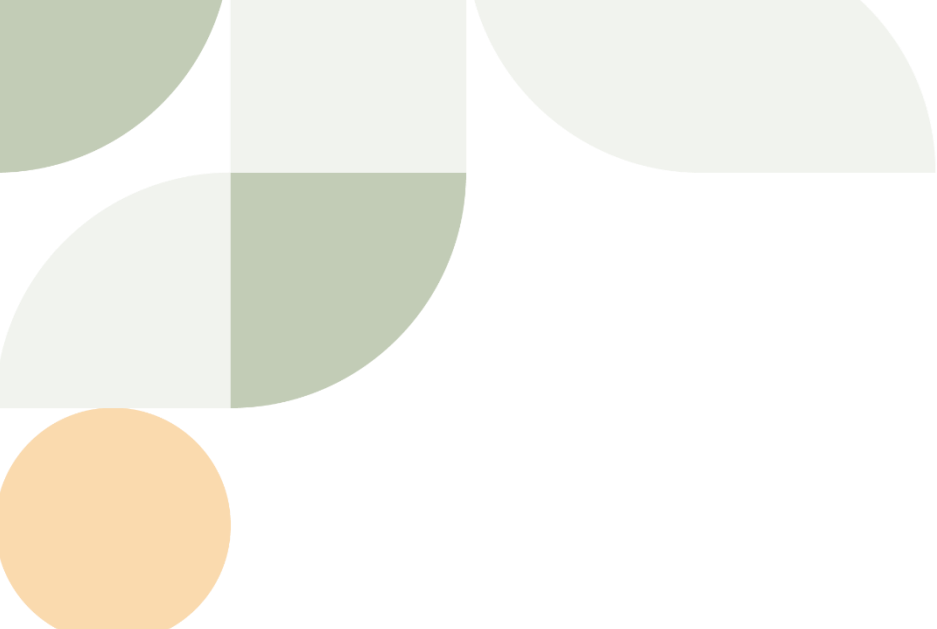




Lime Down

Solar Park

Environmental Statement

Volume 3, Appendix 10-1: Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Outline Arboricultural Method Statement (Tracked)

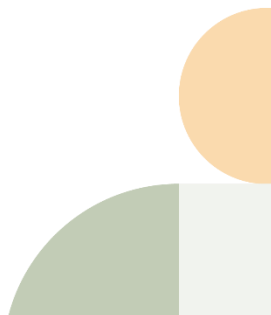
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Schedule of Changes

<u>Revision</u>	<u>Section Reference</u>	<u>Description of Changes</u>	<u>Reason for Revision</u>
<u>2</u>	<u>Table 7</u>	<u>Updates to figure references.</u>	<u>Removal of North Bincombe Wood figures.</u>
	<u>4.1.10</u>	<u>Updates in relation to North Bincombe Woods.</u>	<u>Updates made at Deadline 7 of Examination in response wording provided by Wiltshire Council Arboriculture team following ISH7.</u>
	<u>Table 9</u>	<u>Updates to tree references.</u>	<u>Removal of North Bincombe Wood figures.</u>
	<u>6.8.8</u>	<u>Updates in relation to protective fencing adjacent to Surrendell Wood.</u>	<u>Updates made at Deadline 7 of Examination in response wording provided by Wiltshire Council Arboriculture team following ISH7.</u>
	<u>6.9.8</u>	<u>Updates in relation to buffers from Surrendell Wood.</u>	<u>Updates made at Deadline 7 of Examination in response wording provided by Wiltshire Council Arboriculture team following ISH7.</u>
	<u>6.13</u>	<u>Updates in relation to HDD works in proximity of trees.</u>	<u>Updates made at Deadline 7 of Examination in response wording provided by Wiltshire Council Arboriculture team following ISH7.</u>

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1 Introduction

1.1 Appointment

- 1.1.1 Lanpro Services Ltd. was appointed by Lime Down Solar Park Ltd (the 'Applicant') to undertake a BS5837:2012 tree survey and provide an Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Outline Arboricultural Method Statement for the proposed Lime Down Solar Park (hereafter referred to as 'the Scheme').
- 1.1.2 The Scheme's Order Limits contain an area of approximately 1,237 hectares (ha) of land, largely located within the administrative area of Wiltshire Council with small areas of existing highway within the administrative area of South Gloucestershire Council. The Order Limits include five Solar Array areas (known as 'the Solar PV Sites'), cable corridors between the Solar PV Sites and associated highway accesses, visibility splays and temporary construction compounds.
- 1.1.3 The Scheme is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). This report has therefore been prepared as part of a Development Consent Order (DCO) application under the Planning Act 2008.
- 1.1.4 The following appendices and figures are to be read in conjunction with this report and are provided separately:
- **Appendix 10-2 Definitions for Tree Survey Schedule [EN010168/APP/6.3]**
 - **Appendix 10-3 Tree Survey Schedule [EN010168/APP/6.3]** provides guidance as to the nature and quality of the existing tree stock within and adjacent to the Site;
 - **ES Figures 10-1-1 to 10-1-23 Tree Constraints Plans [EN010168/APP/6.2]** illustrates the location of the surveyed trees, the assigned tree retention category (A, B, C and U), the canopy spread at the four cardinal points (north, east, south and west) and the extent of Root Protection Areas (RPA); and
 - **ES Figures 10-2-1-10-2-23 Tree Impact Plans [EN010168/APP/6.2]** illustrates the possible tree removals, pruning and root impacts of the Scheme.

1.2 Report Objectives

- 1.2.1 To provide the results of the tree survey and an assessment of the Scheme in regard to its potential impacts on existing trees, tree groups and woodlands. This report is intended for submission with the DCO application.

- 1.2.2 An Outline Arboricultural Method Statement has also been provided within this report to detail how any arboricultural impacts identified will be avoided, mitigated or compensated for.

2 Methodology

Desk Study

- 2.1.1 A desk study was undertaken in 2024 and 2025 to review records of existing ancient woodlands, ancient and veteran trees and trees protected by a TPO or Conservation Area designation. **Table 1** below details the information reviewed in the desk study.

Table 1 Information Sources for Desk Study

Feature	Data Source
Ancient woodlands	Natural England – Ancient Woodland (England) Ref 10-11 reviewed on 5th June 2025.
Ancient and veteran trees	The Woodland Trust – Ancient Tree Inventory Ref 10-12 reviewed on 5th June 2025.
Tree Preservation Orders	GIS shapefiles for all recorded TPOs received from Wiltshire Council on 30th May 2025.
Conservation Areas	Historic England – Conservation Areas Ref 10-15 reviewed on 3rd June 2025.

- 2.1.2 The datasets above were overlaid onto the Order Limits within Quantum Geographic Information Service (QGIS) Ref 10-16 software. The desk study considered all land within the Order Limits as well as within 50 metres (m) of the boundaries of the Order Limits. The 50m distance from the Order Limits was chosen as this is considered the maximum influencing distance of the Scheme on arboricultural features in terms of potential impacts to roots, canopies and veteran tree buffer zones.

High Level Tree Surveys at the Solar PV Sites

- 2.1.3 BS5837:2012 guidance states that all trees with a stem diameter above 75mm diameter at a height of 1.5m should be recorded at a proposed development site. However, given the number of trees that would need to be recorded under BS5837:2012 and the size of the Scheme, a high level and more proportionate survey approach was followed which aimed to provide sufficient tree constraints information to inform the design of the Solar PV Sites in a timely and proportionate manner. This approach is explained below.
- 2.1.4 Each of the Solar PV Sites was divided into numbered fields. For example, Lime Down A comprises twelve fields referred to as A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, A6, A7, A8, A9, A10, A11 and A12 (refer to **ES Figure 2-2: Field Boundaries and Numbering [EN010168/APP/6.2]**). Within each field, the tree with the largest stem diameter (and therefore the largest Root Protection Area) was identified and recorded on the northern, eastern, southern and western boundaries of that field. In addition to identifying the largest tree on each field boundary, all ancient

and veteran trees (see definitions in **Table 2** below) within the Solar PV Sites or within 15m of the Solar PV Sites were also recorded in accordance with the survey parameter defined in BS5837:2012 Ref 10-13. All trees were recorded in accordance with BS5837:2012. The following data was recorded for each arboricultural feature:

- Reference number (T = individual tree, G = group of trees, W = woodland, preceded by the field reference where feature was located within the Solar PV Sites e.g. A4-T1, A4-T2 etc);
- Species (common name and scientific name);
- Tree height in metres (to nearest half metre for dimensions up to 10m and nearest whole metre for dimensions over 10m);
- Stem diameter measured at 1.5m height (to nearest 10mm);
- Branch spread at four cardinal points - north, east, south and west (to nearest half metre for dimensions up to 10m and nearest whole metre for dimensions over 10m);
- Existing height above ground level of a) first significant branch and direction of growth and b) canopy;
- Life stage (young, semi-mature, early-mature, mature, over-mature, ancient);
- Comments;
- Estimated remaining contribution in years (<10, 10-20, 20-40, 40+); and
- BS5837:2012 quality category A-C and U and subcategory (1-3).

2.1.5 This approach produced tree constraints information for the design team which informed the minimum arboricultural buffer required for each field boundary in order to avoid arboricultural impacts.

2.1.6 High level tree surveys of the Solar PV Sites were undertaken between November 2023 and August 2024 by Ross Gamblin MArborA HNDArb and Chris Harris HNDArb. A Forestry Pro Laser was used to record tree height, a laser Distometer D110 was used to measure canopy spread and stem diameter was measured using a Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) measuring tape.

2.1.7 Tree positions were plotted directly onto topographical surveys provided.

2.1.8 Hedgerows were not generally recorded and are not included in this report as they are considered separately in **Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010168/APP/6.1]**.

Table 2: Definitions and Characteristics of Ancient and Veteran Trees and Ancient Woodland

Ancient/Veteran Tree	Definition
Ancient Tree	An ancient tree is one that has passed beyond maturity and is old or aged in comparison with other trees of the same species. Definition as per the Ancient Tree Forum guidance.
Veteran Tree	A veteran tree is a survivor that has developed some of the features found on an ancient tree, not necessarily as a consequence of time, but of its life and environment. Definition as per the Ancient Tree Forum guidance. As per Natural England advice the following are characteristics of a veteran tree, the more characteristics a tree has the stronger the indication that it is a veteran: - Girth large for the tree species concerned - Major trunk cavities or progressive hollowing - Naturally forming water pools - Decay holes - Physical damage to trunk - Bark loss - Large quantity of dead wood in the canopy - Sap runs - Crevices in the bark, under branches or on the root plate sheltered from direct rainfall - Fungal fruiting bodies (e.g. from heart rotting species) - High number of interdependent wildlife species - Epiphytic plants - An 'old' look - High aesthetic interest
Ancient Woodland	An area that has been wooded continuously since at least 1600 AD. It includes ancient semi-natural woodland and plantations on ancient woodland sites. Definition as per NPPF,

Cable Route Corridor Tree Survey

- 2.1.9 A BS5837:2012 of the Cable Route Corridor was undertaken between February 2025 and May 2025 by Ryan Wilson BSc (Hons), Ho Ming Mak FdSc Arb and Chris Harris HNDArb. As above, a Forestry Pro Laser was used to record tree height, a laser Distometer D110 was used to measure canopy spread and stem diameter was measured using a Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) measuring tape.

- 2.1.10 The survey recorded all individual trees, groups of trees and woodlands within the Cable Route Corridor and within 15m of the Cable Route Corridor and data recorded as per paragraph 3.1.4. Trees along the Cable Route Corridor were given a four digit reference number with no field reference (e.g. T0001, G0001, W0001).
- 2.1.11 Hedgerows were not recorded and are not included in this report as they are considered separately in **Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010168/APP/6.1]**.
- 2.1.12 Tree groups and woodlands were identified where trees formed cohesive arboricultural features. Principal trees within a group were plotted individually. Maximum stem diameters, tree heights and canopy spreads of the groups and woodlands were recorded. Insignificant trees (those with a stem diameter of less than 75mm at 1.5m height) were omitted from the survey.
- 2.1.13 When surveys began in February 2025, the Cable Route Corridor being considered was wider than that shown in the final Order Limits, therefore in some areas, a wider tract of tree data was obtained during surveys.
- 2.1.14 No topographical survey was available for the Cable Route Corridor therefore trees were mapped on ARCGIS Survey123 software (Ref 10-23) with a relative accuracy of 2-3m and later plotted and post processed in QGIS.

Focused Tree Surveys

- 2.1.15 Additional tree constraints data was collected in targeted areas of the Order Limits once additional information was received on the locations of:
- temporary construction compounds for the Cable Route Corridor;
 - temporary construction vehicular accesses for the Cable Route Corridor;
 - permanent vehicular accesses and visibility splays for the Solar PV Sites;
- 2.1.16 A desktop review of the above information was undertaken and areas where potential tree impacts may occur (such as removal, root or canopy impacts) were identified for survey. By surveying these targeted areas, data was collected to inform this impact assessment and required mitigation and compensation.
- 2.1.17 Targeted tree surveys in accordance with BS5837:2012 were undertaken between August 2024 and June 2025 by Ryan Wilson BSc (Hons), Ho Ming Mak FdSc Arb and Chris Harris HNDArb using a Forestry Pro Laser, laser Distometer D110 and DBH measuring tape. BS5837:2012 data categories listed in paragraph 2.1.4 were collected and trees along the cable route were given a four digit reference number with no field reference (e.g. T0001, G0001, W0001). Trees, groups and woodlands recorded within the Solar PV Sites on the focused surveys were given a sequential number, preceded by the Solar PV area

reference e.g. A-T1, B-G1, C-W1, D-W2, E-T1, rather than specific field numbers.

- 2.1.18 No topographical surveys were available for temporary construction compounds therefore trees were mapped on ARCGIS Survey123 software with a relative accuracy of 2-3m and later plotted and post processed in QGIS.
- 2.1.19 Trees within the influence of temporary construction vehicular accesses for the Cable Route Corridor were surveyed prior to topographical surveys being available therefore trees were mapped on ARCGIS Survey123 software with a relative accuracy of 2-3m and later plotted to align to the topographical surveys and post processed in QGIS.

Survey Constraints and Limitations

- 2.1.20 The positions of all trees, groups of trees and woodlands plotted in the Cable Route Corridor survey were estimated from aerial imagery with the assistance of GPS hardware only and not based on a topographical survey. This is not considered to be a significant constraint to this impact assessment given the accuracy of tree constraints (stem position, root protection areas and canopy spreads) is estimated to be within 2-3m.
- 2.1.21 Access to some tree stems and canopy spreads by the surveyor was sometimes impeded due to a range of site-specific factors such as dense vegetation. Estimates were therefore made of dimensions were necessary and recorded as estimates in the tree survey schedule.
- 2.1.22 This was a ground level visual assessment only. The assessment was for the purposes of planning and development. No internal decay detection tools have been used in this assessment; therefore, this was not a full health and safety assessment.
- 2.1.23 The findings and recommendations contained within this report are valid for a period of two years from the date of survey.

Tree Constraints Mapping

- 2.1.24 All tree constraints were mapped in QGIS software.
- 2.1.25 RPAs were calculated using the standard formulas provided in BS5837:2012 which provides an RPA circle with a radius 12 times the stem diameter of the tree. Veteran Tree Buffer Zones for ancient and veteran trees were calculated by multiplying the stem diameter of the tree by 15 or by adding 5m to the maximum canopy spread, whichever was larger.

Assessment of Impacts

- 2.1.26 The following information for the design of the Scheme was provided to inform this arboricultural impact assessment:

- **Chapter 3: The Scheme [EN010168/APP/6.1];**
- **Volume 2, Works Plan [EN010168/APP/2.3];**
ES Figure 3-1: Indicative Site Layout Plan [EN010168/APP/6.2];
- **Volume 7, Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.18];**
- **ES Figure 3-2: Key Construction Phase Features [EN010168/APP/6.2];**

2.1.27 The above information was reviewed and wherever possible, imported as shapefiles into QGIS and overlaid with the tree constraints data.

2.1.28 Arboricultural impacts were then assessed to determine where tree removals, canopy impacts and root impacts may be incurred given the embedded mitigation measures inherent to the design of the Scheme as described in Section 3.2 and further detailed in:

- **Chapter 3: The Scheme [EN010168/APP/6.1];**
- **Cable Route Construction Method Statement [EN010168/APP/6.3]**
- **Volume 7, Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.12];**
- **Volume 7, Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.13];**
- **Volume 7, Outline Decommissioning Strategy [EN010168/APP/7.14];**
- **Volume 7, Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.18]; and**
- **Volume 7, Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy [EN010168/APP/7.19].**

2.1.29 The assessment of impacts therefore fully considered the embedded mitigation (refer to Section 2.2 below) and what impacts may still occur to arboricultural features given that embedded mitigation. The assessment is based on a number of assumptions provided in Section 3.3.

2.1.30 For the Cable Route Corridor, part of the embedded mitigation includes micro-siting around sensitive environmental features. Micro-siting, within the context of arboriculture, is a method of avoiding or minimising impacts to arboricultural features within the Cable Route Corridor by moving all construction activities and elements outside of tree canopies and Root Protection Areas. It is not possible to accurately predict, ahead of construction stage, which trees can be micro-sited around, although firm commitments within the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan have been made to micro-site (or otherwise avoid using a trenchless solution) around veteran trees and Category A high

quality trees. Consequently, the impact assessment for the Cable Route Corridor has shown all arboricultural features which bisect the Cable Route Corridor (and are not veteran or Category A) as potentially requiring removal, presenting a 'worst case' tree removal assessment.

- 2.1.31 Where possible, a magnitude of impact has been assigned as per the definitions in **Table 3** below.

Table 3: Magnitude of Impact

Magnitude of Impact	Description
High	Tree removal or significant tree pruning which alters the value/sensitivity of an arboriculture feature.
Medium	Canopy or root impacts which do not alter the value/sensitivity of an arboricultural feature but may have a medium to long term impact on tree condition, health and safe life expectancy.
Low	Canopy or roots impacts which do not meet the definitions of 'high' or 'medium' above and are likely to have a temporary/short term impacts on the condition of the arboricultural feature, health and safe life expectancy.
Negligible	Very minor impact to the arboricultural feature which does not meet the definitions of high, medium or low magnitude.
Neutral	No feasible impact to the arboricultural feature

2.2 Embedded Mitigation

- 2.2.1 Embedded mitigation describes measures that have been incorporated into the Scheme design to reduce impacts to environmental features. Of relevance to arboriculture are the following embedded mitigation measures contained within the documents listed in paragraph 3.1.28:

Embedded Construction Mitigation Measures

- Significant tree and woodland planting is proposed within the Solar PV Solar PV Sites to compensate for any tree losses associated with the Scheme – secured in the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (OLEMP) at **Volume 7, Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.18]**;
- No new landscaping is proposed within the veteran tree buffers zones to avoid soil disturbance to veteran trees during construction – secured in the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (OLEMP) at **Volume 7, Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.18]**;
- Cable Route Corridor design work has been undertaken in order to retain, avoid and fully protect identified veteran trees to provide sufficient space to allow for open cut trenching around veteran tree buffer zones ensuring

impacts to veteran trees are avoided – secured in the Works Plan at **Volume 2, Works Plan [EN010168/APP/2.3]**;

- Micro-siting will be employed to avoid the removal or occurrence of root or canopy impacts to veteran trees and category A high quality trees within the Cable Route Corridor. If micro-siting cannot be achieved around such arboricultural features, trenchless techniques such as Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) will be utilised to avoid impacts to veteran trees and category A trees – secured at **Volume 7, Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.12]**;
- An Arboricultural Clerk of Works (ACoW) will be required to guide consented tree removal and pruning and ensure tree protection measures are put in place and maintained to safeguard trees during construction – secured at **Volume 7, Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.12]**;
- Tree removal along the Cable Route Corridor will preferentially target trees of lower quality over those of higher quality. Veteran trees will not be removed in the Cable Route Corridor. The order of priority for tree removal will be as follows: Category U, C, B and lastly Category A trees – secured in at **Volume 7, Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.12]**;
- Tree pruning requirements will be specified by an ACoW in collaboration with the construction contractor. Pruning will be minimised wherever possible. The order of priority for tree pruning will be as follows: Category U, C, B and A trees. All tree works will be undertaken by a suitably qualified arborist working in accordance with British Standard 3998:2010 Tree Work – Recommendations (Ref 10-17) – secured at **Volume 7, Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.12]**;
- Temporary construction compounds will be sited outside of the canopy spreads and RPAs of adjacent trees and woodlands – secured at **Volume 7, Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.12]**;
- Trees within the Solar PV Site will be protected throughout construction by the installation of perimeter fencing which will be installed prior to construction. Any trees within the Solar PV Site not protected by perimeter fencing will be protected with Tree Protection Fencing for the duration of construction – secured at **Volume 7, Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.12]**;
- Retained trees along the Cable Route Corridor will also be protected with tree protection fencing for the duration of works as appropriate in sections of

the Cable Route Corridor – secured at **Volume 7, Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.12];**

- Fit for purpose temporary ground protection measures will be used where unavoidable vehicle/machinery access is required within the RPAs of retained trees - secured at **Volume 7, Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.12];**
- Any excavation work within the RPAs of retained trees (such as for cable trenches, access tracks or permanent/temporary access points) will be undertaken using hand tools only and the root pruning methodology within the Outline Arboricultural Method Statement. All excavation work within RPAs will also be supervised by the ACoW – secured at **Volume 7, Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.12];**
- Tall machinery working near the canopies of retained trees will be accompanied by a banksman to ensure no damage occurs to tree stems and canopies - secured at **Volume 7, Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.12];**
- All machinery used for trenchless solutions (e.g. HDD) will be situated outside the RPAs of retained trees. Entry and exit points for the trenchless solutions will be sited more than 15m from retained tree stems. Trenchless solution depths will exceed 1m under RPAs - secured at **Volume 7, Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.12];**
- Machinery movements and spoil/material storage will avoid the RPAs of retained trees within the Solar PV Site and the Cable Route Corridor - secured at **Volume 7, Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.12];** and
- Dust and sediment controls will be in place for relevant works near ancient woodlands along the Cable Route Corridor and near the Solar PV Site - secured at **Volume 7, Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.12].**

Embedded Operation Mitigation Measures

- Perimeter fencing (wooden post fencing with deer wire mesh to a height of 2.5m) will be installed and remain in situ during operation of the Solar PV Site. This will suitably protect trees on the field boundaries of the Site from operational impacts such as maintenance and replacement activities – secured at **Volume 7, Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) [EN010168/APP/7.18].**
- New tree and woodland planting is not proposed within the open cut sections of Cable Route Corridor, ensuring that future tree removal will not be required to remedy possible tree root interference with the cables –

secured at **Volume 7, Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) [EN010168/APP/7.18]**

- No new tree planting is proposed within the veteran tree buffer zones of identified veteran trees to ensure no future shading and resulting decline in the health and longevity of veteran trees – secured at **Volume 7, Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) [EN010168/APP/7.18]**;
- Replacement activities will be facilitated through use of access tracks installed during the construction of the Scheme, ensuring no additional root or canopy impacts to retained trees during replacement activities – secured at **Volume 7, Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.13]**;
- Permanent access points and visibility splays for the Solar PV Site will be the same as those used for construction, ensuring no additional tree removal or pruning during operation of the Solar PV Sites – secured at **Volume 7, Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.13]**; and
- All maintenance and replacement activities near veteran trees will be supervised by an ACoW to ensure no machinery or materials enter the Veteran tree buffer zone. This may be achieved through implementation of ground protection and/or tree protection fencing around the veteran tree buffer zones during maintenance and replacement activities – secured at **Volume 7, Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.13]**.

Embedded Decommissioning Mitigation Measures

- Permanent access points and visibility splays for the Solar PV Site will be the same as those used for construction, ensuring no additional tree removal or pruning during decommissioning of the Solar PV Site – secured at **Volume 7, Outline Decommissioning Strategy [EN010168/APP/7.14]**;
- Decommissioning and removal of solar PV panels will take place using the existing access tracks installed at the construction stage, ensuring no additional tree root or canopy impacts to retained trees during decommissioning works – secured at **Volume 7, Outline Decommissioning Strategy [EN010168/APP/7.14]**;
- Cabling will likely be left in situ after decommissioning which will avoid any future tree removal or root impacts from excavation to remove cables. Should cabling require removal, it may be possible to remove cabling at the jointing bays and extracting it from the ducting to avoid the need for significant lengths of open cut trenching which may harm trees – secured at

**Volume 7, Outline Decommissioning Strategy [EN010168/APP/7.14];
and**

- Prior to decommissioning of the Scheme, a tree survey must be undertaken in accordance with BS 5837:2012 (or inline with most recent adopted standard and industry guidelines) of the Order Limits. An Arboricultural Impact Assessment must be produced alongside an Arboricultural Method Statement to guide the decommissioning works and ensure potential tree impacts are identified, mitigated and compensated for where appropriate - secured at **Volume 7, Outline Decommissioning Strategy [EN010168/APP/7.14];**

2.3 Assumptions

2.3.1 The methodology for Arboriculture has considered the following assumptions:

- In line with the embedded mitigation commitments, tree removal will be avoided wherever feasible. It is assumed however that all trees except those classified as veteran and category A trees within open-cut sections of the Cable Route Corridor may require removal to achieve the required working widths of 25m and a 10m wide permanent easement for the cables . Veteran and category A high quality trees are to be retained and protected via micro siting. Further details on embedded mitigation can be found at section 2.2 above.
- It is assumed that all arboricultural features standing outside of the Order Limits but adjacent to open-cut Sections of the Cable Route Corridor can be retained.
- It is assumed that all arboricultural features in trenchless solution (e.g. HDD) Sections of the Cable Route Corridor will be retained and that the permanent easement for sections of the cable that will be installed using a trenchless solution will not require any tree removal as the depth of the cable will far exceed the potential influence of tree roots.
- Visibility splay requirements for temporary access points into the Cable Route Corridor have informed survey extents in these areas. Trees recorded either side of temporary access points were mapped indicatively on Site with the aid of aerial imagery and their locations subsequently replotted where possible; to align with topographical surveys of the access points as they became available. Consequently, tree positions and anticipated impacts from Cable Route Corridor access points have been estimated using a relative level of accuracy and professional judgement.
- It is assumed that permanent access points will need to be 6.50m width . BESS and substation access will be 6.00m width, internal tracks will be 3.5m and vehicular passing places will be 6.00m. The permanent easement for the cables within the Cable Route Corridor will be 10.00 m .

- It is assumed that the permanent access tracks within the Solar PV Sites will also be used for decommissioning.
- It is anticipated that additional access tracks may be required for construction (additional to those shown on the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan at **Volume 7, Appendix 7.18: (LEMP) Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.18]**, it is assumed that all construction access tracks will be sited outside of the RPAs and canopy spreads of existing arboricultural features
- Overall, this assessment of arboricultural impacts is limited given that the design of the Solar PV Sites is indicative only at this stage and follows a Maximum Design Envelope Scenario whereby the maximum project design parameters are shown for each technical discipline. All tree impacts provided in the assessment therefore represent the 'worst case scenario' in regards to arboricultural impacts.
- The positions of all trees, groups of trees and woodlands plotted in the Cable Route Corridor, temporary construction compounds and adjacent to temporary access points were mapped indicatively on site with the aid of aerial imagery and GPS software. Arboricultural features in the vicinity of temporary access points were subsequently replotted to align with topographical surveys where possible as they became available. All other recorded features along the Cable Route Corridor and in the vicinity of temporary construction compounds are shown indicatively in the absence of topographical surveys. Consequently, tree positions and anticipated impacts in these areas have been estimated using a relative level of accuracy and professional judgement. This is not considered to be a significant constraint given that the design of these elements is indicative only and not available in sufficient detail to allow for accurate predictions of potential canopy or root impacts even if precise tree locations were known, and;
- Access to some tree stems and canopy spreads by the surveyors was sometimes impeded due to a range of factors such as dense vegetation. Estimates were therefore made of dimensions where necessary.

3 Site Description and Results

3.1 Site Description

- 3.1.1 The Order Limits comprises five land parcels described as Lime Down A, B, C, D, E (collectively known as the Solar PV Solar PV Sites, which includes areas for battery storage and associated infrastructure, landscaping, heritage, surface water and biodiversity mitigation areas). The Solar PV Sites are situated in an area of countryside to the south of Malmesbury and northeast of Bath.
- 3.1.2 The Order Limits also includes the Cable Route Corridor, temporary access points, temporary construction compounds and areas of highways improvement.
- 3.1.3 The Order Limits sit within the jurisdiction of Wiltshire Council and is predominantly land under agricultural use.
- 3.1.4 Trees and collectives of trees are largely confined to field boundaries, hedgerows and road sides.

Desk Study Results

- 3.1.5 **Table 4** below summarises the results of the desk study of the Order Limits and up to 50m of the Order Limits.

Table 4: Summary of Desk Study Results

Feature	Features and Description	Figure Reference
Tree Preservation Orders	• N/TPO8 (Grittleton Estate, Chippenham) Area Order TPO – Extends within Cable Route Corridor, east of Grittleton and bordering the area of proposed highway improvements at the Alderton Road and The Street Junction in Grittleton. • N/TPO42 (M3 - No 3. Leigh Delamere) Mixed Order TPO – Within Cable Route Corridor, north of M4. • N/TPO31 (Grittleton Estate No 3.) Individual Orders - Within 47m of Cable Route Corridor, north of M4. • N/TPO7 (Grittleton Estate) Mixed Order TPO – Partially within Cable Route Corridor north of M4 and partially within 34m of Cable Route Corridor, south of M4.	Figure 10-01-09 Figure 10-01-18 Figure 10-01-09 Figure 10-01-09 Figure 10-01-09
Conservation Areas	• Rodbourne Conservation Area in Rodbourne, located beyond the Order Limits, north east of parcel E;	Figure 10-01-06

	- Corsham Conservation Area in Corsham borders the Order Limits on Bath Road where a cable route access point is proposed; - Easton Conservation Area in Easton is beyond the Order Limits near a section of the cable route corridor; - Grittleton Conservation Area in Grittleton within the Order Limits in areas of proposed highways improvements and a cable route access point; and	Figure 10-01-13 Figure 10-01-13 Figure 10-01-14 Figure 10-01-09
Recorded Ancient Trees	The are no ancient tree records within the Order Limits or within 50m of the Order Limits.	N/A
Recorded Veteran Trees	The are no ancient tree records within the Order Limits or within 50m of the Order Limits.	N/A
Ancient Woodland	- Lords Wood, an Ancient Replanted Woodland is located north of Lime Down C outside of the Order Limits but immediately adjoining parcel C21. - Surrendell Wood, an Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland is located south of Lime Down C beyond the Order Limits, but within 20m of parcel C15 and near to a proposed temporary construction compound at the north of the cable route corridor. - Bradfield Wood, an Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland is located beyond the Order Limits near Lime Down D but it adjoins parcel D10. - North Bincombe Wood, an Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland is located outside of the Order Limits but is bordered by field parcels E1, E2, E3 and E6. - Bincombe Wood, an Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland is located west of Lime Down E, beyond the Order Limits next to field parcels E11, E12, E13, E14 and E15. - Seagry Wood, an Ancient Replanted Woodland is located southeast of Lime Down E and beyond the Order Limits close to field parcel E34.	Figure 10-01-03 Figure 10-01-03 Figure 10-01-04 Figure 10-01-08 Figure 10-01-05 Figure 10-01-06 Figure 10-01-07 Figure 10-01-07

3.2 Tree Surveys

- 3.2.1 A total of 1021 individual trees, 226 groups of trees, 57 hedgerows and 11 woodlands were recorded altogether across the Order Limits.
- 3.2.2 52 veteran trees were recorded, none of which were found to be ancient. 6 woodlands were recorded as ancient in accordance with the desk study results.
- 3.2.3 A summary of the trees recorded is shown in **Table 5** below.

Table 5: Summary of Tree Classification

BS5837:2012 Quality Category	Number			
	Individual Trees	Group of Trees	Woodland	Hedgerows
A (high quality)	295	13	8	9
B (moderate quality)	334	114	3	41
C (low quality or young)	301	91	0	7
U (very low quality)	91	8	0	0
Total	1021	226	11	57

- 3.2.4 Full results of the tree survey are provided in the Tree Survey Schedule in **Appendix 10-2: Tree Survey Schedule [EN010168/APP/6.3]** The locations of trees are also shown in **ES Figures 10-1-1 to 10-1-23 Tree Constraints Plans [EN010168/APP/6.2]**
- 3.2.1 It should be noted that due to the high-level survey methodology used for the Solar PV Sites, the tree survey data therefore contains a disproportionately large number of mature and Category A trees of large dimensions which does not necessarily reflect the average age or quality of trees within the Order Limits.

4 Arboricultural Impact Assessment

4.1 Arboricultural Impacts at the Solar PV Sites

- 4.1.1 The following arboricultural impacts have been identified at the Solar PV Sites. Veteran tree and ancient woodland references are shown in **bold** in all Tables. All tree impacts are shown in the accompanying **ES Figures 10-2-1 to 10-2-23 Tree Impact Plans [EN010168/APP/6.2]**

Tree Removals at the Solar PV Sites

- 4.1.2 The following trees listed in **Table 6** below may require removal in order to facilitate construction at the Solar PV Sites.

Table 6: Summary of Likely Tree Removals at the Solar PV Sites

BS5837:2012 Quality Category	Tree Reference	Reason	Figure Reference
Category A trees and tree groups	N/A	N/A	N/A
Category B trees and tree groups	C-G13 (partial)	The forming of access track within significant extent of RPA	ES Figure10-2-03_Tree Impact Plan
Category C trees and tree groups	D-T10, E-T40	The forming and /or widening of existing access track within significant extent of RPA	ES Figure10-4-03_Tree Impact Plan ES Figure10-2-06_Tree Impact Plan
Category U trees and tree groups	N/A	N/A	N/A

- 4.1.3 The above tree impacts have resulted from assessment against the indicative layout of the Solar PV Panels, access tracks, BESS and proposed permanent access points into the Solar PV Sites.
- 4.1.4 None of the above trees in **Table 6** are Category A, veteran or subject to a TPO or Conservation Area designation.
- 4.1.5 Compensatory tree planting has been incorporated into the Solar PV Sites as shown in the at **Volume 7, Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.18]**

Roots and Canopy Impacts at the Solar PV Sites

- 4.1.6 With consideration of the embedded mitigation measures listed in Section 2.2, impacts to the roots and canopies of the following retained trees at the Solar PV

Sites are anticipated as shown below in **Table 7**. Veteran tree and ancient woodland references are shown in **bold** in all Tables.

Table 7: Summary of Root and Canopy Impacts at the Solar PV Sites

BS5837:2012 Quality Category	Tree Reference	Reason	Figure Reference
Category A trees and tree groups	A6-T1, A7-T1, A-T20, B-G1, B9-T4, B11-T1, C-T40, C-T46, D1-T1, C12-T3, D-T9	Access track forming incursion into RPAs	ES Figure10-2-01_Tree Impact Plan; ES Figure10-2-02_Tree Impact Plan; ES Figure10-2-03_Tree Impact Plan; ES Figure10-2-04_Tree Impact Plan; ES Figure10-2-05_Tree Impact Plan; ES Figure10-2-06_Tree Impact Plan and; ES Figure10-2-07_Tree Impact Plan ES Figure10-2-07_Tree Impact Plan
	W0005 – North Bincome Wood	Access track forming incursion into ancient woodland buffer, crown raising likely needed.	ES Figure10-2-07_Tree Impact Plan
	E7-T3, E29-T3, E-T1, E-T39, E-T46, E-T58, E-G6	Access track forming incursion into RPA, crown raising likely needed.	ES Figure10-2-06_Tree Impact Plan and; ES Figure10-2-07_Tree Impact Plan
Category B trees and tree groups	B-G2, C17-T1, C-T39, C-G7, D9-T1, D-T36, D-T37, D-T38, D-G13, E-G4, E-G5, E-G8, E-G13, A-G1	Access track forming incursion into RPAs	Figure 10-02-02; Figure 10-02-03 and; Figure 10-02-04.

BS5837:2012 Quality Category	Tree Reference	Reason	Figure Reference
	C-T7	RPA incursions for Solar PV panel installation	Figure 10-02-03 and Figure 10-02-04
	D4-T2, D-G19, E-T5, E-G7, E-T56	Access track forming incursion into RPA, crown raising likely needed.	Figure 10-02-04; Figure 10-02-05; Figure 10-02-06 and Figure 10-02-07
Category C trees and tree groups	C15-T1, C-T50, C-T78, C-T79, D7-T2, D-T10, D-G6, E-G2	Proposed track forming incursion into RPAs	Figure 10-02-03; Figure 10-02-04 and Figure 10-02-05
	D4-T1	Proposed track forming incursion into RPAs	Figure 10-02-04 and Figure 10-02-05
	D19-T3, D-T41, D-G16, D-G20, D-G21, D-G22, E9-T1, ET2, E-T4, E-T40, E-T41		
	D-T43	Crown lifting works likely required	
Category U trees and tree groups	A-T7, E-G9	Access track forming incursion	Figure 10-02-01;

BS5837:2012 Quality Category	Tree Reference	Reason	Figure Reference
		into RPAs. Crown lifting may be required	Figure 10-02-06 and Figure 10-02-07

- 4.1.7 The above impacts in **Table 7** are, on the whole, largely associated with permanent access points, and internal access routes into and within the Solar PV Sites which have, in some cases, required widening of existing farm accesses and the creation of visibility splays for abnormal loads. Drawings for access points and visibility splays for the Solar PV Sites have been based on topographical surveys and surveyed trees plotted wherever possible against the topographical surveys although some features are only plotted to a relative level of accuracy being 2-3m (see section 3.3). As a result, providing this assessment with absolute confidence about the extents of potential impacts to adjacent trees is not possible at this stage.
- 4.1.8 None of the above listed trees in **Table 7** are protected by a TPO or Conservation Area designation.
- 4.1.9 No impacts to veteran trees have been identified, however low impacts to trees on the edge of one ancient woodland, W0005 - **North Bincombe Wood** has been identified which is explored further below.
- 4.1.10 ~~A 242m section of internal~~An existing access track is proposed to be used during the operational stage of the development within the 15m wide Ancient Woodland Buffer Zone of **North Bincombe Wood** in Site E. The ~~affected area in track within~~ the buffer zone comprises an existing gravelled track along the northern extent of the woodland as well as arable farmland that has historically been subject to regular heavy farm machinery movements and ground compaction. ~~No tree removal is anticipated to be required, and the existing subbase should be preferably retained. Should however hand excavation and pre-emptive root pruning be required to establish a subbase for the proposed access track, this may lead to minor losses of fibrous roots to several trees on the edges of the woodlands. Several trees on the edge of the woodland may also require minor crown lifting/pruning to create sufficient clearance for construction vehicles to move along the proposed access track. As only a very small number of trees on the edges of the woodlands will be potentially impacted, and these trees are confirmed to not be veteran trees, low impacts to affected trees are anticipated at most. Negligible impacts to North Bincombe~~Any repairs to the existing access track adjacent to North Bincombe Wood shall be limited to the infilling of potholes using no-fines gravel and topsoil only. Use of the access track shall be limited to access by existing landowners for the purposes of accessing and managing their land and access required by the undertaker for hedgerow and other vegetation management. Negligible

impacts to North Bincombe Wood are anticipated as a result of the access track installation.

- 4.1.11 All other proposed Scheme elements within the Solar PV Sites are located beyond the 15m wide ancient woodland buffer zones.

4.2 Arboricultural Impacts along the Cable Route Corridor

- 4.2.1 Arboricultural impacts have been identified along the Cable Route Corridor. The Cable Route Corridor is typically 50m in width however it does incorporate a number of wider areas, for example to allow additional working area for trenchless techniques such as Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) and to enable flexibility around areas of environmental sensitivity and Temporary Construction Compounds. The cables will be installed using a mixture of trenchless solutions and open-cut trenching as shown in **ES Figure 3-2: Key Construction Phase Features [EN010168/APP/6.2]** and as shown in **ES Figures 10-2-1-10-2-23 Tree Impact Plans [EN010168/APP/6.2]**
- 4.2.2 For open cut sections, the maximum width of the trench(es) will be 1.7 m and the maximum depth of the trenches will be 2 m. For trenchless (e.g. HDD) Sections, trenchless machinery will typically require an area of 25 m x 25 m at entry and exit points and the maximum depth of the trenchless solution will typically be 12m. For open cut sections, a permanent easement will be required around the cables whereby no trees may remain in order to avoid root interference with the cables. The location of the permanent easement will be determined post-DCO by the engineering team and will be 10 m in width.
- 4.2.3 Temporary access points into the Cable Route Corridor have been provided and 7 temporary construction compound areas have also been proposed along the Cable Route Corridor.
- 4.2.4 Given that the exact location of the trenching and permanent easement will be determined post-DCO by the engineering team, the temporary access points and visibility splays are indicative only at this stage. This assessment of the anticipated arboricultural impacts to trees along the Cable Route Corridor represents the worst-case scenario and is precautionary with regards to potential tree removals and canopy and root impacts.

Tree Removals along the Cable Route Corridor

- 4.2.5 The following trees listed in **Table 8** below may require removal in the Cable Route Corridor. These trees are also shown as possibly requiring removal in **ES Figures 10-2-1 to 10-2-23 Tree Impact Plans [EN010168/APP/6.2]**. It should again be noted that this assessment has shown all trees bisecting the open-cut sections of the Cable Route Corridor as potentially requiring removal except veteran trees and Category A trees which will be retained via embedded mitigation (micro-siting and trenchless solutions). Veteran tree and ancient woodland references are shown in **bold** in all tables.

- 4.2.6 Removal could be required in order to achieve the required working corridor widths, space for trenching and permanent easements around the cable to ensure no long-term interference from tree roots. Removal may also be required to achieve temporary access points and visibility splays into the Cable Route Corridor for construction machinery.
- 4.2.7 **Table 8** below provides a worst-case assessment of the potential tree removals given the embedded mitigation measures which will be followed during construction.

Table 8: Summary of Tree Removals along the Cable Route Corridor

BS5837:2012 Quality Category	Tree Reference	Reason	Figure Reference
Category A trees and tree groups	N/A	N/A	N/A
Category B trees and tree groups	G0011, G0016, G0017, G0019, G0020, G0024, G0025, G0026, G0034 (partial), G0037 (partial), G0038, G0042 (partial), G0043, G0044, G0046, G0048, G0051, G0052, G0053, G0055, G0056, G0057, G0058, G0059 (partial), G0060, G0061, G0062, G0063, G0064 (partial), G0066 (partial), G0069 (partial), G0070 (partial), G1001, G1007 (partial), G1011, G1013, G1017, T0031, T0036, T0048, T0050, T0052, T0053, T0070, T0071, T0110, T0117, T0118, T0123, T0131, T0134, T0136, T0137, T0140, T0143, T0155, T0156, T0157, T0160, T0161, T0166, T0167, T0169, T0170, T0173, T0174, T0176, T0177, T0181, T0186, T0191, T0195, T0197, T0207, T0215, T1025, T1050,	Within cable route corridor extents	ES Figure10-2-01- 23_Tree Impact Plans

	T1051, T1057, T1058, T1060, T1061, T1063, T0293, T0291, T0292, T0290, T0288, G0123, T0281, G0112 (partial), T0280, T0267, T0271, G0106, T0274		
Category C trees and tree groups	G0001 (partial), G0006, G0010 (partial), G0018, G0021, G0022, G0023, G0028, G0029, G0033 (partial), G0039 (partial), G0040, G0041, G1003, G1014, T0001, T0003, T0004, T0015, T0017, T0037, T0038, T0039, T0040, T0046, T0049, T0051, T0097, T0098, T0102, T0103, T0104, T0112, T0113, T0114, T0116, T0120, T0121, T0122, T0124, T0126, T0132, T0133, T0135, T0138, T0190, T0208, T0209, T0210, T1005, T1006, T1007, T1008, T1009, T1026, T1048, T1049, T1052, T1065, G0122, G0121, T0294, T0289, G0135, G0132, G0128, T0300, G0127, G0126, T0299, G0125, T0297, T0296, G0124, T0295, T0285, G0114 (partial), G0111, G0110	Within cable route corridor extents	ES Figure 10-2-01- 23_Tree Impact Plans
Category U trees and tree groups	G1002, G1004, T0002, T0033, T0075, T0115, T0119, T0125, T0211, T1001, T1002, T1003, T1004, T1013, T1043, T1044, T1045, T1046, T1047, T1053, T1054, T1056, T1064, T0287, T0002, T0273	Within cable route corridor extents	ES Figure 10-2-01- 23_Tree Impact Plans

- 4.2.8 None of the above listed trees in **Table 8** are subject to a Tree Preservation Order or Conservation Area designation. No trees recorded as veteran or 'category A' or high-quality trees are identified for removal. The majority of potential tree removals are associated with creating a working corridor for open-cut trenching Sections in the Cable Route Corridor. A smaller number of tree removals are associated with Cable Route Corridor temporary access points and the required visibility splays.
- 4.2.9 It is considered highly likely that many of the trees listed in **Table 8** can be avoided during installation of the cables through micro-siting, as detailed in the Outline Arboricultural Method Statement below at section 7.10. As such, **Table 8** should be considered the worst-case impact scenario. Some tree removal will be unavoidable in certain locations whereby trees are present along the entire width of the Cable Route Corridor and some will need to be cleared to create a trench and working space. Section 7.6 of The Outline Arboricultural Method Statement reiterates and details the embedded mitigation that will be followed during construction to ensure that low quality trees are preferentially removed over moderate quality trees wherever possible.
- 4.2.10 Compensatory tree planting of any trees removed will be delivered at the Solar PV Sites. To prevent future root damage to cables, no trees will be planted within the permanent easement of the cables in open cut sections. Trees which are removed will be replaced with locally native species where feasible as detailed at **Volume 7, Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.18]**;

Root and Canopy Impacts along the Cable Route Corridor

- 4.2.11 With due regard to embedded mitigation measures including tree pruning being undertaken in accordance with British Standard 3998:2010 Ref 10-17 and hand digging and pre-emptive root pruning being undertaken where excavation is required within RPAs, the following impacts to the roots and canopies are anticipated as shown below in **Table 9**. Veteran trees are shown in **bold**.

Table 9: Summary of Root and Canopy Impacts along the Cable Route Corridor

BS5837:2012 Quality Category	Tree Reference	Reason	Figure Reference
Category A trees and tree groups	C-T87, C-T90, W0005– North Bincome Wood , D15-T1, W0001 – Surrendell Wood , T0020, T0021, T0034, T0035, T0074, T0078, T0203, D15-T1, D-T30, D-T29, D-T28, D-T27, T0168, D18-T2, T0171, T0163, T0164, T0165, G0047, T0154, T0158, T0162, T0175, T0159, T0178, T0179, T0180, T0182, T0183, T0184, T0185, T0187, T0188, T0189, T0192, T0193, T0204, T0203, E2-T2, T0198, T0199, E1-T1, T0200, T0201, T0202, T1059, C24-T2, T1069, C35-T1, C25-T2, C25-T4, T0302, T0303, T0305, T0306, T0298, G0134,, E9-T2, E-T15, E-T16, E-G1, E- T12, T0279, T0278, T0277, T0272, G0107, G0108, G0109, T0275, G0068, T0018, T0205, T0206, T1012, T0066, T0236, T0241, T0218, T0231, T0250, T0241, T0240, T0242, T0251, T0238	Canopy lifting may be required over roads to create clearance heights for construction traffic. Root impacts may occur should existing access track need to be widened or resurfaced, potential RPA incursions for open cut sections of the cable route	ES Figure 10-2-01- 23_Tree Impact Plans
Category B trees and tree groups	T0234, G0093, T0266, T0143, C22-T1, B3-T3, D24-T3, D24-T4, G0030, G1012, T0007, T0011, T0013, T0070, T0071, T0077, T0085, T0096, T0143, T0151, T0152, T0266, T0172, T0301, G0015, G0073, G0017, G0015, G0032, T0223, G0075, G0076, T0227, T0232, T0230, T0229, G1006, T0256, T0252, T0244, T0243, G0091, G0089, G0085, T0095, T0100, G0031, G1016	Canopy lifting may be required over roads to create clearance heights for construction traffic. Root impacts may occur should existing access track need to be widened or resurfaced, potential RPA incursions for open cut sections	ES Figure 10-2-01- 23_Tree Impact Plans

BS5837:2012 Quality Category	Tree Reference	Reason	Figure Reference
		of the cable route.	
Category C trees and tree groups	G0002, G0003, G005, G0007, G0029, G0079, T0254, A10-T6, C-T88, C22-T1, C-T89, G1015, T0005, T0008, T0009, T0010, T0012, T0014, T0016, T0023, T0024, T0026, T0027, T0028, T0029, T0079, T0080, T0081, T0082, T0087, T0150, T0212, T0214, T0254, T0311, G0129, T0222, T0217, T0216, G0074, G0072, T0220, G0078, G0033, T0226, T0233, T0249, T0105, G0008, G0087, G0086, G0009, G0092, G0090, G0005, T0043, G0088, T0239, T0145, G0084, T0237, T0099, G0083, T0101.	Canopy lifting may be required over roads to create clearance heights for construction traffic. Root impacts may occur should existing access track need to be widened or resurfaced, potential RPA incursions for open cut sections of the cable route	ES Figure 10-2-01-23_Tree Impact Plans
Category U trees and tree groups	C-T19, G0027, T0221, T0219, T0224, T0225, T0248, T0257.	Canopy lifting may be required over roads to create clearance heights for construction traffic. Root impacts may occur should existing access track need to be widened or resurfaced, potential RPA incursions for open cut sections of the cable route	ES Figure 10-2-01-23_Tree Impact Plans

- 4.2.12 None of the above listed trees in **Table 9** are subject to a Tree Preservation Order or Conservation Area designation. None of these trees are classified as veteran. The majority of potential canopy and root impacts are associated with creating temporary construction accesses and visibility splays for construction machinery working within the Cable Route Corridor.
- 4.2.13 It is important to note that **Table 9** does not include potential impacts to all the trees, groups of trees and woodlands along the Cable Route Corridor that stand

adjacent to the Corridor beyond the Order Limits and have Root Protection Areas, canopy spreads that overlap with the Cable Route Corridor. This has been omitted as embedded mitigation will be applied to ensure all retained trees are safeguarded by tree protection fencing and/or other suitable and fit for purpose protection measures during works within the Cable Route Corridor, ensuring no residual impacts to these trees.

- 4.2.14 A temporary construction compound for the Cable Route Corridor is proposed within the 15m wide ancient woodland buffer zone of W0001 - Surrendell Wood, south of parcel C15. An existing gravelled farm track is situated between Surrendell Wood and the outer extents of the ancient woodland at its eastern extent. This track has been subject to historical heavy agricultural machinery use and ground conditions along the track are expected to be compacted as a result. This compaction and the localised variances in ground levels between woodland trees, the existing access surface and the outer limits of the proposed temporary construction compound make for unfavourable growing conditions and the potential for root ingress to the full extents of the 15m buffer Zone is considered low. The potential for impacts to roots from the woodland. No tree removals or pruning will be required to facilitate the use of the temporary construction compound and neutral impacts are therefore anticipated to Surrendell Wood.

4.3 Impacts to Woodlands During Construction

- 4.3.1 Woodlands, including the following ancient woodlands: Lords Wood, Surrendell Wood, Bradfield Wood, North Bincombe Wood, Bincombe Wood and Seagry Wood, will not be subject to significant impacts by construction works on the Solar PV Sites and along the Cable Route Corridor. Embedded mitigation during construction is in place to ensure woodlands and their associated flora are protected from potential dust and sediment pollution and potential impacts to the roots and canopies of woodland trees. Embedded mitigation includes dust and sediment control measures detailed in the **Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.12]** and tree protection fencing as detailed in the Outline Arboricultural Method Statement and also secured in the **Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.12]**.

4.4 Impacts During Scheme Operation

- 4.4.1 During operation of the Scheme, maintenance and replacement activities (as detailed in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3 – The Scheme [EN010168/APP/6.1]**) will need to take place during the Scheme's 60 year lifespan. Embedded mitigation is in place to protect trees from impacts to arboricultural features during maintenance and replacement activities (see paragraph 3.2.1) which will ensure no impacts to retained trees during Scheme operation.

4.5 Impacts During Scheme Decommissioning

- 4.5.1 At the decommissioning stage, after the 60 year lifespan of the Scheme, arboricultural impacts may result from the removal of Solar PV Panels and cables. Embedded mitigation is in place for the decommissioning stage to ensure impacts to trees are fully assessed and minimised at the decommissioning stage (see paragraph 3.2.1).

4.6 Tree Planting

- 4.6.1 The **Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plans [EN010168/APP/7.18]** propose extensive planting of new trees, scrub, shelterbelts and hedgerows throughout the Solar PV Sites. Tree planting within the veteran tree buffer zones has been avoided to ensure veteran trees do not decline in the future due to shading and competition from young trees. New tree planting is anticipated to have a significant positive effect on the canopy cover of the Solar PV Sites in the long term and ensure that succession planting is in place for the large numbers of ash trees with ash dieback that are present throughout the Order Limits.

5 Conclusion

- 5.1.1 Tree surveys were undertaken between 2023-2025 and recorded 1021 individual trees, 226 groups of trees, 57 hedgerows and 11 woodlands. Of these, 52 trees were recorded as veteran trees with none of those veteran trees found to be ancient. 6 ancient woodlands are located adjacent to the Order Limits. No TPOs or Conservation Areas are within the Order Limits.
- 5.1.2 An arboricultural impact assessment has been undertaken on the indicative design of the Solar PV Sites and the proposed Cable Route Corridor and takes account of the embedded mitigation included within the Scheme's design. At the Solar PV Sites, 2 individual trees and a portion of 1 tree group are anticipated to require removal for the indicative layout.
- 5.1.3 Canopy and root impacts to retained trees at the Solar PV Sites and along the Cable Route Corridor have been identified and largely result from permanent and temporary access points being created near retained trees and retained trees within visibility splays requiring crown lifting or pruning.
- 5.1.4 Along the Cable Route Corridor, a maximum of 110 individual trees and 55 groups of trees (some partial removals) would potentially require removal. It should be noted that very few hedgerows were recorded by the tree surveys as hedgerow surveys and impacts are more fully assessed in **Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010168/APP/6.1]**.
- 5.1.5 No veteran trees or category A trees are anticipated to require removal for the Scheme.
- 5.1.6 The arboricultural impacts identified in this report take into account embedded mitigation such as minimised tree pruning and precautionary working methods within RPAs. An Outline Arboricultural Method Statement at section 7 below has been produced to detail how arboricultural features will be safeguarded during construction of the Scheme and compliance with these methods is secured in the **Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.12]**, **Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.13]**; and **Outline Decommissioning Strategy [EN010168/APP/7.14]**.
- 5.1.7 With the implementation of the embedded mitigation, it is anticipated that many of the potential tree removals along the Cable Route Corridor can be avoided.
- 5.1.8 Extensive tree planting is proposed across the Solar PV Sites in the form of new hedgerows, scrub, tree belts and scattered trees. Proposed tree planting will significantly enhance tree cover at the Solar PV Sites and ensure that succession planting is in place for the many existing ash trees with ash dieback.

6 Outline Arboricultural Method Statement (OAMS)

6.1 Objectives of this OAMS

- 6.1.1 This OAMS seeks to provide precautionary methods of working that must be followed during construction, operation and decommissioning to mitigate the potential impacts to trees, tree groups and woodlands (hereafter referred to as 'arboricultural features') within the Order Limits.
- 6.1.2 Hedgerow impacts, mitigation and compensation are not considered in this OAMS. Mitigation and compensation for hedgerows is detailed in the **Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy [EN010168/APP/7.19]** and the **Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.12]**.
- 6.1.3 This OAMS provides practical guidance, that if followed correctly will ensure existing arboricultural features for retention are suitably safeguarded during construction, in particular those of high value such as veteran trees and Category A trees of high quality.
- 6.1.4 This OAMS must be made available and followed by all relevant contractors, sub-contractors and project consultants completing works within the Order Limits and read in conjunction with the **Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy [EN010168/APP/7.19]**. Compliance with this OAMS is secured in the **Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.12]**.

6.2 Arboricultural Features within the Order Limits

- 6.2.1 High level tree surveys of the Solar PV Sites were undertaken between November 2023 and August 2024. Tree surveys of the Cable Route Corridor and focused areas where tree impacts were anticipated were undertaken between August 2024 and May 2025.
- 6.2.2 All tree surveys were carried out in accordance with British Standard 5837:2012 'Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction' (BS5837:2012). Tree stem positions along the Cable Route Corridor were recorded using aerial mapping and GPS software with a relative accuracy of 2-3m. Tree stem positions within the Solar PV Sites were recorded using a topographical survey. The canopy spread, canopy height, root protection areas and veteran tree buffer zones (latter where appropriate) were recorded for all arboricultural features. Full tree results can be found in **Appendix 10-2 Tree Survey Schedule [EN010168/APP/6.3]** and are visually represented in **Figures 10-1-1 to 10-1-23 Tree Constraints Plans [EN010168/APP/6.2]**
- 6.2.3 The tree survey recorded a total of 1021 individual trees, 226 groups of trees, 57 hedgerows and 11 woodlands. Of these, 52 trees were recorded as veteran trees with none of those veteran trees found to be ancient. 6 ancient woodlands

are adjacent to the Order Limits. No TPOs or Conservation Areas are within the Order Limits (see **Table 1** for dates when TPO data was reviewed, please note new TPOs may have been made since the dates in **Table 1**).

6.3 Possible Arboricultural Impacts from the Scheme

- 6.3.1 The arboricultural impact assessment in Section 5 of this report made an assessment of the worst-case arboricultural impacts at the Solar PV Sites and along the Cable Route Corridor. Impacts to trees during construction may include:
- Tree removal;
 - Tree pruning at temporary and permanent access points, near access tracks and for visibility splays;
 - Root loss/damage from excavation or soil compaction within RPAs;
 - Dust/sediment impacts to adjacent woodlands (including ancient woodlands); and
 - Damage to canopies/stems from machinery movements.
- 6.3.2 These potential impacts are explained in full in Section 5 of the impact assessment and accompanied by **ES Figures 10-2-1 to 10-2-23 Tree Impact Plans [EN010168/APP/6.2]** showing possible tree removals, canopy impacts and root impacts to trees on the Site. The assessed impacts shown on the plans are worst-case and indicative only. This is because the design of the Solar PV Sites is indicative only at this stage and the location of the cable trench, working corridor and permanent easement within the Cable Route Corridor will be determined during construction and post DCO-consent.
- ### 6.4 How to Use this Document
- 6.4.1 This OAMS details a suite of precautionary working methods to be followed when working near trees at both the Solar PV Sites and along the Cable Route Corridor. These precautionary working methods will be followed by construction personnel in collaboration with a supervising Arboricultural Clerk of Works.
- 6.4.2 The measures outlined in this OAMS will be presented to all personnel, visitors and sub-contractors involved with Scheme construction activities within the Order Limits.
- 6.4.3 It is the responsibility of the site manager or nominated personnel with an appropriate arboriculture qualification to communicate the contents of this OAMS to all personnel, visitors and sub-contractors undertaking relevant activities. A copy of this document must be kept on site during construction for ease of reference.

6.5 Arboricultural Clerk of Works (ACoW)

- 6.5.1 An ACoW will be assigned to the Scheme prior to construction. The responsibilities of the ACoW include ensuring that the precautionary working methods described in this OAMS are adhered to during construction at the Solar PV Sites and installation of the cables in the Cable Route Corridor. The ACoW will be responsible for undertaking site visits and providing advice throughout construction on how tree impacts will be avoided and minimised. The ACoW will also be responsible for keeping a record of site visits and advice provided during construction. These activities are often termed collectively as arboricultural monitoring and supervision.
- 6.5.2 It is the responsibility of the main construction contractor to instruct an ACoW prior to the commencement of construction and any enabling works. A key responsibility of the construction contractor is to ensure this OAMS is followed, ensuring all relevant personnel working on the Scheme have been briefed on this OAMS and the precautionary working methods to follow when working near trees. It is also the responsibility of the construction contractor to inform the ACoW of any breach of this OAMS and the guidance prescribed within and to seek advice on any remedial action required.
- 6.5.3 As a minimum, the following meetings between the ACoW and the construction contractor must take place as detailed in **Table 10** below.

Table 10: ACoW Meetings with Construction Contractor

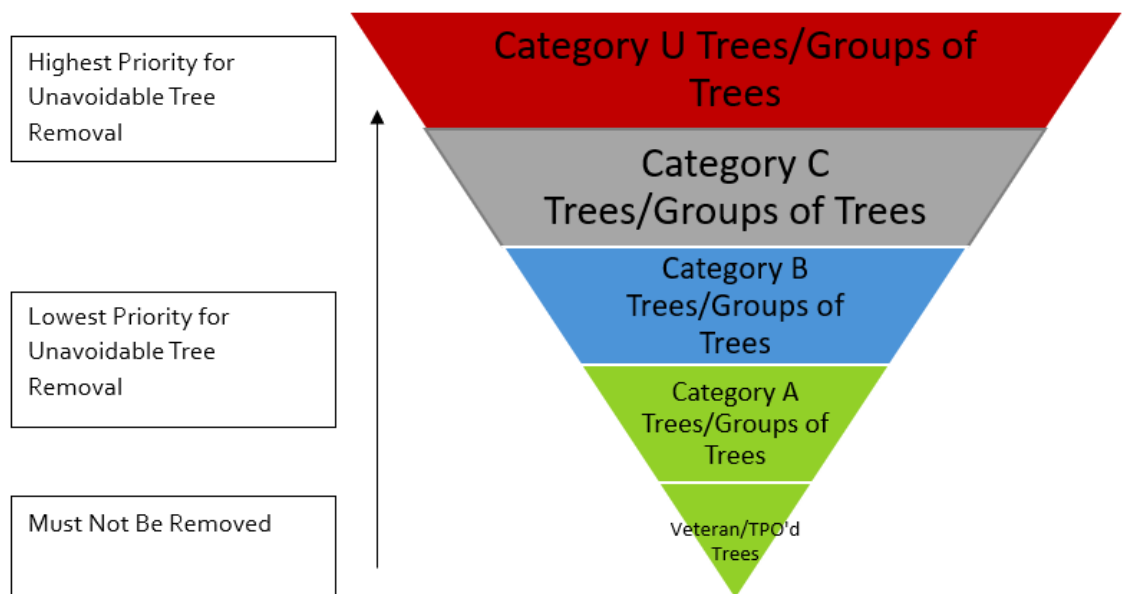
Timing	Purpose of Meeting
Pre-enabling works at the Solar PV Sites	ACoW to brief contractor on the precautionary working methods within this OAMS and provide ACoW contact details. Contractor to brief ACoW on programme of works and provide contact details of key personnel (e.g. Site Manager).
Pre-enabling works along the Cable Route Corridor	As above
Prior to construction works commencing at a Site or Section of Cable Route Corridor	ACoW to undertake a site visit to check tree protection measures once installed, advise on any further site visits/ACoW supervision and mark up any trees requiring removal or pruning.
During construction at the Solar PV Sites or along the Cable Route Corridor	ACoW to undertake site visits to provide toolbox tools to relevant personnel undertaking works within Root Protection Areas of retained trees or in the vicinity of their crowns and to supervise those works where necessary.

6.6 Tree Removal

- 6.6.1 In line with the Scheme embedded mitigation commitments, tree removal will be avoided wherever feasible throughout the Order Limits. Should tree removal be unavoidable, trees of lower quality and life expectancy will be preferably

removed over those of higher quality and life expectancy as per **Figure 7.1** below. In **Appendix 10-3 Tree Survey Schedule [EN010168/APP/6.3]**, trees with a BS5837:2012 Quality Category of U shall be preferentially removed followed by Category C, B and A trees in that order of priority. Veteran trees will not be removed under any circumstances. Further details on embedded mitigation can be found at section 2.2 of the Outline Arboricultural Impact Assessment.

Figure 7.1 Tree Removal Hierarchy



- 6.6.2 Trees to be removed for construction will be marked up on site by the ACoW. Indicative tree removals have been provided in **ES Figures 10-2-1 to 10-2-23 Tree Impact Plans [EN010168/APP/6.2]**
- 6.6.3 However, many of the trees shown for possible removal in these plans could be retained following detailed design of the Solar PV Sites, micro-siting of the cable trenches within the Cable Route Corridor and sensitive siting of temporary construction compounds outside of RPAs. Involvement of the ACoW in marking up tree removals will therefore ensure that the Tree Removal Hierarchy in **Figure 7.1** is followed.
- 6.6.4 All tree work will be undertaken by a suitably qualified, insured and experienced arboricultural contractor working in accordance with British Standard 3998: 2010 'Tree Work – Recommendations'. No tree works will be undertaken by construction workers unless qualified and instructed to do so.
- 6.6.5 Prior to any necessary tree removal being carried out, due regard must be given to any legal restrictions on tree pruning including: nesting birds which are protected under The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and roosting bats which are protected by Regulation 43 of The Conservation of

Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). For ecological precautionary working methods please refer to the **Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy [EN010168/APP/7.19]**.

- 6.6.6 The Scheme has been designed so as to avoid impacts to any trees currently protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) or within Conservation Areas. With regard to trees within the Order Limits that may be protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) made after development consent for the Scheme is granted, the relevant article number of the Draft Development Consent Order provides 'deemed consent' to the Applicant to undertake works to such trees. As such, the submission of a tree works application to the local planning authority prior to works being undertaken to a tree subject to a later TPO is not required.
- 6.6.7 The article states that "The undertaker may, if it reasonably believes it to be necessary to do so in order to prevent the tree from obstructing or interfering with the construction, maintenance, operation or decommissioning of the authorised development or any apparatus used in connection with the authorised development, fell or lop or cut back the roots of any tree that is subject to a tree preservation order that is within or overhanging land within the Order limits provided the relevant tree preservation order was made after the date of this Order."
- 6.6.8 It is therefore important that works to (future) TPO trees only take place if the Applicant "reasonably believes it to be necessary to do so" for reasons of obstructing or interfering with construction, maintenance or operation of the Project's apparatus. Advice from the ACoW will be sought to confirm whether the works are necessary and whether any alternative measures can be employed to avoid undertaking works to protected trees.

6.7 Tree Pruning

- 6.7.1 Prior to any necessary tree pruning, the ACoW will liaise with the construction contractor on the requirements for pruning and the ACoW will provide a specification for the pruning works required which will then be implemented by a suitably qualified, insured and experienced arboricultural contractor working in accordance with British Standard 3998: 2010 'Tree Work – Recommendations'.
- 6.7.2 Pruning works to veteran trees will be avoided and pruning will aim to prioritise trees of low quality (BS5837:2012 Category U and C trees) over trees of moderate or high quality (BS5837:2012 Category A and B trees). No tree works will be undertaken by construction workers unless qualified and instructed to do so. All tree pruning works will have due consideration for ecological mitigation as detailed in the **Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy [EN010168/APP/7.19]**.

6.8 Tree Protection Fencing

- 6.8.1 Prior to construction works commencing at the Solar PV Sites, perimeter fencing will be installed in the locations shown at **ES Figure 3-4: Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plans EN010168/APP/6.2** and/or at the outer limits of RPAs. This fencing will consist of wire mesh and wooden post fencing with a maximum height of 2.5m and serve as tree protection fencing for the duration of the works. The area between the fencing and the trees will be a Construction Exclusion Zone (CEZ) whereby no machinery, materials or spoil may enter.
- 6.8.2 The aim of the tree protection fencing is to fence off the RPA of the tree to ensure it is protected from construction works. Perimeter fencing as shown on the Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plans has already been designed to protect the RPAs of retained trees. For reference, the distance to offset fencing from a tree is provided by the column 'Radius of the RPA (m) in **Appendix 10-2 Tree Survey Schedule [EN010168/APP/6.3]** where trees have been recorded by the tree survey. To calculate the fencing offset distance from a tree not recorded in the survey, the stem diameter in metres of the tree will be measured at 1.5m height in accordance with BS5837:2012 and multiplied by 12 to provide the required offset distance.
- 6.8.3 Prior to construction works commencing in each area of the Cable Route Corridor, the ACoW will mark up the line at which temporary tree protection fencing must be installed prior to works commencing. This fencing will consist of post and rope or Heras fencing as appropriate to prevailing Site conditions and the scope of works planned in the vicinity of retained trees. Once installed, clear signage will be attached at regular intervals to the fencing informing staff members that the roped off area is a 'Construction Exclusion Zone' (CEZ) whereby no machinery, vehicles or materials/spoil may enter.
- 6.8.4 Once fencing has been installed and before construction activities begin, a site check by the ACoW will take place to check the locations and suitability of the tree protection fencing.
- 6.8.5 Once installed, tree protection fencing will not be moved or altered in any way without prior consultation and sign off from the ACoW. If fencing does need to be moved back to create construction space, appropriate ground protection as per Section 7.9 below must be used to cover the exposed RPAs during works until such time as the tree protection fencing can be reinstated in its original position.
- 6.8.6 It is the responsibility of all construction personnel to ensure that the tree protection fencing remains intact and in the correct locations throughout construction. It is also the responsibility of all persons working on the Site to respect the CEZ created by the tree protection fencing. In the event that any fence panels are damaged, this must be rectified immediately to restore the CEZ.

6.8.7 Perimeter fencing will remain in situ during the operational phase. Any additional tree protection fencing may be removed once all construction works at that Site or Section of the Cable Route Corridor have concluded.

6.8.8 Protective fencing will be installed, where appropriate, along the woodland-facing edge of the existing access track adjacent to Surrendell Wood. The fencing will be positioned at the edge of the track, rather than at the woodland edge, to prevent vehicle, plant or materials entering the intervening area between the track and the woodland, including land within the 15 m woodland buffer..

6.9 Ground Protection

6.9.1 If construction or maintenance works must occur within the RPA or veteran tree buffer zone of a retained tree, ground protection will be installed by the construction contractor prior to works occurring within the RPA In order to protect the tree from soil compaction.

6.9.2 Ground protection must be suitable for the weight of the traffic using the area to ensure that underlying soils are not compacted. Ground protection specifications will meet the recommendations set out in paragraph 6.2.3.3 of British Standard 5837:2012 Ref 10-13.

6.9.3 *“for pedestrian movements only, a single thickness of scaffold boards placed either on top of a driven scaffold frame, so as to form a suspended walkway, or on top of a compression-resistant layer (e.g. 100 mm depth of woodchip), laid onto a geotextile membrane;*

6.9.4 *for pedestrian-operated plant up to a gross weight of 2 t, proprietary, inter-linked ground protection boards placed on top of a compression-resistant layer (e.g. 150 mm depth of woodchip), laid onto a geotextile membrane;*

6.9.5 *for wheeled or tracked construction traffic exceeding 2 t gross weight, an alternative system (e.g. proprietary systems or pre-cast reinforced concrete slabs) to an engineering specification designed in conjunction with arboricultural advice, to accommodate the likely loading to which it will be subjected.”*

6.9.6 *For construction traffic exceeding 2 tonnes, appropriate ground protection will constitute a 150mm woodchip or sharp sand layer topped with heavy-duty ground protection mats (multiple providers are available for rent or purchase) that are suitable for the weight of the heaviest vehicle requiring access to the area”.*

6.9.7 In all cases the objective must be to avoid soil compaction within RPAs and any other unnecessary negative effects. A single pass of a heavy vehicle, especially in wet ground conditions, can cause compaction to soil structures.

6.9.8 For the existing access track adjacent to Surrendell Wood, where required, temporary ground protection appropriate to the anticipated vehicle loading will

be installed over the existing track before it is used by construction vehicles or plant. Any widening of the track within the 15 m woodland buffer will incorporate an appropriate cellular confinement system and/or temporary ground-protection system, designed to accommodate the anticipated vehicle loading and avoid unacceptable soil compaction or root damage. The extent and specification of these measures will be determined by the ACoW and shown on the relevant Tree Protection Plan. The measures will be installed before the track is brought into use and maintained for the duration of its use. The proposed cellular confinement system and/or temporary ground protection system will be explained within the Detailed AMS.

~~6.9.86.9.9~~ 6.9.9 Once ground protection is installed, the ACoW must check the suitability of the ground protection and sign it off prior to works within the RPA commencing. Once all works within the RPA have concluded, the ground protection may be removed.

6.10 Micro-Siting

- 6.10.1 Micro-siting will be followed during the installation of the cables in the Cable Route Corridor via open cut trenching. This will involve the construction contractor, in collaboration with the ACoW, routing the cable trench, working corridor, spoil areas and permanent easements around trees in order to minimise tree removal and impacts to tree canopies and roots.
- 6.10.2 Trenches, working corridors, spoil areas and permanent easements will be located so as to avoid impacts to veteran trees and then Category A, B, C and U trees in that order of priority. Micro-siting will aim to ensure that all associated cable works avoid the RPAs of trees to be retained.
- 6.10.3 It will be the responsibility of the construction contractor to liaise with the ACoW where trees may need to be removed or works may need to take place within RPAs or near tree canopies.

6.11 Works within Root Protection Areas

- 6.11.1 Works within RPAs of retained trees may be required to create permanent or temporary access points, access tracks within the Solar PV Sites or trenches within the Cable Route Corridor.
- 6.11.2 Prior to any works occurring with the RPAs of retained trees, the ACoW will be contacted, briefed on the scope of the works and advice sought on the precautionary working methods to employ to minimise damage to roots.
- 6.11.3 Precautionary working methods may include: ground protection (as per Section 7.9 of this OAMS) or hand digging with pre-emptive root pruning. Ground protection will be employed where no excavation is required within RPAs and only access to the RPA for working space is required. Where excavation within RPAs is required, the following precautionary working methods (hand digging

and pre-emptive root pruning) will be followed in accordance with National Joint Utilities Volume 4 Ref 10-18.

- 6.11.4 Prior to excavation occurring within an RPA, the ACoW will mark up on Site a line whereby root pruning is required, this will likely represent the edge of a proposed excavation closest to the tree's stem. Along this line, hand tools will be used to dig a trench to the depth of the proposed excavation. Any roots larger than 25mm in diameter that are encountered will be assessed by the ACoW and where necessary pruned back cleanly to the side of the excavation on the stem side by construction personnel. Roots smaller than 25mm will be cut back cleanly with secateurs to the side of the excavation closest to the tree stem.
- 6.11.5 Once root pruning has been carried out, the proposed works within the RPA will commence. In instances where a significant amount of large roots have been pruned, the ACoW will advise on any remedial tree works required for health and safety. If the excavation is being back-filled (i.e. in the Cable Route Corridor), uncompacted subsoil will be replaced followed by uncompacted topsoil. Builders' sand will not be used to backfill the trenches due to its high salt content which is toxic to tree roots. If sand is required, sharp sand will be used or other granular fill.

6.12 Working near Tree Canopies

- 6.12.1 When tall machinery is working near the canopies of tree canopies the machine operator will be accompanied by a banksman who will work from ground level and ensure that moving machinery parts avoid the stems and branches of retained trees.

6.13 Horizontal Directional Drilling

- 6.13.1 Prior to trenchless solution (e.g. HDD) machinery being brought into the Cable Route Corridor, adjacent trees will be protected with fit for purpose protective fencing to create a CEZ around the trees for the duration of works in the area.
- 6.13.2 Trees immediately in front of or behind the trenchless solution obstacle (road, river, railway etc) will also be trenched under in order to minimise tree impacts.
- 6.13.3 The entry and exit points for trenchless solution machinery must be located outside the RPAs of retained trees.
- 6.13.4 Trenchless solution depths must exceed 1m when passing underneath [the RPAs of](#) retained trees in order to avoid the majority of tree roots which exist within the upper 600mm of soil.

6.13.5 Prior to construction, detailed drawings will be prepared for trenchless crossings. These will identify, as appropriate:

- the location of relevant trees and their RPAs;

- [HDD entry and exit points; and](#)
- [any tree-specific constraints or additional protection measures required.](#)

[6.13.6](#) The detailed design will demonstrate that the proposed trenchless crossing will not result in significant loss of rooting volume or create an unacceptable risk of soil fracturing, heave, settlement, desiccation or other changes that could adversely affect the structural rooting environment of retained trees.

[6.13.7](#) The construction methodology will also include appropriate contingency measures for reasonably foreseeable construction anomalies, including inadvertent drilling fluid returns, bore collapse, ground settlement or other events that could affect an RPA. Where such an event occurs within or in proximity to an RPA, works in the affected area will cease where necessary to prevent further harm, and the ACoW will be consulted to determine appropriate remedial or protective measures before works affecting the RPA recommence.

~~6.13.56.~~[6.13.8](#) Once all trenchless solution machinery is removed from an area, only then can tree protection fencing be removed.

6.14 Movement of Construction Machinery and Material/Spoil Storage

6.14.1 No vehicles, construction machinery, materials or spoil will enter the RPAs of retained trees during works at the Solar PV Sites or along the Cable Route Corridor. RPAs will be fenced off at the start of construction as per Section 7.8 and the area between the fencing and the trees considered a CEZ. This will ensure that RPAs are not subject to soil compaction which can have significant negative impacts to tree health in the long term. If spoil or machinery does require access to RPAs, ground protection will be employed as per Section 7.9 of this OAMS.

6.15 Dust and Sediment Control near Woodlands

6.15.1 6 ancient woodlands are adjacent to the Solar PV Sites and the Cable Route Corridor. The woodlands must be protected from potential dust pollution and sediment run off and any potential impacts to ancient woodland flora and soils.

6.15.2 Details of dust and sediment mitigation are detailed in the **Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.12]**. A Dust Mitigation Plan will be developed prior to construction and must also apply its mitigation to construction works occurring near ancient woodlands. Other sediment mitigation detailed in the OCEMP includes:

- Cut-off ditches or geotextile silt-fences, installed around excavations, exposed ground and stockpiles to prevent uncontrolled release of sediment;
- All potentially contaminated waters (for example washdown areas, stockpiles and other areas of risk for water contamination) to have separate

drainage. Any contaminated waters would be taken away by tanker from the Solar PV Sites; and

- Vehicles carrying material off-Site will be sheeted to prevent the spread of dust.

6.16 Temporary Construction Compounds (TCCs)

- 6.16.1 TCCs will be located away from trees and outside of the canopy spreads and RPAs of adjacent trees. Adjacent trees will be protected for the duration the TCC is in use by tree protection fencing and ground protection as necessary as per section 7.8 and 7.9 respectively of this OAMS.

6.17 Decommissioning

- 6.17.1 Prior to decommissioning of the Scheme, a tree survey must be undertaken in accordance with BS 5837:2012 (or most recent updated standard and industry guidelines) of the Order Limits. An Arboricultural Impact Assessment must be produced alongside an Arboricultural Method Statement to guide the decommissioning works and ensure potential tree impacts are identified, mitigated and compensated for where appropriate.

7 References

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