Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park

Environmental Statement

Volume 4 – Technical Appendices

Technical Appendix A5.6 – Outline Decommissioning and Restoration Plan

Document reference – EN010162/APP/6.4.5.~~6B~~6C

Revision number ~~3~~4

~~February~~March 2026

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009, APFP Regulation 5(2)(a)

Contents

A5.6.1 INTRODUCTION

1 This document provides an outline Decommissioning and Restoration Plan (oDRP) for the Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park, hereafter referred to as 'the Development'. At the end of the operation phase, the Development would require decommissioning. This oDRP sets out the proposed content of a final DRP, which will be submitted to Newark and Sherwood District Council (NSDC) for approval no less than 6 months before the decommissioning phase commences.

2 This oDRP will serve as the foundation for future iterations of the final DRP. The final version of the DRP will be reviewed and updated to ensure that decommissioning works are undertaken according to the legislation, regulations, and good practice at the time.

A5.6.1.1 OVERVIEW

3 The decommissioning phase of the Development involves cessation of the generation and export of electricity, the removal of most of the Development infrastructure (see section A5.6.2), and the restoration of affected areas of the Development (see section A5.6.3). Greater detail of the activities to take place and how they will be carried out will be included in the final DRP.

4 This oDRP includes commitments for the final DRP to:

- Set out what Development components will be decommissioned and what will be left in place;
- Set out a programme for the decommissioning and restoration phase;
- Review public rights of way through the Order Limits and propose any recommended changes;
- Provide a Decommissioning Traffic Management Plan (DTMP), including a Travel Plan;
- Provide a Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP), which will include:
  - A Decommissioning Noise Management Plan (DNMP);
  - A Pollution Prevention Plan (PPP);
  - A specification for Water Quality Monitoring;
  - A Decommissioning Site Waste Management Plan (DSWMP);
  - A Decommissioning Ecological Management Plan (DEcMP); and
  - An Incident Response Plan.

A5.6.1.2 PROGRAMME

5 The decommissioning phase of the Development is anticipated to take between 18 and 24 months to complete, including the removal of infrastructure and restoration of the land to the baseline. A programme setting out the decommissioning activities and phases will be included in the final DRP.

6 A number of the works proposed are anticipated to occur simultaneously to maximise efficiency and reduce time onsite. This includes restoration, which is expected to occur concurrently with the removal of structures and is incorporated into the relevant timescales. Flexibility in the timing and location of works is required in the decommissioning programme, e.g., to avoid

impact on nesting birds, accommodate weather events and other decommissioning risks. This will allow a shorter overall programme reducing the period of impact.

7 The overall programme and its component activities will be reviewed regularly throughout decommissioning to help minimise impacts and to accommodate prevailing and expected conditions.

A5.6.2 WHAT IS TO BE DECOMMISSIONED

8 Certain components of the Development are committed to be removed at decommissioning, whilst others would be decided at the time, and this would be documented in the final DRP.

9 This section sets out which components will definitely be removed, and which will be subject to decisions in the final DRP. "Infrastructure", as used below, refers to all Development components except vegetation planting and Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and other recreational features created as part of the Development, which are addressed in sections A5.6.2.3 and A5.6.2.4, respectively.

A5.6.2.1 INFRASTRUCTURE THAT MAY BE REMOVED OR RETAINED

10 Substations are potentially valuable pieces of infrastructure, and a decision on whether to remove any/all of these will be made at decommissioning stage and set out in the final DRP. Other Development infrastructure would be retained if it is required for the ongoing functioning of any substations that are to be retained; this comprises:

- Work Area 1, Solar PV – only the following components:
  - Any high-voltage cabling that passes through Work Area 1 and connects to substations to be retained, and is required for them to operate;
  - Any access tracks/roads, fencing and gates that are required for the ongoing maintenance and security of substations that are to be retained;
- Work Area 2, Cables – only any high voltage cabling that are required for the operation of substations to be retained;
- Work Area 4, Intermediate Substations;
- Work Area 5b, 400 kV Compound;
- Work Area 6, National Grid Staythorpe Substation;
- Work Area 7, Consented Staythorpe BESS Connection; and
- Work Area 8, Access Works, where required for the ongoing functioning of any substations that are to be retained.

11 Development infrastructure may be retained if it is required for the ongoing management of the land by the landowners. This may comprise:

- All work areas – access tracks and access points connecting land to the public highway; and
- All work areas – fencing and gates.

12 Work Area 8 – Access Works – includes improvements to the public highway, including passing places, which may be retained subject to

discussions with the relevant Highways Authority at the time of finalising the DRP.

13 For any buried cables proposed to be left in situ, an environmental risk assessment will be carried out and the Best Practicable Environmental Option (BPEO) will be implemented. Notwithstanding the findings of this risk assessment, where cables are buried under watercourses, ditches, roads and potentially sensitive vegetation, it is anticipated that the BPEO will be to leave the cable ducting (or the whole cables, if separate ducting isn't used) in situ.

A5.6.2.2 INFRASTRUCTURE TO BE REMOVED

14 In Work Area 1, Solar PV, almost all of the above-ground structures would be removed. These comprise, principally:

- Solar PV modules;
- Mounting frames and poles;
- Inverters and transformers;
- Pyranometers;
- Low- and medium-voltage cabling;
- Security hardware; and
- Fences and gates, except where required for ongoing land management by the landowner (e.g., access to a field from the public highway).

15 In Work Area 5a, BESS, all of the above-ground structures would be removed. These comprise, principally:

- BESS units;
- Electrical infrastructure, including inverters, transformers, switchgear and other electrical control equipment;
- Buildings and containers;
- Cabling;
- Security hardware;
- Fencing/gates; and
- Water tanks and associated infrastructure (if installed).

16 In other Work Areas, all infrastructure would be removed unless it is required to be retained, as set out above.

A5.6.2.3 VEGETATION PLANTING

17 The habitat changes brought about as a result of the Development may remain or be changed during decommissioning, and this will be set out in a plan to be prepared as part of the DRP.

18 Grassland created in the Work no. 1, Solar PV, areas will generally be used for agriculture. Whether this is to be arable or pasture depends on the landowner preferences at that time.

19 Land use in Work no. 2, Cables, areas will generally continue as they had been during the operation of the Development.

20 Land used during the operation of the Development as arable farmland enhanced for mitigation purposes would generally revert to just arable farmland, at the discretion of the landowner.

21 Woodland and hedgerows (except those created to form a second hedge alongside a permissive route) will be retained, as will the community orchard.

22 Other habitats created as part of the Development are assumed to be left and not changed at decommissioning. This would be confirmed, or other detail provided, in the final DRP.

A5.6.2.4 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY AND RECREATIONAL FEATURES

23 Prior to issue of the final DRP, the Applicant will carry out a review of the Public Rights of Way (PRoWs) within the Order Limits, in consultation with Nottinghamshire County Council. Should it be deemed that any PRoWs would better be re-located, whether back to their pre-Development locations or otherwise, the Applicant will apply for these changes to be made through the required process at that time.

24 Permissive paths that are to be created as part of the Development may be retained only if the landowner(s) at that time permit it. The Applicant will discuss each permissive path with the landowners, and present the outcome of this in the final DRP.

25 Other recreational features created as part of the Development may be retained only if the landowner(s) at that time permit it. The Applicant will discuss each recreational feature with the landowners, and present the outcome of this in the final DRP.

A5.6.3 SITE RESTORATION

26 Areas of the Development that are not to be retained beyond decommissioning would be changed to their future land use as part of decommissioning. The general process would be that the Development components would be removed, and then the land would be prepared for its future use. Details of the proposed land use, and the processes for decommissioning and restoration, would be set out in the DRP.

27 Controls to limit the potential for environmental impacts during decommissioning are set out in section A5.6.5 and A5.6.6, below.

28 Any temporary fencing required to facilitate the decommissioning and restoration of the land within the Order Limits will be set out in the final DRP.

A5.6.4 PROJECT POINT OF CONTACT

29 A point of contact with the Development will be provided for the public, including an e-mail address, phone number, postal address and website address. This will allow members of the public to report potential issues, seek clarification of timing and other matters of potential relevance to the public during the decommissioning phase. These details will be set out in the final DRP.

A5.6.5 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

30 A Decommissioning Traffic Management Plan (DTMP), including a Travel Plan, will be prepared as part of the final DRP. The DTMP will include similar measures to those included in the **ES Volume 4, Appendix A5.2: Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (~~oCTMP~~CTMP)**

[EN010162/APP/6.4.5.~~2C] submitted~~2Dsubmitted with the Application, covering issues such as transportation methods, pollution prevention and, noise management.

31 Access to dwellings and farms will be maintained during the decommissioning phase of the Development.

A5.6.6 DECOMMISSIONING ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN (DEMP)

32 A Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) will be prepared as part of the final DRP. The DEMP will include several other plans, as set out below, which will also be prepared as part of the final DRP.

A5.6.6.1 WORKING HOURS

33 Core working hours are proposed to be between 07.30 and 18.00, Monday to Friday, and 08:00 and 13.00 on a Saturday (unless in exceptional circumstances where the need arises to protect plant, personnel or the environment). In addition to this, a start-up and close-down period of up to an hour before and after the core working hours is proposed, which does not include the operation of plant or machinery likely to cause a disturbance.

34 Application of the above working hours will ensure that effects, such as from decommissioning noise and vibration, are minimised as far as reasonably practicable.

35 Exceptional circumstances in the above context are defined as reasonably unforeseeable circumstances which would result in the curtailment of decommissioning activity, causing an increase in health and safety risk to humans (determined by the decommissioning site manager) or a risk to wildlife. Examples include ensuring that work areas in proximity to public areas are fully secure outside of working hours, or to secure open excavations to protect wildlife.

36 NSDC will be notified of any exceptional situations or breaches of approved working hours within 48 hours of them occurring.

A5.6.6.2 ENVIRONMENTAL CLERK OF WORKS

37 An Environmental Clerk of Works (EnvCoW) will be appointed. The appointment shall be for the period from the start of decommissioning works for the Development to the end of the decommissioning period, whichever is later. The EnvCoW will be responsible for monitoring and reporting compliance with the environmental management measures proposed in the ES, DRP and other environmental control documents. The EnvCoW will also take advice from, and coordinate monitoring and reporting with, other specialists and clerks of work, such as the Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) specified in the DEcMP (section A5.6.6.13).

A5.6.6.3 CONTROL OF LIGHTING

38 Depending on the time of year, some work lighting may be required to facilitate decommissioning during the hours set out in section A5.6.6.1. The vast majority of decommissioning activities will be undertaken during daylight hours. In winter, the short daylight hours may require some temporary

lighting to be deployed during decommissioning, however this will be avoided as far as practicable.

39 It is anticipated there will be a presumption against lighting in sensitive areas without seeking the advice of specialists such as the EnvCoW. The plan will be drafted in line with best practice measures for lighting at the time of writing to reduce or avoid impacts on human and ecological receptors.

A5.6.6.4 CONTROL OF NOISE AND VIBRATION

40 Noise and vibration thresholds are set out in the Environmental Statement (ES) Chapter 12: Noise and Vibration [EN010162/APP/6.2.12], Section 12.4. Compliance with the noise and vibration thresholds will ensure that adverse impacts are unlikely.

41 A detailed Decommissioning Noise Management Plan (DNMP) will be developed as part of the final DRP, based on the finalised location of decommissioning activities and equipment to be used on site. The DNMP will identify any mitigation measures required to ensure the noise and vibration thresholds are not exceeded. The plan will be drafted in line with best practice noise and vibration measures at the time of writing.

A5.6.6.5 DUST SUPPRESSION AND CONTROL

42 Water needed for dust suppression on the access tracks and other works areas during periods of dry weather will be clean water. Clean water may be obtained from re-circulated clean or treated drainage waters.

43 The source of water to be used for dust suppression will be set out in the final DRP.

44 The details of the mitigation measures in place to control the generation and dispersion of dust will be confirmed. It is assumed that measures will be in line with those described in the oCEMP [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.3], or if in need of update, in accordance with best practice guidelines at the time of decommissioning.

A5.6.6.6 THE MANAGEMENT OF SEDIMENT AND SURFACE WATER

45 This section addresses the management of sediment and surface water runoff generated during the decommissioning phase of the Development.

46 Major decommissioning works (e.g., large-scale earthworks) will be minimised during heavy precipitation events. These are expected to be limited to decommissioning of Work no. 4, Intermediate Substations, Work no. 5a, BESS and Work no. 5b, 400 kV Compound.

47 Minimum buffer zone distances of 5 m from non-IDB (internal drainage board) drainage ditches and minimum of 8 m from IDB drainage ditches will be observed for all infrastructure with the exception of fencing, watercourse crossing and access tracks.

48 Drainage implemented as part of the Development, such as Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), may be removed during decommissioning. This will depend on landowner preferences at that time and will be confirmed within the final DRP. SuDS are likely to be useful during the

decommissioning itself and, therefore, if the SuDS are to be removed, they would likely be the last components to be removed in a given area.

A5.6.6.6.1 Location of Silt Traps and Silt Matting

49 Silt traps may be utilised to trap and filter sediment-laden runoff from decommissioning works at the Development.

50 Good practice will be followed prior to placement of silt traps adjacent to watercourses and land drains. Silt matting may be placed at the outfall of settlement lagoons to filter sediment during times of heavy rainfall. Semipermeable structures may be placed in drainage channels to intercept silt.

51 The silt traps and silt matting will be monitored by the EnvCoW and replaced when necessary.

A5.6.6.6.2 Location of Check Dams

52 Check dams will be installed in drainage ditches at regular intervals, where necessary. Check dams will facilitate the settlement of suspended solids by slowing the flow of water within the drainage ditches. Appropriately sized stone pitching will be used within the dam in order to provide a rough surface for water to pass over within the drainage ditch.

A5.6.6.6.3 Location of Settlement Lagoons

53 Settlement lagoons will be implemented where appropriate, typically around foundations and hardstanding areas. Settlement lagoons will be actively managed to control water levels and ensure that any runoff is contained, especially during times of rainfall. If required to achieve the necessary quality of the final runoff, further measures may include the use of flocculent to facilitate the settlement and removal of suspended solids.

A5.6.6.6.4 Outflow Monitoring from Settlement Lagoons

54 Settlement lagoon outflow will be inspected regularly and discharge may be pumped, when required, for maintenance purposes.

55 Treated water will be discharged onto vegetated surfaces and directed away from surface watercourses. Within all catchments, irrigation techniques, which may include the use of perforated discharge hoses, or similar, will be employed to rapidly distribute discharge across a vegetated area

56 ‘Siltbusters’ will be used to treat pumped/surplus water from lagoons during periods of heavy or persistent rainfall.

57 Silt mats may be used at the outfalls of settlement lagoons to further aid the settlement from earthworks drainage.

A5.6.6.6.5 Foul Drainage

58 Portable toilet facilities will be deployed for site personnel. The toilets will be emptied by a waste contractor thereby avoiding the need for onsite treatment and discharge and minimising potential effects on drainage ditches and watercourses.

A5.6.6.7 POLLUTION PREVENTION

A5.6.6.7.1 Vehicle Maintenance

59 Decommissioning activities will be managed to reduce risks of potential hydrocarbon contamination. It is assumed that measures will be in line with those described in the CEMP, or if in need of update, in accordance with best practice guidelines at the time of decommissioning.

60 Mitigation measures in relation to Non-Road Mobile Machinery (NRMM) will be detailed within the final version of this DRP. It is assumed that measures will be in line with those described in the CEMP, or if in need of update, in accordance with best practice guidelines at the time of decommissioning.

A5.6.6.7.2 Chemical Storage

61 Potentially contaminating chemicals stored on site will be kept within a secure bunded area to prevent any accidental spills from affecting hydrological resources. The details of the area will be confirmed within the final version of this DRP. It is assumed that measures will be in line with those described in the CEMP, or if in need of update, in accordance with best practice guidelines at the time of decommissioning.

A5.6.6.7.3 Management of Drainage from Surplus Materials

62 Careful consideration will be given to the storage areas for excavated soils. Storage areas will be either in a flat dry area away from watercourses or be protected by the addition of cut off drains above the storage areas to minimise the ingress of water.

63 Mineral soils will not be allowed to dry out and silt fences and mats will be employed to minimise sediment levels in runoff.

64 All stockpiled material will be stored at least 50 m from drainage ditches in order to reduce the potential for sediment to be transferred into the wider surface water system and will be regularly inspected to ensure that erosion of the material is not taking place.

A5.6.6.7.4 Water Infrastructure Watching Brief

65 Where works are carried out within proximity to water distribution infrastructure, a ‘Watching Brief’ will be conducted during works by a hydrologist or engineer.

66 The details of the Watching Brief will be confirmed within the final version of this DRP. It is assumed that measures will be in line with those described in the CEMP, or if in need of update, in accordance with best practice guidelines at the time of decommissioning.

A5.6.6.8 WATER QUALITY MONITORING

67 A surface water and groundwater monitoring programme will be commenced prior to the decommissioning of the Development. The aim of water monitoring is to detect any activity proving detrimental to water quality at the earliest opportunity during the decommissioning of the Development. This will allow action to be taken to prevent any further effect on water quality. Any pollution by the Development identified in this monitoring will be

remediated in accordance with the procedures set out in paragraphs 71 to 74 (Section A5.6.6.9).

68 The results of laboratory analysis of water samples will be tabulated and recorded throughout the decommissioning phase.

A5.6.6.9 EXISTING CONTAMINATED LAND OR SOIL

69 Site workers will be made aware of the risks from the possibility of encountering localised contamination through toolbox talks and the risks will be addressed through provision of welfare facilities on-site and the use of appropriate levels of personal protective equipment (PPE), the use of which will be enforced.

70 Site workers will adhere to health, safety and environmental precautions in order to reduce the potential for any accidents and incidents.

71 In the event that contaminated land is found at any time when carrying out the authorised development, which was not previously identified in the environmental statement, then no further development (unless otherwise approved in writing by the relevant authorities) shall be carried out within the identifiable perimeters of the area in which the suspected contamination is located. It must be reported as soon as reasonably practicable to the local planning authority, and where necessary, the Environment Agency, and the undertaker must complete a risk assessment of the contamination in consultation with the local planning authority, and where necessary, the Environment Agency.

72 Where the undertaker determines that remediation of the contaminated land is necessary, a written scheme and programme for the remedial measures to be taken to render the land fit for its intended purpose must be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority, following consultation with the Environment Agency.

73 Remediation must be carried out in accordance with this approved scheme.

74 Following the implementation of the remediation strategy approved under sub-paragraph (2), a verification report, based on the data collected as part of the remediation strategy and demonstrating the completion of the remediation measures must be produced and supplied to the local planning authority and the Environment Agency.

A5.6.6.10 ACCESS TRACKS

75 It is anticipated that many access tracks and new access points would be left in situ, though this will depend on landowner preferences at that time and will be confirmed within the final DRP.

76 In the case that access tracks are decommissioned, excavations will be backfilled using onsite soil, or soil reserves from construction, where possible. If required, appropriate soil will be imported. Appropriate soil management techniques will be used.

77 Once complete, the soils will be loosened with normal agricultural machinery and returned to the farmers for continued agricultural use. Alternatively, the soil will 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.

78 If any access is required where there are no existing tracks, temporary trackways (e.g., track matting) may be used to reduce the risk of rutting in areas without tracks that could lead to soil erosion and runoff, particularly during wet weather. Generally, vehicles that would undertake decommissioning activities off permanent tracks would result in similar impacts to those caused by agricultural vehicles in the existing arable baseline.

79 If heavily trafficked areas of the Development without permanent tracks are at risk of rutting within 10 m of a watercourse, then temporary track matting will be deployed in that area to prevent rutting.

A5.6.6.11 HANDLING OF MINERAL SOILS

80 All decommissioning activities will take place in line with the ES Technical Appendix A17.2, Outline Soil Management Plan (oSMP) [EN010162/APP/6.4.17.2], which is secured through a separate DCO Requirement to the DRP, or in accordance with best practice guidelines at the time of decommissioning.

A5.6.6.12 DECOMMISSIONING SITE WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

A5.6.6.12.1 Introduction

81 The aim of this Outline Decommissioning Site Waste Management Plan (DSWMP) is to protect the environment from issues arising from waste through the implementation of effective waste management plans which relate to the management of waste during the decommissioning phase of the Development.

82 The DSWMP is used to plan, implement, monitor and review waste minimisation and management during the decommissioning phase of the Development. It forms part of this DRP.

83 It is anticipated that all soils and stone excavated during decommissioning will be utilised on site as part of site restoration. This Outline DWSMP focuses on the Development components that are to be decommissioned, therefore.

A5.6.6.12.2 Legislation, Guidance, and Objectives

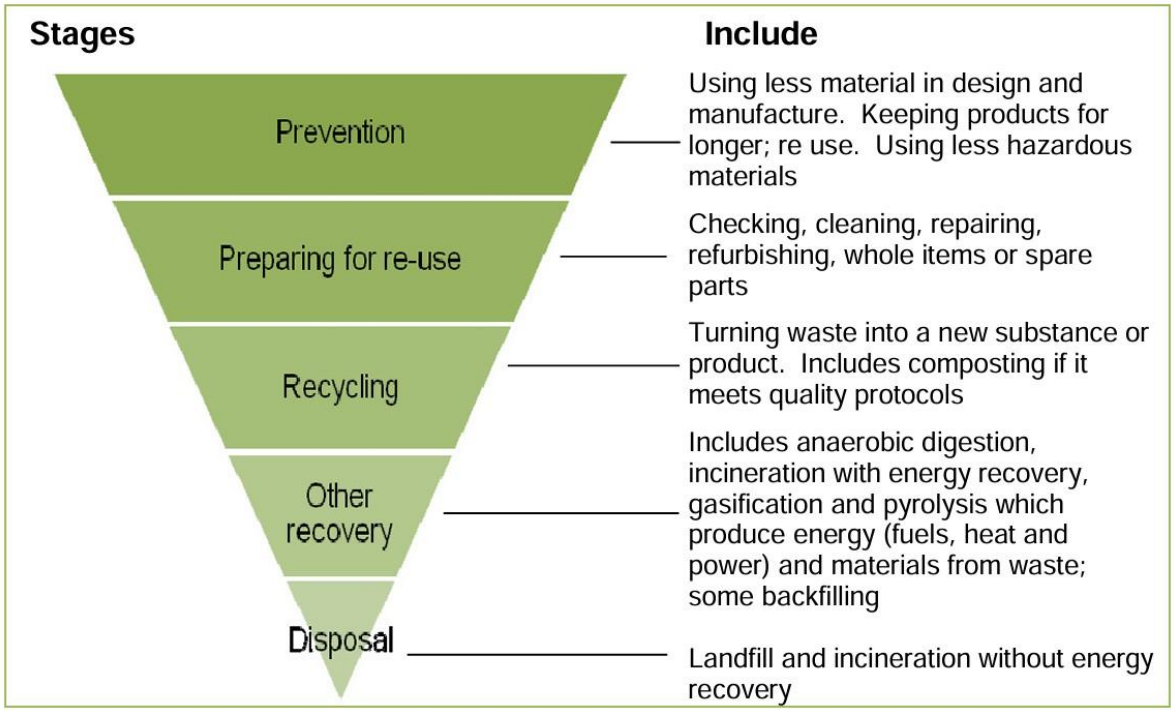
84 The final DSWMP will be implemented in line with the most recent policy and legislation at the time of decommissioning.

A5.6.6.12.3 The Waste Hierarchy

85 The 'Waste Hierarchy' (Inset A5.6.1) provides an outline approach of how waste management should be assessed in the DSWMP. The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 place a duty on all persons who produce, keep or manage waste to apply the Waste Hierarchy in order to minimise waste production at every stage of the development. The Waste Hierarchy promotes the selection of the Best Practicable Environmental Option (BPEO) and is the preferred option for management of waste.

86 The core waste management principles, as defined in the Waste Hierarchy, of prevention, reuse, recycle, recover and disposal are embedded in this DSWMP.

Inset A5.6.1: Waste Hierarchy[1]



A5.6.6.12.4 Waste Prevention

87 Minimisation of waste generation is achieved through careful design and creating a 'waste aware' culture on site. All reasonable actions will be taken to avoid the production, and/or minimise the volume, of waste produced by the Development. This can be through reducing consumption, using resources efficiently, and designing for longevity.

A5.6.6.12.5 Waste Separation for Reuse and Recycle

88 Where possible, the separation of waste will be carried out at the source of its generation in order to maximise opportunities for reuse and recycling. Segregation of waste will require training, monitoring and enforcement.

A5.6.6.12.6 Waste Storage, Disposal and Transportation

89 The details of storage, disposal, and transportation of waste will be confirmed within the final version of this DSWMP.

A5.6.6.12.7 Anticipated Waste Streams

90 The list below provides an indication of the expected principal waste streams:

- Solar PV modules;
- Mounting frames and poles;

[1] Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-applying-the-waste-hierarchy [accessed on 06/02/2025]

- Cables and sheathing/ducting;
- Electrical equipment, including but not limited to inverters, transformers, and switchgear; and
- Waste inert materials from buildings, foundations, tracks and roads.

91 As set out in Section 16.7, Waste, of ES Chapter 16, Miscellaneous [EN010162/APP/6.2.16], all materials are expected to be reused, recycled or have their energy recovered, in accordance with the waste hierarchy.

92 The Undertaker will share details of the expected principal waste streams with the County Council in advance of the decommissioning stage to help inform the waste needs assessment process.

93 The above list is not exhaustive, additional streams may be added within the final version of this DSWMP, and as decommissioning work progresses. A detailed breakdown of anticipated waste streams will be provided within the finalised DSWMP.

A5.6.6.13 DECOMMISSIONING ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

A5.6.6.13.1 Introduction

94 This Outline Decommissioning Ecological Management Plan (DEcMP) sets out the measures that will be adopted to safeguard ecological features during decommissioning.

95 An Extended Phase 1 Habitats Survey (or similar e.g., UKHab), including a desk study, and any required protected species surveys will be conducted prior to decommissioning, and appropriate methods/controls proposed to ensure that ecological effects and associated legal offences are avoided or reduced.

96 The DEcMP will be revised and updated prior to decommissioning to ensure, as far as is reasonable, that it remains fit for purpose.

A5.6.6.13.2 Aims And Objectives

97 The aim of the DEcMP is to provide a clear account of the measures by which sensitive ecological features will be safeguarded during decommissioning. The DEcMP explicitly addresses the ecological features most likely to be affected by work, as identified in the **ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010162/APP/6.2.~~8],~~8B]** [REP3-020]], although provision is made for unforeseen issues. In addressing this aim, the final DEcMP will address the following objectives:

- Define roles and responsibilities;
- Identify the potential adverse effects on ecological features;
- Set out measures to mitigate potential adverse effects and risks to ecological features; and
- Integrate mitigation with the requirements of protected species licensing.

A5.6.6.13.3 Relevant Legislation

98 Legal compliance is a key driver of this DEcMP. Legislation will be reviewed and the DEcMP updated to ensure compliance with relevant legislation at the time of decommissioning.

A5.6.6.13.4 Baseline Update

99 The current baseline (2025) cannot be assumed to be representative of conditions in c. 40 years' time. Therefore, an Extended Phase 1 Habitats Survey (or similar e.g., UKHab), including a desk study, and any protected species surveys required to identify potential effects will be conducted prior to finalising the DRP, and appropriate methods/controls proposed to ensure that ecological effects and associated legal offences are avoided or impacts reduced.

100 The results of the surveys will inform the preparation of the final DEcMP and subsequent revisions of it. Where required for legal compliance, all surveys will be undertaken by holders of the relevant protected species survey licences.

A5.6.6.13.5 Protected Species Licences

101 The DEcMP has been prepared on the basis of 'reasonable avoidance measures' and seeks to avoid the need for species mitigation licences in most scenarios.

~~101~~ However, it is possible that a small number of scenarios – involving a specific combination of species and construction activity – may require a species mitigation licence to proceed lawfully. ~~Licences may be required to facilitate works affecting the following legally protected species:~~

- ~~Great crested newt~~
- ~~Bats;~~
- ~~Otter;~~
- ~~Water vole; and~~
- ~~Badger.~~

102 The mitigation strategies for these species will be set out in in the licence applications and will be in addition to the measures in this DEcMP. The DEcMP will be revised so that is complementary to licencing requirements.

A5.6.6.13.6 Method Statements

103 The final DEcMP will contain method statements for work that has the potential to affect ecological resources and that should and can be controlled to minimise those effects.

104 The method statements will provide a framework for mitigating ecological effects during the works. They should be proportionate to the risks and based on the best available evidence, prevailing good practice guidelines, and the current understanding of the works.

105 The method statements would not provide definitive procedures to deal with every eventuality but, instead, provide some flexibility and give the ECoW the discretion to act in a way that is appropriate to the prevailing conditions. For the avoidance of doubt, the ECoW will have the authority to stop works and, if necessary, seek advice.

106 A method statement will be prepared, in the final DRP, for each distinct ecological feature requiring mitigation, broadly covering statutory and non-statutory designated sites and notable and protected habitats and species.

They will set out the conservation status, likely potential effects of work, and steps to be taken to safeguard them during works.

A5.6.6.13.7 Roles and Responsibilities

107 The key roles expected to manage the DEcMP include, but are not limited to those outlined in Table A5.6.1 below.

Table A5.6.1 Roles and Responsibilities

Role	Responsibility
Applicant	Owner of the scheme with overall responsibility.
Principal Contractor	Responsibility for ensuring compliance with DCO during decommissioning, including the implementation of the PRoWMP.
Environmental Clerk of Works (EnvCoW)	Responsible for monitoring and reporting environmental compliance during decommissioning, and this will extend to the DEcMP.
Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW)	Management of the risks to ecological features (including watercourses) on decommissioning sites, advising on protecting valued ecological features and providing practical solutions in line with this DEcMP.

A5.6.6.13.8 Communication

108 'Toolbox talks' will be given to site operatives as part of site inductions or at other appropriate times. Toolbox talks will cover all of the issues in this DEcMP in sufficient and proportionate detail such that operatives can fulfil their obligations in accordance with the risks associated with their work.

109 Infographics will be displayed prominently in the site office, welfare facilities and at other locations deemed appropriate, to clearly and concisely communicate certain ecological risks and features.

A5.6.6.13.9 Biosecurity

110 Invasive non-native species (INNS) are animals and plants that grow in an area in which they do not naturally occur and that have the ability to spread rapidly causing environmental, economic and health impacts. Invasive animal and plant species have been recorded or have the potential to be present within the Order Limits. Some INNS are not readily observable through visual checks and watercourses may act as a vector for them, potentially affecting the wider catchment.

111 Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) it is an offence to plant or otherwise cause to grow in the wild any such species listed in Schedule 9, Part I or Part II of Section 62 of Act. The Invasive Non-native Species (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 include a list of invasive species of special concern. Material containing invasive plant material must be disposed of as controlled waste.

112 The legal status of invasive plants will be confirmed, and if required, updated, in the final DRP.

113 Mitigation aims to prevent the spread of INNS.

- A pre-works survey will be undertaken to identify INNS or their potential presence in work areas, noting that some are not readily observable;
- The ECoW will assess the risk from the works and define an appropriate zone within which works will be restricted. This risk zone will be clearly fenced (if necessary) and communicated;
- If avoidance of a INNS risk zone is not possible, appropriate measures will be implemented. The measures are highly species and context dependent and may include:
  - A 'Check, clean, dry' protocol will be adopted by all site personnel, particularly for works in or near water;
  - Personnel working on or between sites and areas should ensure their clothing and footwear are cleaned to prevent spread;
  - Tracked vehicles should not be used in areas of risk;
  - All vehicles leaving a risk zone and/or transporting infested soil/materials must be thoroughly pressure-washed in a designated wash-down area before being used for other work;
  - Where cross-contamination is possible (i.e., from one site to another), vehicles or machinery will be designated to specific sites;
  - Material/water left after vehicles have been cleaned must be contained, collected and disposed of appropriately;
  - Minimise the movement of soils within site and move only soils that are free from contamination; and
  - Water abstraction will only be permitted from sources free from contamination.
- Species-specific management plans will be developed with input from suitably qualified professionals who may be required to undertake surveys, provide management advice, and to implement management actions, including onsite remediation or removing contaminated material offsite; and
- Management plans will be made available to relevant site personnel and will include maps showing the locations of INNS and associated exclusion and management areas; the responsibilities of the workforce; good practice biosecurity for minimising the spread of INNS (including importing to site).

A5.6.6.14 INCIDENT RESPONSE PLAN

114 An incident response plan will be developed and included in the DEMP as part of the final DRP.