a prominent location on Site – such as within the Site office. External notices will be placed at prominent locations around the perimeter of the Site, for example where the Public Rights of Way (PRoW), including 35.14/11/1, 35.14/11/3, 35.14/12/1, 35.14/13/1, 35.14/14/1, 35.14/14/2, 35.17/1/1 35.14/20/1, 35.17/5/1, 35.17/6/1, 35.17/8/1, 35.18/6/1, 35.18/14/1, and 35.38/2/1, meet the Site boundary.
- 2.13.2. Should a pollution incident occur, the relevant external organisations would be contacted and the details will be completed on the relevant notices, for example with a spill kit, or held by the Project Manager overseeing the work.
- 2.13.3. All accidents, incidents and near misses (including spills, dust, noise pollution etc.) will be reported to the Site Manager immediately. These will be recorded and investigated as appropriate. Details to be recorded will include: a description of the incident, potential contributory causes, adverse effects, measures implemented to mitigate adverse effects, and effectiveness of measures implemented to prevent incidents happening again.

2.14. Monitoring

- 2.14.1. The Site Manager will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the Site and will ensure that all restrictions identified in the final DEMP are implemented in full. As part of this, the Site Manager will undertake monitoring and auditing as necessary to implement the mitigation described in the detailed DEMP(s). Records of any monitoring undertaken, e.g. noise, vibration, dust, water quality and wildlife fencing will be forwarded to the Environmental Manager.
- 2.14.2. Additional ad-hoc monitoring may be undertaken by the Applicant.

2.14.3. Non-conforming products or processes will initiate a Non-Conformance Report, which will identify the nature of the problem, the proposed corrective action taken to prevent recurrence of the problem and verification that the agreed actions have been carried out. The corrective actions will be agreed between the Principal Contractor and the developers before being implemented and will be subsequently monitored during their implementation.

3. Environmental Control Measures

3.1. Purpose

- 3.1.1. This section of the oDEMP sets out the environmental control measures to be included as a minimum in the detailed DEMP(s). This section will be updated and developed following consent of the DCO, to form the detailed DEMP(s). The detailed CEMP(s) will set out the monitoring requirements and the responsible party identified for each mitigation measure or monitoring requirement.
- 3.1.2. All environmental control and mitigation measures will be in accordance with the relevant regulations and best practice guidance in place at the time of decommissioning, which is anticipated to comprise a 12 month period from end of the 40 year operational lifetime of the Proposed Development (from 2069 at the earliest), and removed following completion of the decommissioning of the Site. The following sections present likely environmental control and mitigation measures based on present baseline information against current legislation. All measures will need to be reviewed and updated prior to construction against the baseline environment at that time.

3.2. General Mitigation

- 3.2.1. Decommissioning works will be managed and controlled under the Construction (Design and Management) (CDM) Regulations 2015 which control health and safety and define responsibilities to appropriate project stakeholders. The Principal Contractor will be responsible for ensuring that appropriate induction training for all site workers, including providing key workers with a copy of the DEMP and COSHH data sheets. The Principal Contractor will also be responsible for the use of appropriate PPE for all on site works, including (where necessary) overalls, dust masks, gloves and protective eye wear.
- 3.2.2. Records are to be kept of all plant and machinery used on the Site and they are to be maintained at weekly intervals. The Principal Contractor will keep the records on site, monitor the situation and undertaken spot checks.
- 3.2.3. All plant will be properly maintained (greased, blown silencers replaced, saws

kept sharpened, teeth set and blades flat, worn bearings replaced etc.) and not left running when not directly in use. Furthermore, all plant will be inspected daily.

- 3.2.4. The use of diesel or petrol powered generators will be avoided where practicable and mains electricity or battery powered equipment will be used instead where practicable.
- 3.2.5. The areas of the Site where there are planned decommissioning activities will be securely fenced prior to the commencement of any site works. The site fencing will be a minimum of 1.8m in height and of such a standard so as deter trespassers onto the Site. The Principal Contractor shall inspect all fencing twice daily and rectify any defects or breaches immediately.
- 3.2.6. Plant and material stockpiles will be located away from nearby sensitive receptors including archaeological mitigation areas, hedgerows, trees, woodlands, water bodies (ditches, drains and ponds), and residential dwellings. It will be close to services to ensure clean water for welfare facilities where practicable.
- 3.2.7. Fires will be prohibited within the Site.
- 3.2.8. Hot works will be planned and managed under the control of a hot works permit which will be issued by the project team when required. The Principal Contractor will ensure that all hot works are compliant with the permits.
- 3.2.9. Designated routes for decommissioning vehicles will be implemented and used within and around the Site avoiding sensitive areas including close to archaeological mitigation areas, hedgerows, trees, woodlands, water bodies (ditches, drains and ponds), and residential dwellings. Spot checks will be undertaken by the Principal Contractor to ensure that the designated routes are properly implemented and used.
- 3.2.10. Deviation from approved Method Statements will be permitted only with prior approval following a formal review by the Principal Contractor and other relevant parties.
- 3.2.11. Records of daily water conditions will be kept.
- 3.2.12. Warning signs will be located frequently along the access route and at points where PRow and footpaths cross through the Site. The signs shall be retained

in place and maintained through the construction period and then removed in accordance with a timetable approved in writing with NYC. The warning sites will include ones that warn Contractors 'Public in road ahead proceed with care' and ones that warn pedestrians 'Warning construction site cross with care' located on the decommissioning site and on footpaths 45m before any decommissioning site interaction.

- 3.2.13. Only the quantity of materials required will be procured and ordered accurately in line with construction progress on site with delivery arranged for 'just in time' to reduce storage and material losses and waste.
- 3.2.14. Only approved supplies and sub-contractors with proven track records of environmental management working techniques will be used.
- 3.2.15. The Principal Contractor will set minimum and maximum temperatures for working outside safely. The temperature will be monitored with safe working conditions maintained (including by providing appropriate PPE) in temperature and weather extremes.
- 3.2.16. Storage of materials and chemicals will be kept secure to ensure safety and prevent theft or vandalism. The principal contractor will be responsible for establishing a safe system for accessing the material storage areas.

3.3. Landscape and Visual/Residential Amenity and Lighting

- 3.3.1. To avoid loss of existing vegetation including lowland mixed deciduous woodland, trees and hedgerows within the Site and the adjacent Ancient Woodland and traditional orchards adjacent to the Site will be protected during decommissioning through the implementation of tree protection fencing and exclusion zones in accordance with in British Standard (BS) 5837: (2012) Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations and National Joint Utilities Group (NJUG) Guidelines for the Planning, Installation and Maintenance of Utility Apparatus in Proximity to Trees, or guidance applicable at the time. The fencing will be removed following completion of the decommissioning phase.
- 3.3.2. The precise location of such protection measures will be informed by the supporting arboricultural impact assessment and ecological surveys (including ornithological, otter and water vole, badger, amphibian, bat, and invertebrate).

- 3.3.3. Decommissioning works will be carried out in phases to reduce the geographical extent of activities within the landscape.
- 3.3.4. Lighting usage will be minimised and switched off when not in use. Furthermore, where possible, decommissioning works will be restricted to daylight hours to avoid the potential disturbance to people and bats associated with mobile lighting. Where lighting is required in locations used by bats, the specification for the lighting including timings will be agreed in advance with the Ecological Clerk or Works. Furthermore, the light fittings will comply with the specifications and the requirements of the Institute of Lighting Professionals Guidance Note 01/20 Guidance notes for the reduction of obtrusive light and Guidance Note 08/23 Bats and Artificial Lighting at Night.
- 3.3.5. Lighting will be limited to the construction compounds only, with temporary lighting at the grid connection works and all lighting would be designed to limit any impact on sensitive receptors by directing lighting downward (with luminaire tilts restricted to 0%) and away from the Site boundary and existing vegetation. Furthermore, the lighting shall not be of a flashing or intermittent nature with Correlated Colour Temperature (CCT) of luminaries restricted to a maximum of 3000K. Passive infra-red motion sensors will be installed to all luminaries providing security lighting with the activation size set to large to that the light is only emitted for a short time period.
- 3.3.6. All unloading and loading of decommissioning materials and equipment would be provided within the Site boundary, limiting adverse effects on character and views due to activities outside of the Site. Furthermore, the movement of materials between stockpiles will be limited so that these do not shift over time to avoiding adding to a sense of fragmentation and instability of the landscape.

3.4. Ecology

- 3.4.1. Site baseline conditions are likely to change significantly over the Proposed Development's modelled operational 40-year lifespan, in line with habitat condition targets associated with BNG, resulting in large scale habitat creation. Prediction of these conditions and likely future decommissioning effects on biodiversity is considered to be unreliable. However, potential impacts from decommissioning are considered likely to be similar to those already described in relation to the construction phase, namely direct and

indirect disturbance, temporary/permanent habitat loss and vegetation removal.

- 3.4.2. Updated ecological surveys will be undertaken prior to the commencement of the Proposed Development's decommissioning to record the presence of protected and notable species and habitats and identify potential effects any necessary protection and mitigation measures to comply with planning policy and wildlife legislation applicable at the time.
- 3.4.3. The potential for adverse effects during the decommissioning phase will be controlled through standard good construction and environmental working practices as an integral part of the Proposed Development, which will be formalised by a detailed DEMP, through DCO requirement, following guidance applicable at the time.
- 3.4.4. A suitably qualified and experienced Ecological Clerk of Works ('ECoW') (or team of ECoWs) will be appointed prior to the commencement of decommissioning activities and through whom appropriate ecological advice will be provided throughout. The ECoW will be responsible for undertaking and/or co-ordinating checks for protected species before providing confirmation that decommissioning activities can commence. The ECoW will also maintain a watching brief as necessary throughout the decommissioning phase to ensure compliance with relevant legislation, including adhering to any protected species mitigation measures required, such as mitigation requirements associated with a European Protected Species Mitigation License or District Level Licensing application, if required.

3.5. Flood Risk and Drainage

- 3.5.1. Decommissioning activities will be carried out in accordance with guidance contained within best practice pollution prevention guidelines including (but not exclusively) CIRIA Control of water pollution from construction sites. Guidance for consultants and contractors (C532) and CIRIA Environmental good practice on site (fourth edition) (C762) to minimise pollution from sediment and surface water run-off generated during the decommissioning phase of the Proposed Development. In addition, major works such as large-scale earthworks, will be minimised during heavy precipitation events.
- 3.5.2. The Principal Contractor and relevant operating staff will register to receive flood alerts from the Environment Agency (EA). When a flood alert is issued,

the Proposed Development will be evacuated along the local highway network as a precautionary measure. The Site evacuation procedure applies to construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development. The evacuation procedure for the relevant phase of the Proposed Development will be contained in the detailed DEMP and will be covered by a suitably worded DCO requirement requiring the submission of details to be submitted to and approved by NYC.

- 3.5.3. Decommissioning activities will be paused during periods of elevated surface water flood risk (or presence of extensive surface water) to minimise the disruption to on Site overland flows.
- 3.5.4. Adopting best practice construction Site management with adequate contingency planning and following the principles of pollution prevention guidance will reduce the risk of water pollution during the construction and decommissioning phases. Measures include:
- The proper supervision of decommissioning activities using appropriately experienced and qualified staff and supervisors, and strict adherence to Health and Safety Regulations, Codes of Practice, and Consent Conditions;
 - The contractor will provide additional street cleaning facilities as necessary to keep highways leading to the Site clear of mud and prevent sediment contaminating surface water runoff. Wheel cleaning facilities, appropriate stockpiling of topsoil, suitable timing of earthwork and earthmoving operations, and dust suppression measures will be used to prevent migration of sediment and other potentially polluting substances onto the highway and into watercourses;
 - Vehicle and plant washing will be carried out on designated areas at least 10m from any watercourse or surface water body;
 - Contractors will use well maintained plant, but the likelihood of spills will be reduced through adoption of pollution prevention principles;
 - Where decommissioning activities occur in close proximity to watercourses, additional silt management measures will be required. Silt fences should be erected along the boundary of watercourses to minimise silt laden runoff entering the on-Site watercourses and the use of Siltbusters (or similar approved product) may be necessary;
 - All material and plant storage areas should be located outside areas

susceptible to flooding where practicable:

- Effective contingency plans will be put in place to manage the risk associated with accidents and/or unforeseen circumstances. For example, information relating to the use and location of accidental spill kits will be relayed to the decommissioning personnel; and
- The storage significant volumes of fuels, lubricants or chemicals on Site is not expected. Any relevant materials will be stored in accordance with the appropriate pollution prevention principles to reduce the likelihood of spillage and with an impermeable base and suitable bunding or double skinned tanks.

3.5.5. During the decommissioning phase the on-Site watercourses and the ground where potentially polluting construction activities are being undertaken or potential contaminating substances are stored will be inspected regularly to reduce the risk of unforeseen discharges from the Proposed Development (changes in colour, transparency, oil sheen or foam build up).

3.6. Cultural Heritage

3.6.1. With regards to impacts to below-ground archaeology, the mitigation measures to reduce the level of effect to these elements has been agreed within the **Archaeological Mitigation Strategy (AMS) (Appendix 6.2 of the ES [EN010140/APP/6.3.6.2])**. These measures include but are not limited to:

- The fencing-off of archaeological mitigation areas to prevent unauthorised vehicular access;
- Decommissioning staff to be made aware of archaeological mitigation areas;
- Above-ground foundations within the mitigation areas of the Site will be subject to the careful removal of the panels and bases; and
- Using Terrafirma or other suitable matting to avoid truncation and minimise compression of underlying archaeological deposits.

3.7. Transport and Access

3.7.1. A DCO requirement for a Decommissioning Traffic Management Plan ('DTMP') will be agreed with NYC prior to the commencement of the decommissioning phase of the Proposed Development, which will be secured through a DCO requirement. This will follow the principles of the oCTMP. It is not anticipated that the effects associated with decommissioning will be worse

than during the construction phase.

3.7.2. During the decommissioning phase the Principal Contractor will provide suitable points of access for decommissioning vehicles and as far as possible will maintain access to all existing PRowS within the Site, any diversion required to ensure the safety of the public would be temporary. Furthermore, the following best practice will be implemented:

- All decommissioning vehicles and plant will be fitted with flashing amber beacons, highways maintenance stickers and chevrons;
- The delivery of goods will be managed to ensure that arrival times occur outside of any sensitive periods;
- Large-scale vehicle movements will be timed to avoid peak hours on the local road network as far as reasonably practicable;
- On-site movements will be restricted to well within the Application Site and not near the perimeter or existing sensitive receptors, wherever possible;
- All vehicle movements on site will be confined to designated haul roads, vehicles shall not exceed the site speed limit of 10 miles per hour;
- Vehicles will be kept to hardstanding and roadways at all times. All hardstanding and roadways used for vehicles entering, parking or leaving the Application Site will be kept clean and in a maintained state;
- All persons working on or visiting the Application Site will park in the designated areas and sufficient space will be provided to ensure this;
- Designated pedestrian walkways will be set up and signed around the compound area and where required around site. They will be segregated from all site hazards;
- Plant will be located, where possible, well within the Application Site, away from the Application Site perimeter and existing sensitive locations;
- Ensure there is an adequate area of hard surfaced road between the wheel wash facility and the Application Site exit, where practicable;
- Ensure all vehicles switch off engines when stationary - no idling vehicles; and
- Where practical vehicles used for deliveries or removal of plant, equipment or materials will be re-used to avoid journeys by empty vehicles.

3.8. Land Use and Agriculture

3.8.1. The **outline Soil Management Plan [EN010140/APP/6.3.14.3]** has identified the decommissioning activities will not result in any adverse effects on soils and sets out the appropriate measures to be implemented, these include but are not limited to:

- Subsoil beneath the base of fixed infrastructure may then benefit from being subsoiled, to break any compaction;
- Access tracks will be removed as part of the decommissioning works, stone will be removed and any matting removal. The base will then be loosened by subsoiler or deep tine cultivators, depending on specific advice given by the soil expert at the time following and analysis of soil compaction and condition; and
- Topsoil from the storage bunds will be returned and spread to the depth removed (typically 10-15cm), the area will then be cultivated, likely in combination with the whole of each field.

3.8.2. No further mitigation is required in the **outline Soil Management Plan [EN010140/APP/6.3.14.3]**.

3.9. Noise and Vibration

3.9.1. The noise-generating activity and plant to be used during the decommissioning phase is expected to be similar to the construction phase. The decommissioning phase will be managed through implementation of the detailed DEMP(s).

3.9.2. The proposed working hours for decommissioning works as set out in section 2.7 will be strictly adhered to throughout, unless in an emergency or otherwise agreed with NYC.

3.9.3. Noise levels will be monitored prior to decommissioning commencing and at regular intervals during the works especially when potentially noisy activities are occurring close to sensitive receptors and residential dwellings along the Site boundaries.

3.9.4. Best Practicable Means (BPM), under Section 72 Control of Pollution Act (1974)1974 Act, will be applied, as far as reasonably practicable, during construction works to minimise noise and vibration at noise sensitive

receptors, including neighbouring residential properties and other sensitive receptors arising from decommissioning activities. These include, as appropriate:

- The proposals in regard to general noise mitigation would be in accordance with BPM as specified in BS5228 and would comprise the following, where possible: Mobile plant and stationary plant items to be routed or located to maximise separation distance from noise-sensitive receptors (where possible), accounting for Site-specific constraints;
- Using continuous flight auger piling, at locations where noise-sensitive receptors are within 20m;
- Using 'silenced' plant and equipment;
- Switching off engines where vehicles are standing for a significant period of time;
- Fitting of acoustic enclosures to suppress noisy equipment as appropriate;
- Select quieter plant units where possible;
- Operating plant at low speeds and incorporation of automatic low speed idling;
- Selecting electrically driven equipment in preference to internal combustion powered, hydraulic power in preference to pneumatic and wheeled in lieu of tracked plant;
- Properly maintaining all plant (greased, blown silencers replaced, saws kept sharpened, teeth set and blades flat, worn bearings replaced, etc.);
- Considering the use of temporary screening or enclosures for static noisy plant to reduce visual impacts;
- Certifying plant to meet any relevant EC Directive standards;
- Undertaking awareness training of all contractors in regard to BS5228 (Parts 1 and 2) which would form a prerequisite of their appointment; and
- Provide Site specific induction inclusive of good neighbourly behaviour.

3.9.5. The detailed DEMP(s) will set out a scheme for monthly reporting of information to local residents to advise of potential noisy works that are due to take place.

3.10. Air Quality

3.10.1. To reduce the impact of dust emissions on sensitive receptors, the Applicant will develop and implement a Dust Management Plan (DMP), which will form part of the detailed DEMP(s) approved by NYC prior to commencement of works. The DMP will document the relevant mitigation measures to be applied, and the procedures for their implementation and management to negate dust impacts.

3.11. Pollution Prevention

3.11.1. The monitoring of the Site (through the inspection of on-Site watercourses and the ground where potentially polluting decommissioning activities are being undertaken or potential contaminating substances are stored) to reduce the risk of unforeseen discharges from the Proposed Development (changes in colour, transparency, oil sheen or foam build up) and will increase the opportunity for any pollution event to be identified, contained and remediated early thereby minimising the opportunity for the pollution event to spread along a potential pathway and affect a sensitive receptor.

3.11.2. All accidents, incidents and near misses (including spills, dust, noise pollution etc.) will be reported to the Site Manager immediately. These will be recorded and investigated as appropriate. Details to be recorded will include: a description of the incident, potential contributory causes, adverse effects, measures implemented to mitigate adverse effects, and effectiveness of measures implemented to prevent incidents happening again.

3.11.3. A pollution response plan will be prepared by the contractor following appointment and prior to commencement of works on Site. The pollution response plan will follow appropriate guidance and cover matters including: Fuel delivery and fuel storage, provision and control of silt, working near waterbodies and sources of soil and groundwater contamination.

3.11.4. The pollution response plan will fully outline the measures to be adopted in the event of a spill or pollution incident. These will include:

- Stop release of fuel by removing the source or by using plastic sheeting and bunding.
- Excavate oil contaminated soil and place in an air tight container. This must be disposed of by a specialist waste handler as special waste.

- If spillage is onto a hard surface, all drains and gullies must be sealed immediately.
- Absorbent materials such as sand, sawdust, straw or oil absorbent granules/mats are to be placed over the contaminated area to soak up the spill. These should then be removed and stored and disposed of as special waste. Impermeable gloves and boots and disposable overalls are to be worn.
- The above items can be found in the oil spill kit, which will be made readily accessible to Site personnel.
- Spill kits will be available on Site and in all vehicles that transport hydrocarbon fuels for dispensing to other vehicles on the construction Site. Spill kits will be made up of materials/products that are in line with environmental practice. Additional spill kits and response kits will be located near to the watercourse crossings to prevent impacts on the watercourses and drainage ditches.

3.11.5. All incidents will be reported and it will be the responsibility of the Principal Contractor to notify relevant agencies and bodies.

3.12. Littering and Waste

3.12.1. Decommissioning waste is expected to consist of solar infrastructure including PV modules, mounting structures, cabling on or near to the surface, inverters stations, fencing and ancillary infrastructure, and the substation and BESS compound. This would be removed and recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice available at the time and following the waste hierarchy.

3.12.2. To minimise emissions, the following measures will be implemented:

- The waste hierarchy will be adhered to throughout decommissioning. The Principal Contractor will establish key performance indicators specifically for waste management;
- Stockpiles are to be sorted by type of material to enable recycling/reuse;
- A Site Waste Management Plan will be prepared and will provide details about the transportation and management of waste within and outside the Application Site;
- Any waste material arising from the site decommissioning activities suitable for reuse will be retained and stockpiled where possible to

incorporate such materials into the subsequent remediation and construction process;

- Suppliers of raw materials will be committed to reducing surplus packaging associated with the supply of any raw materials;
- Highways, PRowS and footpaths on and in the vicinity of the Site are to be kept free of debris and litter;
- Identification, storage and management of potentially contaminated materials on hardstanding or bunded areas to enable appropriate methods of waste disposal to be used which are linked to a robust waste disposal audit trail;
- All topsoil and subsoil will be handled and stored carefully to minimise the potential for damage to the soil structure to facilitate its reuse;
- Site office waste will be collected in separate containers to maximise the opportunities for recycling;
- Decommissioning the Proposed Development in such a way as to minimise the creation of waste and, where possible, maximise the use of alternative materials with lower embodied carbon, such as locally sourced products and materials with a higher recycled content where feasible.
- Reusing suitable infrastructure and resources already available within the Site where possible to minimise the use of natural resources and unnecessary materials (e.g., reusing excavated soil for fill requirements), through the development of a resource management plan as part of the detailed DEMP(s).
- Increasing recyclability by segregating construction waste to be re-used and recycled where reasonably practicable.
- Implementing staff minibuses to transport construction personnel to Site or using car sharing options where possible.
- Switching vehicles and plant off when not in use and ensuring decommissioning vehicles conform to current UK emissions standards; and
- Conducting regular planned maintenance of the decommissioning plant and machinery to optimise efficiency.

3.13. Certification

- 3.13.1. All plant will have regular inspections and be stored within the Site when not in use. All plant will also hold the appropriate certification and checks with copies held on file in the main Site compound.

4. Implementation of the Detailed DEMP(s)

- 4.1.1. The detailed DEMP(s) will set out all roles, responsibilities and actions required in respect of implementation of the measures described in this oDEMP, comprising:
- An organogram showing team roles, names, and responsibilities;
 - Training requirements for relevant personnel on environmental topics;
 - Information regarding on-site briefings and toolbox talks that will be used to equip relevant staff with the necessary level of knowledge to follow environmental control procedures;
 - Measures to advise employees of changing circumstances as the decommissioning phase progresses;
 - Communication methods;
 - Document control; and
 - Environmental emergency procedures.

5. Checking and Corrective Action

5.1. Monitoring and Reporting

- 5.1.1. To meet the requirement of the detailed DEMP(s), environmental monitoring of the Proposed Development and its impacts will be undertaken throughout the decommissioning phase. Monitoring requirements will be described in the detailed DEMP(s).
- 5.1.2. A Safety, Health and Environment Manager will be appointed as part of the monitoring process, whose responsibilities will be as follows:
- Observe site activities and report any deviations from the detailed DEMP following procedure set out in the detailed DEMP;
 - Act as day-to-day contact with relevant local authorities and other regulatory agencies, such as the Environment Agency;
 - Arrange formal site inspections to ensure the requirements of the detailed DEMP are implemented; and
 - Conduct a final review after the completion of works to ensure that the detailed DEMP has been implemented.

- 5.1.3. The Safety, Health and Environment Manager will be supported by an Ecological Clerk of Works where required, who will be present on Site regularly throughout the decommissioning phase when activities are commencing.

5.2. Records

- 5.2.1. The Safety, Health and Environment Manager or Project Manager will retain records of environmental monitoring and implementation of the detailed DEMP. This will allow provision of evidence that the detailed DEMP is being implemented effectively. These records will include:
- Environmental Action Schedule;
 - Licences and Approvals;
 - Results of inspections by the Safety, Health and Environment Manager/ ECoW/ Project Manager;
 - Other environmental surveys and investigations; and
 - Environmental equipment test records.
- 5.2.2. Any requirement for monitoring during the construction phase will be included in the detailed DEMP(s), and agreed with NYC.

5.3. Management Review

- 5.3.1. The detailed DEMP will be signed off upon completion of the decommissioning works by an appropriately qualified person(s).

Appendix 1 – Legislative Framework

Ecology and Nature Conservation

- Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) regulations 2019;
- Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (the Habitats Directive);
- Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000;
- Directive 2009/147/EC on the Conservation of Wild Birds (the Birds Directive);
- Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006;
- Protection of Badgers Act 1992;
- UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP) 1994; and
- Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981).

Landscape and Visual

- Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000.

Historic Environment

- Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979);
- National Heritage Act (2002);
- The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act (1990).

Hydrology and Flood Risk

- Environment Act 2021;
- Environmental Protection Act (EPA) 1990;
- Flood and Water Management Act 2010;
- The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017;
- Water Act 2014;
- Water Resources Act 1991; and
- Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2016 .

Hydrogeology, Geology and Ground Conditions

- Environment Act 2021;
- Environmental Protection Act (EPA) 1990;
- The Contaminated Land (England) Regulations 2006;
- The Landfill (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2005 ;
- The Special Waste (Amendment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2001; and
- The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017.

Traffic and Transport

- Transport Act 2000.

Noise

- Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA); and
- Part III of the Control of Pollution Act 1974 (CoPA).

Air Quality

- Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010; and
- Ambient Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC).