Meridian Solar Farm

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Volume 7

Other **Documents**

7.16 O**utline** Landscape and Ecology **Management Plan** (Rev 2) (Clean)

APFP Regulation 5(2)(q)

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1. Introduction

1.1. Overview

1.1.1. This Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (OLEMP) has been prepared on behalf of Meridian Solar Farm Limited (hereafter referred to as the Applicant). The document includes provision for the successful establishment and future management of biodiversity and landscaping works.

1.1.2. This document forms part of a Development Consent Order (DCO) Application and provides a framework for delivering the landscape strategy and the successful establishment and future management of proposed landscape works associated with the Meridian Solar Farm (hereafter referred to as 'the Scheme'). It sets out the short and long-term measures and practices that will be implemented by the Applicant to establish, monitor, and manage landscape and ecology mitigation and enhancement (biodiversity net gain) measures embedded in the design. The latter will be achieved through habitat creation over and above that used for habitat mitigation.

1.1.3. The Scheme would comprise the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of a solar PV electricity generating station with associated infrastructure, including co-located Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), Inter-Array Connections to link the land parcels that form the Solar Development Areas, and an up to 13km overhead line Grid Connection (with one short undergrounded section) which would run north towards a point of connection (PoC) at the proposed Weston Marsh B National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) substation, to the north of Weston.

1.1.4. The Solar PV generating station, associated BESS, on-site substations and other associated infrastructure would be located within four land parcels (A, B, C and D) referred to collectively as the Solar Development Area, as shown in **ES Figure 1-1** (Doc Ref. 6.2).

1.1.5. The Inter-Arrays would be the areas within which 132kV connection cables (the 'Inter-Array Connections') would link the land parcels of the Solar Development Area. The configuration of the Inter-Array Connections (132kV) would comprise underground cabling between Land Parcels A and B ('the Underground Inter-Array') and an overhead line between Land Parcels C and D ('the Overground Inter-Array').

1.1.6. The Grid Connection Route would be the area between the Solar Development Area and the National Grid Weston Marsh B Substation in which

a 400kV overhead line (the 'Grid Connection') would be located. There is one section where the Grid Connection would route underground to avoid conflicts with an existing 132kV overhead line. Cable Sealing End Compounds (CSECs) would join the proposed underground cable at that section with the proposed overhead line.

1.1.7. The Site constitutes the total land area within the Order Limits of the Scheme, including the Solar Development Area, Inter-Array Connections and Grid Connection Route. A summary of the areas for each part of the Scheme is provided below:

- Solar Development Area - Land Parcel A: 197ha;
- Solar Development Area - Land Parcel B: 335ha;
- Solar Development Area - Land Parcel C: 205ha;
- Solar Development Area - Land Parcel D: 330ha;
- Underground Inter-Array between Land Parcel A & B: 15ha;
- Overhead Inter-Array between Land Parcel C & D: 46ha;
- Grid Connection Route: 510ha; and
- Site (total): 1,616ha.[1]

1.1.8. The Scheme is described further in **ES Chapter 2: The Scheme** (Doc Ref. 6.1). The area of land required for the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning is shown on the indicative site layout plans in **ES Figure 2-2: Indicative Solar Development Area and Inter-Array Connections Layout Plan** and **ES Figure 2-4: Indicative Grid Connection Route Layout Plan** (Doc Ref. 6.2). These have informed the preparation of the Outline Landscape Masterplans (refer to **Annex A** of this document).

1.1.9. The Scheme is located within the administrative boundaries of Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) and South Holland District Council (SHDC), in the county of Lincolnshire. The OLEMP forms part of the strategy for successfully integrating the Scheme within the existing landscape and also mitigating impacts identified within the DCO Application. The Outline Landscape

[1] Note the sum of parts for the areas of the Scheme exceeds the total area of the Order Limits due to an overlap of the Grid Connection Route with Solar Development Area Land Parcel B.

Masterplans, provided in **Annex A,** represent a tangible physical example of how the Scheme could be constructed.

1.1.10. This OLEMP is a live document, the context of which will continue to be updated, refined and (where necessary) added to, based on ongoing discussions between the Applicant and statutory bodies and relevant Local Planning Authorities. It will be updated by the Applicant into a final detailed Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) prior to the commencement of works in accordance with the Requirements contained in Schedule 2 of the **Draft DCO** (Doc Ref. 3.1).

1.2. Purpose of this Document

1.2.1. The purpose of this OLEMP is to set out the measures proposed to:

- Mitigate the effects of the Scheme on landscape and biodiversity features.
- Enhance the biodiversity, landscape, and green infrastructure value of the Order Limits, including with reference to Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG); and
- Secure compliance with relevant national and local planning policies.

1.2.2. The Scheme has been designed, where reasonably practicable, to avoid or reduce effects on landscape/visual and biodiversity features through siting of the Scheme components, including structures and new planting. For further information see in particular **ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity** and **ES Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual** (Doc Ref. 6.1).

1.2.3. This document outlines the landscape and biodiversity avoidance measures that would be implemented prior to, and during, construction of the Scheme, as well as the habitat restoration and enhancement maintenance, management, and monitoring measures to be implemented once the Scheme is operational. Implementation of these measures is proposed to be secured by the requirement for a detailed LEMP(s) to be produced in accordance with this OLEMP. The detailed LEMP will also be required to be submitted to and approved by the relevant local authority.

1.2.4. In order to avoid potential conflicts in approach to impact avoidance and enhancement, this document identifies the measures required for both landscape and biodiversity together, to demonstrate a cohesive strategy.

1.2.5. The OLEMP is structured as follows:

- **Section 1** sets out the context, purpose, objectives and responsibilities for the delivery of the plan;
- **Section 2** summarises the relevant legislation, planning policy and guidance;
- **Section 3** describes the existing landscape and biodiversity features and the constraints within the Scheme;
- **Section 4** outlines the landscape and ecology strategy for the Scheme which incorporates proposals for landscape and biodiversity impact mitigation. The strategy is illustrated by the Outline Landscape Masterplans, provided within **Annex A** of this document;
- **Section 5** details the measures required for the effective management and maintenance of the landscape and biodiversity mitigation proposals;
- **Section 6** describes pre- and post-construction monitoring to determine that the functions documented within this OLEMP are being achieved and whether remedial action may be required; and
- **Section 7** provides details of the Ecological Steering Group.

1.3. Objectives

1.3.1. The overarching objectives of the OLEMP are to:

- Integrate the Scheme into its landscape setting and avoid or minimise adverse landscape, biodiversity, heritage, and visual effects, where reasonably practicable;
- Promote the conservation, protection, and improvement of the physical, natural, and historic environment within the Scheme and its setting. The landscape framework should be seen as an integral part of the surrounding landscape;
- Diversify ecological value of existing habitats, for example through restoration and enhancement of woodland, restoration, and creation of diverse habitats with high distinctiveness; and
- Guide the design and management of landscape and biodiversity components that respond to and enhance the character of the landscape, local distinctiveness, and sense of place.

1.4. Roles and Responsibilities

1.4.1. The Applicant will establish the appropriate roles and responsibilities for site staff, and these will be confirmed in the detailed LEMP. It is envisaged that the landscape and biodiversity mitigation commitments will be delivered by the Applicant and its contactors, Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW), Landscape Clerk of Works (LCoW) and project Arboriculturist. The Applicant will be ultimately responsible that the commitments outlined in this OLEMP have been delivered. A summary of the roles and responsibilities over the lifetime of the Scheme is set out below.

The Applicant and/or the Appointed Contractor(s)

1.4.2. The Applicant and their appointed contractor(s) will be responsible for:

- Establishing and managing the implementation of landscape and ecological mitigation, in accordance with principles stated within this OLEMP;
- Ensuring that monitoring of the success of landscape and ecological mitigation establishment is undertaken, as set out within Section 6;
- Correct instruction of all parties contributing to delivery of the final approved LEMP (including but not restricted to the Applicant's staff and their appointed ecologists, arboriculturists, landscape architects, landscape contractors, construction contractors, and management organisations) based upon the principles stated within the OLEMP;
- Keeping the appointed ecologist/landscape architect/arboriculturist informed of work activities that require support and supervision, so that it is clear when attendance is required;
- Enacting/enforcing recommendations made by the ecologist/landscape architect/arboriculturist, or otherwise agreeing an appropriate alternative course of action, if it is subsequently determined that previous advice is not practicable or is out of date; and
- Keeping a record of measures taken to deliver the requirements of the final LEMP, to provide an auditable record of compliance.

Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW)

1.4.3. The ECoW will be responsible for:

- Advising the Applicant and the appointed contractor(s) on ecological matters and requirements for compliance with relevant legislation and

protected species licences, providing support as instructed, and monitoring compliance with the final approved LEMP;

- Reviewing the LEMP at appropriate intervals and revising management requirements as necessary for the following five year period and subsequently for the duration of the LEMP;
- Where a European Protected Species Mitigation Licence (EPSML) has been granted, it is the responsibility of the 'Named Ecologist' and licence holder or otherwise appointed ecologists to ensure the compliance of the licence and working activities associated with the agreed licence; and
- Providing the Applicant and the appointed contractor(s) with survey reports and other written evidence required in accordance with the agreed scope of work and contractual obligations.

Landscape Clerk of Works (LCoW)/Arboriculturist

1.4.4. The appointed LCoW/arboriculturist will be responsible for:

- Providing specialist site supervision in the form of walkover surveys to relevant landscape areas. This would be to assess landscape components and their condition and identify the need for landscape enhancement as instructed and in accordance with the agreed scope of work and contractual obligations, once the Scheme is operational;
- Monitoring and assessing the landscape related elements of the approved LEMP for their effectiveness in accordance with the management prescriptions set out in Sections 5 and 6 of this document;
- Ensuring that the landscape related elements of the approved LEMP are reviewed at the end of the five-year initial monitoring and assessment stage and amended accordingly for the following long term maintenance period for the lifetime of the Scheme. The LEMP shall be amended accordingly to suit any changing landscape conditions and ultimately inform the maintenance operations until the decommissioning of the Scheme is complete; and
- Ensuring that any reviews associated with landscape related elements of the approved LEMP clearly identify any changes to site conditions and circumstances, whether the aims and objectives of the approved LEMP are being met, and where identified changes are needed to existing management practices and timeframes.

1.5. Securing Mechanisms

1.5.1. The measures in this OLEMP will be secured through:

- Requirement 7 of the **Draft DCO** (Doc Ref. 3.1), which requires the preparation of a detailed landscape and ecology management plan in substantial accordance with this OLEMP;
- Protected species licences (e.g., badger; water vole CL31; bats) supported by method statements and monitoring;
- Other approvals, which may be sought through protective provisions of the **Draft DCO** (Doc Ref. 3.1) or through other standalone consents and licenses, for example with regards to the approvals from Internal Drainage Boards for watercourse crossings.

2. Legislation, Policy and Guidance

2.1. Overview

2.1.1. The relevant legislation and policies are summarised below. For more detail, please refer to ES Appendix 9-1: Ecology and Biodiversity Legislation, Policy and Guidance (Doc Ref. 6.3) and ES Appendix 12-1: Landscape and Visual Legislation, Policy and Guidance (Doc Ref. 6.3).

2.2. Legislation

- **Council of Europe Landscape Convention 2000**[2] – International treaty for protection, management, and planning of all landscapes in Europe; signed by the UK in 2006.
- **Animal Welfare Act 2006**[3] - Legal framework to ensure the welfare and protection of animals in England and Wales.
- **Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000**[4] – Grants public access to 'open country' or registered common land.
- Electricity Act 1989[5] - Establishes requirements with regards to relevant to overhead line wayleave clearances and vegetation management.
- **Environment Act 2021**[6] – Legal framework for environmental protection post-Brexit. Establishes the requirement for mandatory biodiversity net gain becomes for NSIPs from May 2026 (delayed from November 2025); the Scheme will pursue significant net gain outcomes through the OLEMP, as illustrated by the **Biodiversity Net Gain Report** (Doc Ref. 7.9).
- **Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006**[7] – Establishes species and habitats of principal importance, which public bodies have a legal duty to have regard to.

[2] *Council of Europe, Landscape Convention 2000* (Treaty no. 176). Available at: [redacted] [Accessed 07/11/2025]
[3] Animal Welfare Act 2006. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/45/contents [Accessed 07/11/2025]
[4] *Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000*. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/contents [Accessed 07/11/2025]
[5] Electricity Act 1989. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/29/contents [Accessed 09/03/2026]
[6] *Environment Act 2021*. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/data.pdf [Accessed 07/11/2025]
[7] *The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006*. Available at: www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/contents. [Accessed 07/11/2025]

- **Occupiers Liability Act 1957[8] & 1984[9]** - confer a duty of care onto owners or occupiers to take reasonable steps to prevent foreseeable harm (e.g. with regards to tree safety inspections/management).
- **Protection of Badgers Act 1992[10]** - Makes it an offence to (or attempt to) kill, injure or take a badger, or to damage, destroy or obstruct access to a sett, or disturb a badger whilst it is occupying a sett.
- **Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975[11]** – Establishes requirements to protect and manage salmon and freshwater fish and their habitats.
- **Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981[12]** – Conservation of wild birds and other plant and animal species.
- **Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996[13] -** provides legal protection for all wild mammals in the UK from deliberate acts of cruelty and unnecessary suffering.
- **Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017[14]** - specify the designation and protection of Internationally Important Wildlife Sites and provide protection for species, referred to as Protected Species;
- **Eels (England and Wales) Regulations 2009[15]** – Protects the declining European eel population.
- **Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations 2002[16]** - Establishes requirements with regards to relevant to overhead line wayleave clearances and vegetation management.
- **The Hedgerow Regulations 1997[17]** – Protects important hedgerows meeting specific criteria.

[8] Occupiers Liability Act 1957. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Eliz2/5-6/31/contents [Accessed 07/11/2025]
[9] Occupiers Liability Act 1984. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1984/3/contents [Accessed 07/11/2025]
[10] The Protection of Badgers Act 1992. Available at: www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1992/51/contents. [Accessed 07/11/2025]
[11] Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1975/51 [Accessed 07/11/2025]
[12] *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981*. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69 [Accessed 07/11/2025]
[13] Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/3/contents [Accessed 12/11/2025]
[14] Natural History Museum (2024) *UK Species Inventory*. Available at: [redacted] [Accessed 07/11/2025]
[15] Eels (England and Wales) Regulations 2009. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2009/3344/contents [Accessed 07/11/2025]
[16] The Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations 2002. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2002/2665/contents [Accessed 09/03/2026]
[17] *The Hedgerow Regulations 1997*. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1997/1160/made/data.pdf. [Accessed 07/11/2025]

- **The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012**[18] – Allows local authorities to make and manage Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs).
- **The Management of Hedgerows (England) Regulations (2024)**[19] - prevents the cutting or trimming of (or the permitting of another person to cut or trim) an important agricultural hedgerow that is covered by the legislation from 1 March to 31 August, subject to the relevant exemptions. Any trees growing in a hedgerow are treated as part of the hedgerow.
- **The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017**[20] - Provides a legal framework to protect and improve the quality of all water bodies. Implements the EU Water Framework Directive in England and Wales.
- **Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order 2019**[21] - set restrictions and requirements for the keeping, release, management and permitting of listed invasive non-native species.

2.3. Planning Policy

- Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (NPS EN-1, 2025)[22] – Relevant sections: 4.3 (Environmental Effects/Considerations), 4.6 (Environmental and Biodiversity Net Gain), 4.7 (Criteria for good design for energy infrastructure), 4.10 (Climate change adaptation and resilience), 5.4 (Biodiversity and Geological Conservation) and 5.10 (Landscape and Visual).
- National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (NPS EN-3, 2025)[23]– Relevant sections: 2.3 (Factors influencing site selection and

[18] *The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012*. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/605/data.pdf. [Accessed 07/11/2025]
[19] The Management of Hedgerows (England) Regulations 2024. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2024/9780348260472/regulation/6 [Accessed 07/11/2025].
[20]The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/407/contents [Accessed 07/11/2025]
[21] *Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order 2019*. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2019/527/contents [Accessed 07/11/2025]
[22] DESNZ (2025). Overarching NPS for Energy (NPS EN-1). Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/overarching-national-policy-statement-for-energy-en-1-2025/overarching-national-policy-statement-for-energy-en-1-2025-accessible-webpage [Accessed 09/03/2026]
[23] DESNZ (2025) NPS for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (NPS EN-3). Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statement-for-renewable-energy-infrastructure-en-3-2025/national-policy-statement-for-renewable-energy-infrastructure-en-3-2025-accessible-webpage [Accessed 09/03/2026]

design), 2.4 (Climate change adaptation and resilience), 2.5 (Consideration of good design for energy infrastructure) and 2.10 (Solar Photovoltaic Generation).

- National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (NPS EN-5, 2025)[24]– Relevant sections: 2.2 (Factors influencing site selection and design), 2.3 (Climate change adaptation), 2.4 (Consideration of good design for energy infrastructure), 2.5 (Environmental and Biodiversity Net Gain), 2.10 (Mitigation).
- **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2024)**[25] – Sections 12 (Well-designed spaces), 14 (Meeting the challenge of climate change) and 15 (Conserving/enhancing the natural environment).
- **South East Lincolnshire Local Plan** (SELLP, 2011–2036, adopted 2019)[26] – Relevant policies:
  - Policy 2 – Development Management;
  - Policy 28 – The Natural Environment;
  - Policy 29 – The Historic Environment;
  - Policy 31 – Climate Change and Renewable/Low Carbon Energy;
  - Policy 33 – Delivering a More Sustainable Transport Network (part C).
- **Strategic Landscape Capacity Study** (2003)[27], (South Holland District Council);
- **Green Masterplan**, (Lincolnshire County Council)[28];

[24] DESNZ (2025) NPS for Electricity Networks (NPS EN-5). Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statement-for-electricity-networks-infrastructure-en-5-2025/national-policy-statement-for-electricity-networks-infrastructure-en-5-2025-accessible-webpage [Accessed 09/03/2026]
[25] National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2024). Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2 [Accessed 07/11/2025]
[26] *South East Lincolnshire Local Plan 2011-2036 (SELLP 2019).* Available at: [redacted] [Accessed 07/11/2025]
[27] *Strategic Landscape Capacity Study (2003), South Holland District Council.* Available at: [redacted] [Accessed 07/11/2025]
[28] Green Masterplan, Lincolnshire County Council. Available at: https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/green-masterplan [Accessed 07/11/2025]

- **Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan**[29] (Lincolnshire Biodiversity Partnership).
- **The Greater Lincolnshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy 2026**[30]

2.4. Guidance

- Landscape:
  - Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA3, 2013)[31] – (Landscape Institute & IEMA, 3rd Edition);
  - Notes and Clarifications on GLVIA3 (LITGN-2024-01)[32] – (Landscape Institute, 2024);
  - Technical Guidance Note 04/2020: Infrastructure[33] (Landscape Institute 2020);
  - Technical Guidance Note 1/17: Tranquillity[34] (Landscape Institute 2017);
  - Tranquillity Map: England[35] (CPRE, 2007);
- Ecology, Arboriculture and Biodiversity:
  - Biodiversity Net Gain: Good Practice Principles for Development. CIRIA, CIEEM & IEMA (2019)[36];
  - British Standard (BS) 3998 – 2010 Treeworks – Recommendations[37]

[29] Lincolnshire Biodiversity Partnership (2011) *Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan*. Available at: www.nelincs.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/201110-LincolnshireBAP-3rd-edition.pdf. [Accessed 07/11/2025]
[30] The Greater Lincolnshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy 2026 {Accessed 04/09/2026}. Available at Greater Lincolnshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy - Greater Lincolnshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy
[31] Landscape Institute. Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment. 2013. Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment. Third Edition. Available as hard copy only
[32] *TGN-2024-01 Notes and Clarifications on Aspects of Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third edition (GLVIA3). Landscape Institute.* Available at: [redacted] [Accessed 07/11/2025]
[33] *TGN 04/2020 Infrastructure. Landscape Institute.* Available at: [redacted] [Accessed 07/11/2025]
[34] *TGN 01/2017 Tranquillity. Landscape Institute*. Available at: [redacted] [Accessed 07/11/2025]
[35] *Tranquility Map: England. Campaign to Protect Rural England (2007).* Available at: Tranquillity Map: England – CPRE. [Accessed 07/11/2025]
[36] CIRIA, CIEEM & IEMA (2019) Biodiversity Net Gain: Good Practice Principles for Development. Available at: http[redacted] [Accessed 07/11/2025]
[37] British Standard 3998:2010 Treeworks – Recommendations. BSI. Available at [redacted] [Accessed 07/11/2025]

- BS 42020:2013 Biodiversity – Code of Practice for Planning and Development[38];
- BS8545 - Trees from nursery to independence in the landscape[39];
- BS 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations[40];
- BS 8683:2021 Biodiversity net gain – Process for designing and implementing[41];
- CIRIA C741 Environmental Good Practice on Site (4th ed.)[42];
- CIRIA C746 Guidance on Invasive Non-Native Species Management[43];
- National Joint Utilities Group (NJUG) (2007) Vol 4 Issue 2[44] – Guidelines for the Planning, Installation and Maintenance of Utility Apparatus in Proximity to Trees;
- Natural England: Protected species standing advice and species licensing policies[45];
- Nature-Positive Solar Farms: A Practical Guide (2022)[46];
- Solar Farm Biodiversity Good Practice (BRE National Solar Centre, 2014)[47];

[38] British Standard 42020:2013 Biodiversity – Code of Practice for Planning and Development. BSI. Available at: [redacted] [Accessed 07/11/2025]
[39] BS8545 - Trees from nursery to independence in the landscape. Available at: [redacted] [Accessed 12/11/2025]
[40] BS 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations. BSI. Available at: [redacted] [Accessed 07/11/2025]
[41] BS 8683:2021 Biodiversity net gain – Process for designing and implementing. BSI. Available at: [redacted] [Accessed 07/11/2025]
[42] CIRIA C741 Environmental Good Practice on Site (4th ed.). CIRIA. Available at: [redacted] [Accessed 07/11/2025]
[43] CIRIA C746 Guidance on Invasive Non-Native Species Management. CIRIA. Available at: [redacted] [Accessed 07/11/2025]
[44] National Joint Utilities Group (NJUG) (2007). Vol 4 Issue 2. Available at: [redacted] [Accessed 07/11/2025)
[45] Natural England: Protected species standing advice and species licensing policies. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/protected-species-how-to-review-planning-applications and https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wildlife-licences [Accessed 07/11/2025]
[46] Nature-Positive Solar Farms: A Practical Guide (2022). Solar Energy UK. Available at: [redacted] [Accessed 07/11/2025]
[47] Solar Farm Biodiversity Good Practice (BRE National Solar Centre, 2014). BRE NSC. Available at: [redacted] [Accessed 07/11/2025]

- RSPB (undated) Skylark conservation - Advice for farmers[48];
- UK Bat Mitigation Guidelines (CIEEM/BCT, 2025 updates)[49];
- Natural England guidance on post-consent management and monitoring (including nest box maintenance and vegetation management)[50].

2.5. Biodiversity Net Gain

2.5.1. It is Government policy in NPS EN-1 that development proposals provide opportunities for building-in beneficial biodiversity features as part of good design and that such opportunities in and around developments should be maximised, where appropriate. The NPPF states that "*planning decisions should minimise impacts on and provide net gain for biodiversity*".

2.5.2. In addition, the Environment Act 2021 includes a mandate for at least 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) for projects. However, this does not currently apply to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs), and is not anticipated to come into effect until May 2026 at the earliest.

2.5.3. Regardless, the Applicant is committed to achieving BNG as part of the Scheme, in accordance with Requirement 8 of the **Draft DCO** (Doc Ref. 3.1). The aims and objectives of this OLEMP are therefore in accordance with these BNG requirements.

2.5.4. The detailed LEMP will incorporate the requirements set out in the Natural England Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) template[51] (or latest relevant guidelines as appropriate).

2.5.5. The detailed LEMP will outline the measures for the long-term management and monitoring of habitats and features suitable for promoting biodiversity and will detail how each habitat will reach the prescribed target condition. It will include measures to increase the ecological value of the Site following completion of the development and measures for the long term, such as a

[48] RSPB (undated) Skylark conservation advice for farmers. Available at: [redacted] [Accessed 12/11/2025]
[49] UK Bat Mitigation Guidelines, CIEEM, 2025. Available at: https://cieem.net/resource/uk-bat-mitigation-guidelines-2025/ | CIEEM [Accessed 25/02/2026]
[50] Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan Template, Natural England. Available at: Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan Template - JP058 [Accessed 25/02/2026].
[51] Natural England (2024) Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan Template (JP058) [redacted] [Accessed 16 March 2026]

reduced pruning regime for trees and shrubs and a reduced mowing regime for grassland areas.

2.5.6. The detailed LEMP would be handed over after construction and explained to the relevant maintenance company or those staff responsible for the ongoing management of the site.

2.5.7. Management and monitoring of the habitats over a minimum 30-year period is required for BNG purposes to ensure correct development and management of habitats, in line with BNG principles, including scheduled checks at appropriate intervals, to ensure habitats are establishing correctly and to ensure that corrective actions can be undertaken if required. The detailed management plan is to be reviewed and updated after each scheduled check and management may require adjustment to ensure that these habitats develop appropriately and reach their target condition.

2.5.8. Further information on BNG including an analysis of the BNG potential of the Scheme is provided in the **Biodiversity Net Gain Report** (Doc Ref. 7.9).

3. Existing Landscape and Biodiversity Features

3.1. Existing Landscape Features

3.1.1. The landscape features within the Order Limits consist of agricultural fields mainly under arable production, interspersed with individual trees, hedgerows, tree belts (linear), small woodland blocks, and farm access tracks. Several small rural villages are located adjacent or within the vicinity of the Order Limits.

3.1.2. The topography within the study area is predominantly flat and low lying, which is a key characteristic of The Fens, ranging from 0m to 10m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD).

3.1.3. There is an existing network of public rights of way (PRoW) within the surrounding area (as shown on the Outline Landscape Masterplans (refer to **Annex A** of this document)).

3.1.4. A network of large linear drainage ditches and dykes along field boundaries and close to rural roads and PRoW are a distinct feature within the study area. The main hydrological feature within the study area is the River Welland, which is present from the south-west to the north-east of the study area, travelling in a broadly straightened corridor. The north-east extent of the study area reaches the coast, where the River Welland meets the sea at Black Bouy Sand.

3.2. Existing Biodiversity Features

3.2.1. The following section summarises the baseline detail for biodiversity, as presented in **ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity** (Doc Ref. 6.1).

Statutory and Non-Statutory Sites

3.2.2. The Site is not subject to any statutory nature conservation designations. The Wash Ramsar/ Special Protection Area (SPA)/ Special Area of Conservation (SAC)/ Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is the closest designated site of international importance, located 8.4km north-east of the Grid Connection Route. Within a 15km radius, there are also the Baston Fen SAC / SSSI 10km west of Land Parcel A and Nene Washes Ramsar / SPA/ SAC/ SSSI is located 11km south of Land Parcel D. In addition, the Cowbit Wash SSSI is located approximately 4km west and the Surfleet Lows SSSI approximately 3.5km north-west of the Grid Connection Route. Due to the proximity of the internationally important wildlife sites, the landscape and ecology strategy and

management prescriptions set out within this OLEMP have been informed by the conclusions of **ES Appendix 9-14: Habitats Regulations Assessment Report** (Doc Ref. 6.3).

3.2.3. Four non-statutory nature conservation sites cross the Order Limits: Slys Connection Local Wildlife Site (LWS) which runs through the Site across Sub-parcels D-2 and D-3; South Holland Main Drain, West LWS located within Sub-parcel B-5; Lambert Drain to Highstock Drain Connection which crosses the Order Limits on Langary Gate Road to the south of Parcel D; and Wheat Mere Drain LWS which passes through the Grid Connection Route. The nearest outside the Site is Crowland Falls Pit LWS approximately 40m south of Land Parcel A.

3.2.4. The Site comprises arable farmland, grazing and grassland, ditches, isolated pockets of plantation woodland, a small number of hedgerows, lines of trees, scattered trees, and small parcels of scrub. These have the potential to support a range of protected and notable species, including, but not limited to, bats, breeding and wintering birds, otter, water vole and badger.

Habitats

3.2.5. The Site is dominated by an arable field system with ditches and grassland margins, with occasional scattered trees, pockets of plantation woodland, scrub, and hedgerows. Although arable fields are generally of low ecological value, they and the grassland margins provide nesting and foraging opportunities for red- and amber-listed farmland Birds of Conservation Concern and Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) species, such as skylark, yellow wagtail, and reed bunting. Ditches offer further nesting for reed warbler and act as foraging/commuting routes for bats and other terrestrial mammals. Main drains provide suitable habitat for otters and water voles—supporting otter foraging, dispersal, and commuting—and vegetated banks suitable for water vole burrowing and feeding, as well as commuting/foraging habitat for bats. Trees, woodland, scrub, and hedgerows provide nesting for passerines, shelter and foraging for a wide range of mammals and terrestrial invertebrates, and connectivity across the Site; hedgerows are also Habitats of Principal Importance. Scattered villages, farms, and private residential properties occur nearby, with farm buildings and mature trees offering potential roosting sites for bats and nesting opportunities for birds. Grassland field margins and drainage ditches are suitable for common reptiles, amphibians, mammals, and terrestrial invertebrates, and the highly mobile badger can be supported across the area.

3.2.6. Of these habitats, the following are considered of note with regards to ecology:

- Hedgerows — Habitat of Principal Importance (Section 41, NERC Act 2006); key linear habitat for connectivity.
- Arable field margins — Habitat of Principal Importance (Section 41); includes grass/flower margins at the edges of arable fields that support farmland birds and invertebrates.
- Broadleaved (semi-natural) woodland — Habitat of Principal Importance where semi-natural; woodland edges enhance connectivity and foraging but are not a separate designation.
- Drainage ditches and IDB main drains — can contribute to the Priority Habitat "Rivers" where natural or semi-natural; in planning they are routinely safeguarded as blue-green infrastructure and for supporting protected species (e.g., water vole, otter).
- Mature trees — if ancient or veteran, they are treated as irreplaceable habitat under the NPPF.
- Scrub — ecologically notable as provide shelter and foraging opportunities for a variety of protected and notable species.

Protected and Notable Species

3.2.7. With reference to **ES Appendices 9-2** to **9-13** (Doc Ref. 6.3), desktop study data and surveys of protected and notable fauna within the Order Limits (and appropriate survey areas) recorded the following in addition to those mentioned above:

- Wintering and breeding birds;
- Bats;
- Reptiles;
- Badgers;
- Water vole and otter.

4. Landscape and Ecology Strategy

4.1. Landscape Strategy

4.1.1. Good design has been a key consideration from the outset. The EIA has informed the iterative design process, guided by design principles developed specifically to address the opportunities and constraints presented by the Scheme. These principles have been developed in response to policy requirements, published landscape character assessment guidance and fieldwork analysis.

4.1.2. In developing the landscape design strategy, particular consideration was given to:

- The recommendations contained within relevant landscape guidelines, including Natural England Statements of Environmental Opportunity (SEO) outlined in the profile for NCA 46 – The Fens[52]; and
- Guidance contained within the Technical Guidance Note 04/20 Infrastructure by the Landscape Institute[53].

4.1.3. The overall objective of the landscape design is to integrate the Scheme into its landscape setting and avoid or minimise adverse landscape and visual effects, where reasonably practicable. Accordingly, the landscape design aims to achieve the following:

- To integrate the Scheme into the existing landscape pattern where reasonably practicable by utilising and following existing features, including vegetation, where practicable.
- To replace habitat lost because of construction of the Scheme and introduce new habitats through areas of new planting.
- To filter and screen more prominent components of the Scheme in views from visual receptors.
- Minimise permanent impacts on Best and Most Versatile agricultural land, where practicable.

[52] *NCA Profile: 46. The Fens. Natural England.* Available at [redacted] [Accessed 07/11/2025]
[53] *TGN 04/2020 Infrastructure. Landscape Institute*. Available at: [redacted] [Accessed 07/11/2025]

4.2. Overview Landscape Design Principles

4.2.1. This section describes the landscape design principles which underpin the landscape design strategy and explains how they have been applied to the design of the Scheme.

Careful siting in the landscape

4.2.2. Offsets from properties were included in the initial design following a review of the existing views experienced by residents in proximity to the four Solar Development Area Land Parcels A, B, C and D. The form and extent of these offsets have been adjusted through design development to respond to the existing character of views from residential properties.

4.2.3. With reference to the **Design Parameters** (Doc Ref. 7.4), the Scheme design has been carefully sited where it will appear in views experienced by residents to avoid or minimise adverse effects as set out as below. Field numbering referenced below is illustrated on **ES Figure 1-2: Solar Development Area Field Numbers** (Doc Ref. 6.2). The Scheme is illustratively shown on Outline Landscape Masterplan (refer to **Annex A** of this document).

Cloot House west of Cloot Drove / Washbank

4.2.4. An offset of PV panels of approximately 50m from the hedge along the southern boundary of the property in the north-eastern corner of field A-1-05 is proposed to maintain open south-, south-westerly views from Cloot House, particularly from the first floor.

Dwellings at Martins Farm / Martins Farm Cottage west of Martins Road

4.2.5. An offset from PV panels of a minimum 130m from the western boundary of Martins Farm in the eastern section of field C-2-02 and approximately up to 100m east from the eastern boundary of field C-1-01 & C-1-02 along Martins Road is proposed to retain the current vegetation patterns of the surrounding fields of Martins Farm / Martins Farm Cottage (refer to fields C-2-04 and C-2-05). In addition, advanced planting consisting of bands of shrubs and scattered trees is proposed along sections of Martins Road along the western boundary of fields field C-1-01 & C-1-02 east of Martins Farm and Martins Cottages.

Dwellings off Hull's Drove / B1166 northwest of Shepeau Stow

4.2.6. An offset of PV panels of a minimum of 80m from the northern boundary of these properties is proposed (refer to field C-1-07). In addition, advanced

planting consisting shrubs and scattered trees is proposed along the southern boundary and southeastern boundary of field C-1-07.

Residences along Queen's Bank

4.2.7. An offset of PV panels between 400m and 580m from the southern boundary of these properties is proposed (refer to fields B-1-07, B-1-09, B-1-13, B-3-01, B-3-02, B-1-12, B2, C-2-01, the northern section of C-2-02, and C-2-03). In addition, the current agricultural use of fields adjacent to Queen's Bank is proposed to be retained and sections are proposed to also become a Habitat Management Area (refer to fields C-1-01, C-1-03 and C-1-08).

Residences along Langary Gate Road

4.2.8. An offset of PV panels of minimum 50m from residences is proposed (refer to fields D-6 and D-5-01). In addition, Habitat Management Areas and Advanced Planting in selected locations will be established to retain the visual amenity in the vicinity of these properties and to reduce visual effects as well as glint and glare from the proposed Solar Development Areas. In addition, advanced planting consisting of bands of shrubs and scattered trees along sections of the PV Panels west of Langary Gate Road (refer to field D-6) is proposed.

Design and Siting of On-Site Substation Compounds

4.2.9. The design and siting of the On-Site Substation Compounds have been developed through an iterative design process considering the requirements of Horlock Rules[54], NPS EN-1 and EN-5, and the outcomes of environmental assessments and consultation. Given the predominantly flat fenland setting, opportunities to use landform or existing screening to reduce visual intrusion are limited. However, the proposed mitigation planting and landscape strategy, as illustrated by Outline Landscape Masterplan (refer to **Annex A** of this document), has been designed to break views and soften the presence of substation structures. Mitigation planting ensures there are no unobstructed views of the On-Site Substation Compounds from residential properties and PRoWs in the surrounding area.

[54] National Grid (2026). The Horlock Rules. Available at: [redacted] [Accessed 26 January 2026).

Design and Siting of the Grid Connection Route

4.2.10. The Grid Connection Route for the Scheme has been developed through an iterative constraints-led process consistent with the Holford Rules[55], NPS EN-5, and established national overhead line routeing practice. The design balances landscape, heritage, ecology, flood risk, settlement pattern, safety clearances and coordinated planning with the proposed NGET Grimsby to Walpole project. Of specific relevance to minimising landscape and visual effects, the following principles have been applied:

- The Grid Connection Route avoids designated landscapes and the highest amenity areas;
- The design minimises interaction with sensitive receptors such as Wykeham Chapel Scheduled Monument;
- The route remains as direct as reasonably practicable to reduce the number of larger angle towers;
- The design avoids creating new, dispersed "wirescape" by coordinating with existing and proposed major infrastructure corridors;
- The route maintains appropriate standoff from settlements, including Weston, Spalding and Weston Hills, and dispersed rural properties; and
- The route crosses existing distribution assets perpendicularly wherever feasible to minimise visual and electromagnetic convergence.

Conserving existing vegetation patterns

4.2.11. The illustrative layout of the Scheme shown in **ES Figure 2-2 Indicative Solar Development Area and Inter-Array Connections Layout Plans** (Doc Ref. 6.2) has been designed to minimise the loss of, and avoid significant effects on, existing vegetation.

4.2.12. A minimum offset of 5-10m from existing vegetation boundaries (trees and shrubs) has been incorporated, where reasonably practicable. Tree constraints and arboricultural impacts associated with the Scheme (including

[55] National Grid (1959). The Holford Rules. Available at: [redacted] [Accessed 23 January 2026]

mitigation measures) are described in **ES Appendix 12-8: Arboricultural Impact Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3).

Creating new green infrastructure

4.2.13. The Scheme has been designed to integrate with the local green infrastructure network, improving ecological and recreational connectivity.

4.2.14. With reference to the Outline Landscape Masterplans (refer to **Annex A** of this document), new planting proposed as part of the Scheme would be delivered in two phases. Where it was found to be beneficial to undertake planting early, in order to maximise growth prior to the operation of the Scheme. This has been included as Advanced Mitigation Planting. Three proposed areas of Advanced Mitigation Planting are proposed and include bands of shrubs and scattered trees along sections of Martins Road, Langary Gate Road, and sections of the southern and southeastern boundary of Field C-1-07. Advanced planting is proposed to be carried out in the first available planting season prior to construction of the Scheme. In instances where planting required to mitigate adverse effects on people's views could not be undertaken in said planting season, it would be undertaken at the beginning of the construction phase. All remaining planting, referred to as Residual Mitigation Planting, would be undertaken at the end of the construction phase.

4.2.15. Areas of new woodland have not been proposed in order to avoid the permanent loss of best and most versatile agricultural land.

4.2.16. New planting would include in the order of:

- 13.8km of proposed band of shrubs;
- 34.6km of proposed band of shrubs and scattered trees;
- 1.6km of strengthened band of scattered trees;
- 129.0ha of proposed species rich grassland; and
- 650.0ha of proposed semi-improved grassland.

4.3. Ecology Strategy

Impact Avoidance

4.3.1. The Scheme has been designed to avoid the temporary or permanent loss of notable habitats (see Section 3.2 above), where reasonably practicable and will be constructed predominantly within arable habitats.

4.3.2. The impact avoidance measures outlined below will be implemented, as relevant and appropriate, prior to and during the construction phase of the Scheme, the purpose being to minimise the impact of works on landscape and biodiversity features and to achieve legislative compliance.

4.3.3. Standard environmental practice and mitigation will be implemented to ensure construction and operation of the Scheme complies with legislation relating to protected species. It will also ensure the Scheme does not compromise the local conservation status of ecological receptors present within or in the vicinity of the Order Limits.

4.3.4. The impact avoidance approach allows for the majority of trees and hedgerows to remain unchanged to ensure that the connectivity of the existing green infrastructure network is maintained.

4.3.5. Commitments embedded within the Scheme design that will contribute to the avoidance of and/ or reduction of potential effects on biodiversity include:

- Retention of, and minimising loss of ditches, hedgerows, trees and field edge habitats where reasonably practicable;
- Maintaining buffers from retained vegetation, watercourses and sensitive habitats to avoid direct and indirect disturbance, as set out in the **OCEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.10);
- Replacement of hedgerow/tree loss through planting of hedgerows or providing similar landscape features (i.e. lines of trees and shrubs) offering the same or better ecological function and value;
- Up to a 15m wide habitat enhancement buffer up and downstream at each proposed watercourse crossing would be created, subject to agreement with the Internal Drainage Boards, and
- Provision of farmland bird mitigation areas.

4.3.6. The provisions in respect of construction methodology are set out in the **Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (OCEMP)** (Doc Ref. 7.10).

Farmland Bird Mitigation Strategy (FBMS)

4.3.7. To address operational effects on skylark and other farmland birds, a Farmland Bird Mitigation Strategy (FBMS) would be produced as part of the detailed LEMP. The FBMS would establish Farmland Bird Mitigation Areas (FBMAs) comprising areas of arable / open habitat to be provided on-site within the Solar Development Area (refer to Table 5-7 with regards to potential areas).

4.3.8. Prescriptions include the creation of skylark plots within cereal crops, at least two plots per hectare, each approximately 16–25 m², located more than 50 m from field edges and at least 100 m apart. Rolling or harrowing would be avoided after establishment. Conservation headlands / wide margins (6–10 m wide) would be managed with reduced inputs and staggered cutting. Rotational fallow patches would also be incorporated. In addition, mowing, cultivation, and rolling would be avoided between April and July within FBMAs.

4.3.9. Monitoring and adaptive management of the FBMAs would include territory mapping in years 1, 2, and 5 post-construction (e.g. following Brown & Shepherd or equivalent). Adaptive triggers will be set to adjust plot / margin management, if target retention / recovery is not achieved.

4.3.10. In summary, the FBMS would present the baseline territory estimates for farmland birds, predicted operational change, mapped FBMAs, total skylark plot numbers per hectare and total margin lengths.

Overhead line bird collision risk controls

4.3.11. As set out within the **Design Parameters** (Doc Ref. 7.4), targeted marking of the 400kV overhead line within the Grid Connection Route would be installed on spans where vantage point data and design review indicate elevated collision risk. This would comprise bird flight diverters, including night-visible types where appropriate. Span marking selection and installation would comply with utility safety standards and landowner/wayleave constraints. The **Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan (OOEMP)** (Doc Ref. 7.11) includes a mechanism to refine span marking if post-installation monitoring or incident reports identify a hotspot.

Updated Surveys

4.3.12. Prior to the commencement of works, and where survey data are older than two years or access constraints existed, updated baseline surveys will be undertaken to inform method statements, micro-siting and licensing requirements. Surveys will include:

- Habitat and hedgerow condition (UKHab) and linear features across working corridors;
- Riparian mammals (otter and water vole) along drains and at all crossing points;

- Badger sett checks across the Solar Development Areas, Inter-Array Connections and Grid Connection Route;
- Bats: tree Preliminary Roost Feature (PRF) checks (including aerial inspections where required), activity transects at key linear features, and targeted emergence/re-entry surveys if PRFs cannot be climbed safely;
- Breeding birds and Schedule 1 species as relevant to works timing, including nest check procedures;
- Wintering bird vantage point (VP) surveys at the Grid Connection Route to confirm flight heights and inform targeted span marking. If commencement is delayed, surveys will be refreshed to ensure decisions are based on current baseline conditions.

Protected Species Licences

4.3.13. Licences will be obtained where works risk committing an offence under relevant legislation. Subject to detailed design and pre-construction ecological surveys, this may include:

- Badger: Natural England licence for any unavoidable sett closure/ disturbance (Sett closure will be timed in accordance with current Natural England guidance and licence conditions to avoid impacts to dependant young), supported by a site-specific method statement;
- Bats: Natural England licence where confirmed roosts could be affected; supported by an appropriate level of mitigation and timing of works will be used to avoid impacts in line with an agreed licence with Natural England. Routine box installation/monitoring will not normally require licence unless it risks disturbance to an active roost; and
- Water vole: Natural England CL31 Water Vole Displacement licence for less than 50 m sections of occupied bank where works are unavoidable, with associated method statements and riparian planting (c.10-15 m either side) to deliver conservation benefit and maintain connectivity.

Ecological Clerk of Works

4.3.14. The scope of the ECoW would be advised by the ecologist and landscape architect based on relevant environmental commitments, the findings of the pre-commencement walkovers, protected species licensing requirements and with reference to the relevant project programmes.

4.3.15. Relevant site staff would receive toolbox talks as necessary from the ECoW on the relevant ecological risks present, legal requirements, and the working

requirements necessary to comply with legislation, and the final approved landscaping and biodiversity management and enhancement measures. Toolbox talks would be repeated as necessary over the duration of the works.

4.3.16. For a full list of avoidance and mitigation measures with regards to protected species, please refer to the **OCEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.10):

Tree Works

4.3.17. The Scheme design minimises the need for the removal of mature trees across the Order Limits. Some removal and pruning of trees will be required to facilitate vehicle access during construction (and operation), and for installation and maintenance of new overhead lines and cabling. Where feasible and appropriate, trees of suitable species will be coppiced and protected to facilitate regeneration. An arboriculturist will advise on the appropriate management of trees to be pruned, coppiced or removed. Tree removals, coppicing and protection requirements on the basis of the illustrative design are shown in **ES Appendix 12-8: Arboricultural Impact Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3).

4.3.18. Where works in close proximity to retained trees cannot be practicably avoided, these works would be undertaken in accordance with current best practice at the time of the works. In November 2025, current best practice is defined in:

- BS 5837: 2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations[40];
- NJUG Guidelines for the Planning, Installation and Maintenance of Utility Apparatus in Proximity to Trees[44]; and
- BS 3998: 2010 Treeworks – Recommendations[37].

4.3.19. All necessary protective fencing would be installed prior to the commencement of any vegetation clearance or Site works. This would be set out in an Arboricultural Method Statement, as required by the **OCEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.10). In addition, in accordance with the **OCEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.10), a final Tree Protection Plan would be prepared pre-construction.

4.3.20. Where part of a group of trees is to be removed the final extent of tree loss will be determined on site by an arboriculturist who will assess the stability and suitability of retained trees.

Hedgerow Works

4.3.21. The layout of the Scheme has been designed to minimise the loss of, and avoid significant effects on, existing landscape features. Where impacts to hedgerows are anticipated, where practicable, these existing areas of hedgerow will be coppiced rather than removed to facilitate works, such as for construction access visibility splays or where vegetation is to be affected managed or potentially affected to facilitate OHL construction or maintenance. Hedgerow removals proposed by the Scheme are shown in **Hedgerow Regulations and Tree Preservation Order Plans** (Doc Ref. 2.12).

4.3.22. Where this is not practicable, any removed sections of hedgerow will be replanted where feasible upon completion of construction.

Precautionary Working Method

4.3.23. Precautionary working methods will be adopted to avoid harm (including disturbance, injury, or killing) to protected and notable species in line with relevant wildlife legislation before and during construction. Working methods will be informed by up-to-date surveys and, the ECoW will set out pre-construction checks, ecological supervision, timing restrictions, exclusion zones, and stop-works procedures where required; any required licences will be obtained from Natural England prior to works that could affect protected species.

4.3.24. These will include, but not be limited to:

- Buffers and stand-offs: maintain a minimum 10 m stand-off from drain bank tops and riparian margins where practicable; establish fence protection zones for works adjacent to sensitive features;
- Pre-works checks: required for badger, otter, water vole and tree PRFs; stop-works procedures will be implemented if new evidence of protected species is found;
- Trench management and welfare: no trenches left open overnight where practicable; if any must remain open, provide covered ends or escape ramps/ladders, batter sides where feasible, cap pipes/ducts, and check all excavations and plant at the start of each shift before backfilling;
- Timing: avoid vegetation clearance in the core bird breeding season (March–September) where practicable; if unavoidable, undertake pre-works nesting checks by a suitably experienced ecologist;

- Pollution, dust and housekeeping: implement controls for fuel/chemical storage (bunding), refuelling, spill kits, silt controls and dust management as per the measures set out within the **OCEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.10).

4.3.25. As set out within the **OCEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.10), these measures will be secured within, and implemented through, the detailed Construction Environmental Management Plan to be approved pre-construction by the relevant planning authority in accordance with the **Draft DCO** (Doc Ref. 3.1).

Riparian method statements and crossings

4.3.26. At all watercourse crossing points and riparian interfaces:

- Maintain flow using flumes/temporary culverts where necessary; protect banks and control sediment;
- Use trenchless techniques (e.g., HDD) at sensitive locations where practicable;
- Apply minimum 10m standoffs from bank tops for compound/track siting and materials storage;
- Where occupied water vole habitat must be worked for less than 50 m, use CL31 displacement with an agreed method statement and deliver riparian enhancement planting c.10-15 m either side of the crossing to maintain connectivity.

Animal Welfare Requirements

4.3.27. To avoid the risk of offences under the Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996, the Animal Welfare Act 2006 (where an animal comes under the control of a responsible person), and, for badgers, the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, construction excavations and open-ended pipes/ducts will be managed to prevent wildlife entrapment: no excavations will be left open overnight or outside working hours, where practicable. Where a trench or pit must remain open, at least one roughened escape ramp or ladder will be installed at each end and sides battered where feasible. All pits/voids will be securely covered or barriered; unattended pipes/ducts will be capped; open excavations, pipes, and plant will be checked at the start of each shift and before backfilling; and works will pause while a suitably experienced ecologist safely releases any trapped animal.

Biosecurity Management Plan

4.3.28. A Biosecurity Management Plan (BMP) will be prepared as an integral section of the LEMP, informed by the ecological survey findings. The BMP will set out

measures to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species and to ensure statutory compliance; including but not limited to those listed under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), section 14 and Schedule 9 (offence to plant or otherwise cause to grow in the wild listed species such as Japanese knotweed, giant hogweed and Himalayan balsam).

4.3.29. Biosecurity measures will prevent the introduction and spread of invasive non-native species (INNS) during both the construction and operation in line with the objectives of the Greater Lincolnshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy[56]. Controls include plant/equipment hygiene, particularly when moving between areas, inspection and containment, appropriate disposal protocols, and enhanced vigilance at riparian interfaces. INNS surveillance will be embedded in construction and operational monitoring, with rapid response actions if detected. A commitment is also made to the liaison with relevant stakeholders (GLNP and the Waterlife Recovery Trust) to support wider strategic American mink control programmes and their operation across the Site as required. Where necessary, a mink control plan will be produced to set out targets and timescales and to guide actions on Site.

4.3.30. There may be ongoing requirements to monitor and control invasive plant species during establishment of new habitats and soft landscaping. The BMP will therefore include post-construction surveillance and responsive control to maintain compliance with the above legislation and any relevant planning conditions, and will specify biosecurity measures (e.g. machinery/plant hygiene, soil/materials management, waste transfer documentation, and staff training) to prevent spread on and off site throughout the maintenance period.

4.3.31. A commitment for preparing a BMP prior to construction is also set out in the **OCEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.10). If necessary, the BMP will be updated to allow it to be rolled forward into the operational phase of the Scheme.

Lighting

4.3.32. Any temporary and permanent lighting will be designed to avoid disturbance to protected and priority species. Primarily this will concern avoiding disturbance through illumination of retained boundary habitats and those

[56] Greater Lincolnshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (2026). Available at: [redacted] [Accessed 03/09/2026]

outside the Site; but, also where relevant and appropriate retained habitats within the Site (i.e. trees with bat potential).

4.3.33. The lighting scheme will be designed, where feasible, in accordance the ILP/BCT GN 08/23 (Bats and Artificial Lighting in the UK)[57], using ecological constraints to maintain dark corridors and avoid disturbance to protected species. Where identified as being required on ecological grounds, lights would aim to have the following characteristics:

- Use warm/amber light (≤2700 K), low blue content, no UV.
- Downward-facing, tightly focused light at low mounting heights; add shields if needed to stop spill.
- Set back from key features (trees with bat potential/roosts, hedgerows, treelines, watercourses) and keep dark corridors continuous.

Lux targets:

- Roosts: target 0 lux; verify ≤0.2 lux at roost faces/entrances (≤0.5 lux only with strong justification and extra mitigation).
- Commuting/foraging corridors: ≤0.5 lux along the feature.
- Other habitat edges (not key bat features): ≤1 lux.
- Apply the same thresholds to temporary lighting.
- Controls: default off, motion-activated with short dwell times, dimming and part night curfews; don't place sensors on wildlife routes.
- Temporary works: task only portable lighting, oriented away from sensitive habitats; minimise night working.
- Verify and adapt: dusk/night lux checks at receptors; if limits are exceeded, re aim, add shielding or dim and re check.

[57] Institution of Lighting Professionals (2025) Bats and artificial lighting in the UK: Guidance Note 08/23.

5. Management Prescriptions

5.1. Introduction

5.1.1. This section describes how existing and new habitats illustrated on Outline Landscape Masterplans (refer to **Annex A** of this document) will be protected or implemented during construction, maintained during the first five years following implementation of each planting phase and managed in the long-term until decommissioning of the Scheme. Long term management varies between species types and is indicated when it differs from the 5 yearly run.

5.1.2. The existing and new landscape types illustrated on Outline Landscape Masterplans (refer to **Annex A** of this document) are:

- Existing retained agricultural and pasture land;
- Existing vegetation retained;
- Proposed band of shrubs (native species) and scattered trees (small-medium native species);
- Strengthened band of scattered trees (native species);
- Proposed band of shrubs (native species);
- Proposed species rich grassland;
- Proposed semi-improved grassland; and
- New or upgraded watercourse crossings with 15m habitat enhancement buffer up and downstream (subject to agreement with the Internal Drainage Board).

5.1.3. All landscape and ecological management works will be undertaken with reference to the Outline Archaeological Mitigation and Management Strategy, secured in accordance with Requirement 11 of the **Draft DCO** (Doc Ref. 3.1). Where works are proposed that may impact on important deposits of archaeological interest, mitigation works may be required in advance of the works progressing. Details of this work will be included in the detailed LEMP.

5.1.4. During decommissioning, where removal of landscape planting is required to necessitate temporary works associated with the decommissioning of the Scheme, subject to landowner agreement replacement planting would be provided.

5.2. Native Planting

5.2.1. The following steps and working methods will be included in the specification:

- Native tree planting
  - Any trees planted throughout the Scheme would be of local provenance, sourced from a local supplier and if applicable, listed in the local BAP.
- Native shrub planting
  - Any native shrubs planted throughout the Scheme would be of local provenance, sourced from a local supplier and if applicable, listed in the local BAP.
- Native grassland planting
  - Species-rich grassland planted throughout the Scheme would be of local provenance, sourced from a local supplier and if applicable, listed in the local BAP.
- Wetland planting
  - Any marginal or wetland plants introduced throughout the Scheme would be of local provenance, sourced from a local supplier and if applicable, listed in the local BAP.

5.2.2. The detailed design will have regard to Forestry Commission Ecological Site Classification Tool (ESC) and The Climate Matching Tool - Forest Research for the selection of planting.

5.3. Existing Trees and Shrubs

5.3.1. Existing trees (individual, bands or groups), shrubs, hedgerows, and wetland planting within the Scheme will be retained wherever possible except where removal is necessary to enable the construction and operation of the Scheme.

Function

5.3.2. The primary function of the existing trees, hedgerows (mainly associated with residential habitation) and shrubs will be to maintain established habitats, visual amenity and character of the landscape and provide a structure for the addition of the new planting and other features of the Scheme.

Implementation

5.3.3. As set out within the **OCEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.10), during construction, the existing trees, shrubs, hedgerows, and wetland planting will be protected. Measures to be employed will include the use of clearly defined stand-offs, managing the structure and integrity of the existing vegetation, and undertaking any pruning outside of the bird breeding season. Tree protection measures will be implemented in accordance with an Arboricultural Method Statement and final Tree Protection Plan, to be developed post consent. Existing trees will be periodically inspected by an arboriculturist during construction. Where construction works are adjacent to existing trees, works will be undertaken under a watching brief to record root management and to recommend further arboricultural works where required. Tree inspection to manage the risk from trees within the Site will be the responsibility of the Applicant and its contractors and will fall within their general obligations to meet their duty of care.

5.3.4. Trees in proximity to the proposed overhead line in the Grid Connection Route will require periodic management to maintain necessary clearances. The requirement for management will be identified via cyclical surveys which will be implemented under the established wayleave rights. Following clearance works identified in **ES Appendix 12-8: Arboricultural Impact Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3) (trees to be removed), works will be limited to the management of self-sown trees which are not currently present and/or those trees identified as Affected Managed or Potentially Affected. The tree removal to facilitate construction will provide a clear corridor as the basis for future maintenance which will reduce the requirement for tree management during operation. Works will comprise pruning or coppicing as appropriate which will be determined with reference to the species concerned, its growth rate, form and distance from the OHL.

5.3.5. A grassland buffer, appropriate to the RPA of each tree, will be maintained around existing individual trees (where feasible) and bird boxes will be installed, where practicable. Management of the grassland buffer and the type of bird boxes is detailed under Sections 5.6 and 5.9 below.

Long-Term Management

5.3.6. Long term management of existing vegetation is provided under the specific landscape types below.

5.4. Proposed bands of shrubs and scattered trees

5.4.1. New scattered shrub planting with small-medium sized tree species will be established to partially obscure views to the Scheme, particularly along roadsides, and to provide wildlife corridors along permeable corridors through the Solar Farm Development Areas – Land Parcels A-D. The tree and shrub planting and associated species-rich grassland will also help to buffer LWS and provide an additional habitat corridor, for example, along part of Slys Connection LWS, with planting north-south along Fleet Drain improving connectivity with Lambert Drain to Highstock Drain Connection LWS to the south. Shrub planting to the north of the 400kV Substation and BESS Compound will provide a buffer to South Holland Main Drain LWS in this location, with further planting on the eastern side of Wheatmere Drain LWS to the north.

Function

5.4.2. The scattered native species shrub planting with trees will provide both a valuable habitat, forming important wildlife corridors over time, buffers and improved connectivity to LWS, and a partial visual screening function to obscure views to the Scheme. Shrub planting is important to provide variety to boundary planting and to partially screen views of the Scheme at the eye level of the observer. Shrubs will be maintained at a minimum height of 2.5m.

Implementation

5.4.3. The locations for proposed bands of shrub and scattered tree planting are illustratively shown on Outline Landscape Masterplans (refer to **Annex A** of this document).

5.4.4. A specification for the native shrub and tree planting will be developed based on the indicative species, sizes and percentages presented in Table 5-1. Larger stock will be used for individual trees within the shrub planting, with reference to the species set out in Table 5-1.

Table 5-1: Indicative mix for scattered tree and shrub planting

Botanical name	Common name	Height at maturity	Form	% Mix
Trees				
Acer campestre	Field Maple	25m	Tree	8
Quercus robur	English Oak	38m	Tree	10

Botanical name	Common name	Height at maturity	Form	% Mix
Betula pendula	Silver Birch	20m	Tree	6
Salix caprea	Goat Willow	10m	Tree	5
Prunus padus	Bird Cherry	15m	Tree	5
Alnus glutinosa	Alder	20m	Tree	3
Ilex aquifolium	Holly	23m	Tree	8
Shrubs				
Euonymus europaeus	Spindle	9m	Shrub	5
Prunus spinosa	Blackthorn	5m	Shrub	10
Cornus sanguinea	Dogwood	10m	Shrub	5
Corylus avellana	Hazel	15m	Shrub	15
Viburnum opulus	Guelder rose	4m	Shrub	5
Rhamnus cathartica	Buckthorn	15m	Shrub	15

Establishment Maintenance

5.4.5. A detailed plan for the establishment and management of new planting will be developed for the five-year establishment maintenance period.

5.4.6. The aim of establishment maintenance will be to support the early stages of growth to encourage the canopy to close, reducing future management requirements to address competition from weeds. This is based on the following principles and outline prescriptions:

- Maintain a 0.5 metre weed free strip around the edges of the planting area and a 1 metre weed-free circle around trees through chemical and mechanical control;
- Water new plants to minimise failures in periods of drought;
- Remove litter, rubbish, and debris from planted areas throughout the year;
- Re-firm soil around roots to ensure plants are supported and upright in spring each year;

- Inspect and adjust guards in spring and autumn;
- Check and record failed or defective plants in September annually;
- Replace failed or defective plants with appropriate species of the same size during the next planting season after failure; and
- LCoW to undertake a quarterly check of plants to record their growth and condition.

Long-Term Management

5.4.7. The long-term management of new and existing shrub and tree planting will focus on the following interventions within the Scheme:

- Cutting will be carried out at the end of the winter in February, aiming to retain berries through the winter months for wildlife and avoiding the bird breeding season;
- Overgrowing or overhanging branches will be removed from any pathways, private tracks, or adjacent public roads to keep them unobstructed;
- Dead, over-mature or dying hedgerow trees will be subject to removal where they are considered dangerous on health and safety grounds, and in accordance with any protected species constraints;
- Replace failed or defective plants with appropriate species during the next planting season after failure, where these plants provide a landscape screening function; and
- Monitoring will be undertaken to detect any significant changes in tree and shrub health and condition. Checks will be made every three years, using fixed-point photography.

5.5. Proposed band of shrubs

5.5.1. New bands of shrub planting would be established to partially obscure views to the Scheme, particularly along roadsides.

Function

5.5.2. The scattered native species shrub planting will provide replacement planting for loss of hedgerows and sheltering, foraging and connectivity opportunities for a variety of protected and notable species, including improving the habitat corridors within the network of drains and LWS in the area. They will aim to form and create new (enhance) substantial wildlife corridors over time and a

partial visual screening function to obscure views to the Scheme Site. Shrub planting height is important to partially screen views and will be maintained at a maximum height of 3m.

Implementation

5.5.3. The locations for proposed shrub planting are illustrated on Outline Landscape Masterplan (refer to **Annex A** of this document).

5.5.4. A specification for the native shrub will be developed based on the indicative species, sizes and percentages presented in Table 5-2.

Table 5-2: Indicative mix for shrub planting

Botanical name	Common name	Height	Form	% Mix
Prunus spinosa	Blackthorn	5m	Shrub	10
Euonymus europaeus	Spindle	9m	Small tree	5
Ilex aquifolium	Holly	23m	Small tree	12
Viburnum opulus	Guelder rose	4m	Shrub	12
Corylus avellana	Hazel	15m	Small tree	10
Cornus sanguinea	Dogwood	10m	Small tree	8
Rosa canina agg.	Dog rose	5m	Shrub	5
Rhamnus cathartica	Buckthorn	15m	Small tree	10
Lonicera periclymenum	Honeysuckle	Trailing	Climber	9
Viburnum lantana	Wayfaring tree	6m	Shrub	10
Clematis vitalba	Clematis	Trailing	Climber	9

Establishment Maintenance

5.5.5. A detailed plan for the establishment and management of new planting will be developed for the five-year establishment maintenance period.

5.5.6. The aim of establishment maintenance will be to support the early stages of growth to encourage the canopy to close, reducing future management requirements to address competition from weeds. This is based on the following principles and outline prescriptions:

- Maintain a 0.5 metre weed free strip around the edges of the planting area and a 1 metre weed-free circle around trees through chemical and mechanical control;
- Water new plants to minimise failures in periods of drought;
- Remove litter, rubbish, and debris from planted areas throughout the year;
- Re-firm soil around roots to ensure plants are supported and upright in spring each year;
- Inspect and adjust guards in spring and autumn;
- Check and record failed or defective plants in September annually;
- Replace failed or defective plants with appropriate species of the same size during the next planting season after failure; and
- LCoW to undertake a quarterly check of plants to record their growth and condition.

Long-Term Management

5.5.7. The long-term management of new and existing shrub planting will focus on the following interventions within the Scheme:

- Cutting will be carried out at the end of the winter in February, aiming to retain berries through the winter months for wildlife and avoiding the bird breeding season;
- Overgrowing or overhanging branches will be removed from any pathways, private tracks, or adjacent public roads to keep them unobstructed;
- Dead, over-mature or dying shrubs will be subject to removal where they are considered dangerous on health and safety grounds, and in accordance with any protected species constraints; and
- Monitoring will be undertaken to detect any significant changes in shrub health and condition. Checks will be made every three years, using fixed-point photography.

5.6. Proposed grassland

5.6.1. A mosaic of grassland types varying in species richness will be established across the Scheme. Broadly the grassland mosaic will comprise:

- Semi-improved grassland of moderate species richness under photovoltaic (PV) solar panels and within the fence and solar panel areas;
- Species rich grassland in areas of set aside grassland and margins; and Pollen/Nectar rich cover crop margins for pollinators and over wintering birds. Much of this falls alongside existing drains which form a network with locally designated sites such as Slys Connection, South Holland Main Drain, Wheatmere Drain and Lambert Drain to Highstock Drain Connection LWS.

Function

5.6.2. By establishing a diverse sward of grasses and herbs, biodiversity will increase, enhancing value for wildlife, and providing an enhanced buffer and habitat corridor to those LWS within the Site in line with the Greater Lincolnshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy. Grassland habitats are particularly important for hedgehog, a priority species within the Greater Lincolnshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

Implementation

5.6.3. The locations for creating semi-improved and species rich grassland are illustratively shown on Outline Landscape Masterplans (refer to **Annex A** of this document). The exact location and proportion of margin types within the conservation margins will be tailored to the needs of the Site's biodiversity.

5.6.4. A specification for the semi-improved grassland will be developed based on the indicative species, percentages presented in Table 5-3. This may be subject to change based on the prevailing soil types.

Table 5-3: Indicative mix for semi-improved grassland

Botanical name	Common name	% Mix
Cynosurus cristatus	Crested dog's-tail	20
Festuca ovina	Sheep's fescue	17
Festuca rubra	Red fescue	20
Poa pratensis	Smooth stalked meadow-grass	20
Agrostis capillaris	Common bent	4
Phleum pratense	Timothy-grass	5
Rhinanthus	Yellow rattle	0.5
Rumex acetosa	Common sorrel	1
Malva moschata	Musk mallow	0.5
Centaurea nigra	Common knapweed	1.5
Knautia arvensis	Field scabious	0.5
Centaurea cyanus	Cornflower	1
Salvia verbenaca	Wild clary	1
Galium verum	Lady's bedstraw	1
Anthemis arvensis	Corn chamomile	2
Sanguisorba minor	Salad burnet	1.5
Medicago lupulina	Black medick	1.5
Trifolium pratense	Red clover	1
Lotus corniculatus	Bird's-foot trefoil	1

5.6.5. A specification for species rich grassland will be developed based on the indicative species, percentages presented in Table 5-4. This may be subject to change based on the needs of the Site's biodiversity and prevailing soil types.

Table 5-4: Indicative mix for species rich grassland

Botanical name	Common name	% Mix
Cynosurus cristatus	Crested dog's-tail	20
Festuca ovina	Sheep's fescue	17
Festuca rubra	Red fescue	20
Poa pratensis	Smooth stalked meadow-grass	20
Agrostis capillaris	Common bent	4
Phleum pratense	Timothy-grass	5
Rhinanthus minor	Yellow rattle	0.5
Rumex acetosa	Common sorrel	1
Malva moschata	Musk mallow	0.5
Centaurea nigra	Common knapweed	1.5
Knautia arvensis	Field scabious	0.5
Centaurea cyanus	Cornflower	1
Salvia verbenaca	Wild clary	1
Galium verum	Lady's bedstraw	1
Anthemis arvensis	Corn chamomile	2
Sanguisorba minor	Salad burnet	1.5
Medicago lupulina	Black medick	1.5
Trifolium pratense	Red clover	1
Lotus corniculatus	Bird's-foot trefoil	1

5.6.6. The following steps and working methods will be included in the specification:

- Seed would be obtained from a local source for the purpose of maintaining continuity with local species-rich grasslands;
- Species would be of local provenance and, where reasonably practicable, the mix would contain species listed in the local BAP;

- Receiving soils will be prepared to reduce nutrients where reasonably practicable. This could include spraying with a herbicide to remove existing material and incorporating a substrate to reduce nutrient levels or removing topsoil to expose the sub-soil;
- Once the nutrient level is reduced, all clods will be broken up and alien material (such as plastics and metals) above 50mm in size will be removed. The top 50mm of the soil will then be raked to prepare a fine tilth for the seedbed. The raking will occur immediately before sowing;
- Seeding will be completed in either autumn or spring and only once the receiving soils have been tilled and adequately prepared; and
- Seeding and rolling will be carried out in dry weather and access will be prohibited to seeding areas until seed has germinated and a sward has established (see establishment maintenance section below).

Establishment Maintenance

5.6.7. A detailed plan for the establishment and management of the grassland mosaic will be developed for the five-year establishment maintenance period.

5.6.8. The aim of establishment maintenance will be to encourage development of a diverse sward of grasses and herbs. Establishment maintenance will be based on the following principles and outline prescriptions:

- Immediately after sowing, the ground will be left undisturbed and un-watered to allow the grassland to establish naturally;
- Mowing or sheep grazing will be carried out in either August or September in the first year with subsequent cuts in March and September. Arisings will be raked into piles and left in situ for seven days before collection and removal to an off-site green waste composting facility. Arisings resulting from the September cut would be shaken over the grassland to aid the spread of seeds from these species;
- Visual inspections will be made during the growing season;
- Control of undesirable species (e.g. arable weeds) and injurious weeds will be undertaken to prevent colonisation and domination of the grassland, primarily through hand pulling of specific species. Where manual control is insufficient, selective herbicide may be applied using a weed-wand on individual plants;
- A 5m wide track around the periphery of the PV panels will be mown to maintain service access to the panels;

- Botanical surveys will be carried out in late spring to confirm that the establishment of the grassland mosaic has been successful in achieving their intended aims and objectives. Spot checks will be undertaken at locations within each grassland area by a suitably qualified ecologist during years 1, 3 and 5, the purpose being to record plant species, their distribution, and the overall condition of the grassland. Other relevant indicators relating to the sward that may require remedial action during the contract period or in the future will also be recorded;
- During the 5-year monitoring period, a suitably experienced ecologist, whilst recording the flora, would also make a note of invertebrate populations, for example lepidoptera, apifera and orthoptera. These three groups act as good indicators of healthy grasslands. They do not need to be identified down to species level; population numbers are adequate in this case; and
- If remedial action is required, the LCoW will agree action with suitably qualified ecologist and areas identified will be re-seeded.

Long-Term Management

5.6.9. The long-term management of the grassland mosaic within the Scheme will be undertaken to maintain a relatively stable grassland community in the long-term, and to avoid areas naturally progressing into tall, dense, grass-dominated areas.

5.6.10. Measures for the grassland mosaic will focus on a regime of:

- Mowing or sheep grazing once, annually in September with arisings shaken over the grassland to aid seed dispersal, raked into piles, and left in situ for approximately a week before collection and removal to an off-site green waste composting facility;
- Visual inspections during the growing season;
- Control of undesirable species (e.g. arable weeds) and injurious weeds to prevent colonisation and domination of the grassland by hand pulling specific plants and only if necessary using a selective herbicide preferably on a weed-wipe application by a suitably experienced operative;
- Meadow margins adjacent to woodland and hedgerows may be left for a year or more between cuts to provide dense ground level cover for fauna, including amphibians, small mammals, and invertebrates;

- For marginal areas, if ground nesting birds are absent, plots may be scarified or 50% cut between mid-June and mid-July. This work must be preceded by a breeding bird survey to accurately assess potential bird populations. Arisings raked into piles and left in situ for approximately a week before collection and removal to an off-site green waste composting facility;
- For Nectar/Pollen cover crop margins, plots may be re-sown every 2 to 3 years; and
- Conditions Assessments following Biodiversity Net Gain methodologies will be undertaken in years 2, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30. The results of these monitoring surveys will be used to adjust the management regime to maximise biodiversity and achieve the projected Biodiversity Net Gain unit values.

5.7. Watercourse Habitat Enhancement Buffer

5.7.1. An up to 15m wide habitat enhancement buffer up and downstream at each proposed watercourse crossing (open cut cable and access crossings) would be created, subject to detailed design and further engagement with the Internal Drainage Boards. This would include sowing banksides with a species-rich locally appropriate sward, and if necessary, erecting fencing to prevent livestock access during establishment. These fences will include mammal gates to allow wildlife to pass through. As set out within the **OCEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.10), a Pre-works Hydromorphological and Riparian Corridor Survey will be undertaken to record channel features/habitats and provide the baseline, against which reinstatement will be designed. Any subsequent watercourse corridor improvements that may have occurred in the intervening period between works starting for temporary access and channel reinstatement post completion will also be taken into account. Channel enhancement for temporary crossings would be delivered alongside channel reinstatement.

Function

5.7.2. This will initially provide cover and habitat for mammal and invertebrate species using the watercourse, within the water and on the banks. In addition, the introduced species will spread along the length of the watercourse, enhancing the habitat for the length of the watercourse. The watercourse habitat enhancement will be suitable to address the adverse effect on water vole and otter from crossing point works. Furthermore, this will encourage

connectivity for these species throughout the landscape, enhancing areas of habitat within the drain network, which includes LWS.

Implementation

5.7.3. Suitable species – both terrestrial and aquatic from a selected species list would be planted between October and March. Species would be of local provenance, sourced from a local supplier, and would contain species listed in the local BAP. Species introduced would be suitable for these drains and be acceptable to the local Internal Drainage Board.

Long-Term Management

5.7.4. Long-term monitoring would consist of regular assessments by a suitably experienced ecologist checking for the success of the planting and the spread along the watercourse.

5.8. Aquatic Habitats and Waterbodies

5.8.1. There is an existing network of large linear drainage ditches and dykes along field boundaries and close to rural roads and PRoW.

Function

5.8.2. These would be enhanced similarly to those detailed in Section 5.7. The aim is to enhance the habitats along these channels for birds, insects, and mammals by increasing the plant diversity within the channel and along the margins.

Implementation

5.8.3. Suitable species with local provenance and sourced from a local supplier would be planted from October to March and would contain species listed in the local BAP and suitable for water vole. Recommended species are set out in Table 5-5.

Table 5-5: Aquatic Habitats and Waterbodies Enhancement

Botanical name	Common name	Height	Form	% Mix
Sparganium erectum	Branched bur-reed	2m	Marginal	15
Glyceria maxima	Reed Sweet-grass	2m	Marginal	10
Butomus umbellatus	Flowering rush	1.5m	Marginal	10
Iris pseudacorus	Yellow flag	1.5m	Marginal	10

Botanical name	Common name	Height	Form	% Mix
Pulicaria dysenterica	Common fleabane	0.5m	Bank grassland	10
Stachis palustris	Marsh woundwort	0.5m	Bank grassland	5
Juncus effusus	Soft rush	0.3m	Marginal/Bank grassland	15
Typha latifolia	Bulrush	2m	Marginal	5
Schoenoplectus lacustris	Common club-rush	2m	Marginal	15
Agrostis castellana	Common bent	n/a	Bank grassland	15
Phleum pratense	Timothy-grass	n/a	Bank grassland	15
Festuca ovina	Sheep's fescue	n/a	Bank grassland	10
Cynosurus cristatus	Crested dog's-tail	n/a	Bank grassland	15
Centaurea nigra	Common knapweed	n/a	Bank grassland	5
Salvia verbenaca	Wild clary	n/a	Bank grassland	5
Trifolium pratense	Red clover	n/a	Bank grassland	5
Lotus corniculatus	Bird's-foot trefoil	n/a	Bank grassland	5
Poa Pratensis	Smooth meadow grass	n/a	Bank grassland	10
Calamagrostis canescens	Purple small reed	1.5m	Marginal	10

Establishment Maintenance

5.8.4. Establishment of the grassland would be the same as the one recommended for the grasslands in Table 5-3. Soil to be prepared in a similar manner. Planting in the margins of the watercourse would be done from the watercourse itself rather than from the bank side. This is to prevent the operator from overbalancing. Planting would be done in pairs with one person on the bank equipped with a throwline. Both operators would have requisite training in working within waterbodies and be suitable equipped with chest waders and buoyancy aids and gauntlet-style rubber gloves.

5.8.5. Marginal species would be planted from November to March and put straight into the soft mud on the waters' edge or directly into the water.

5.8.6. Bankside grassland would be planted as detailed in previous grassland methodologies above.

Long-Term Management

5.8.7. The long-term management of the Scheme will be undertaken to manage the waterbodies at various stages of succession to maintain a relatively stable and diverse wetland community in the long-term, and to avoid areas becoming dominated by one to two species.

5.8.8. The management prescriptions outlined below would be adapted as required following findings of annual site inspections and condition monitoring reports:

- Remove all litter, rubbish, and foreign debris from the Scheme;
- Carry out rotational management of the marginal plants with the selective removal of the most dominant marginal planting to ensure the intended species diversity is retained. Works to be carried out in October;
- Prohibit excessive and extensive spread of plants (such as Bulrush) once planting is established. Remove spreading plants as required in October;
- Dense vegetation along the margins of the watercourse would be kept in check with the agreement of the local IDB or those responsible for the drainage of the area.
- Monitor silt depth and if required remove silt material if it is considered to be detrimental to the function of the watercourse. All material would be left at the edge of the channel over night before being removed offsite or to an agreed area offsite so any aquatic fauna can migrate back to the feature. This would be carried out annually in November to December; and
- Bank erosion would be monitored, and any erosion would be reported, and mitigation would be provided.

5.9. Provision of Habitat Boxes

5.9.1. A range of artificial bird and bat boxes will be installed in existing tree shelter belt areas, on existing individual trees and existing trees in hedgerows / shrubs to increase the availability of nesting and roosting features and enhance the value of the woodlands for these species' groups.

5.9.2. A total of 20 bird nest boxes and 20 bat roost boxes of varying types to suit different species of birds and bats will be installed on suitable trees and on hedgerow trees, in locations to be determined by an ecologist at the time of installation.

5.9.3. Bird and bat boxes made from long lasting materials (such as Woodcrete) will be used and would be expected to have a life expectancy of 20-25 years.

Long-term Management

Bird boxes

5.9.4. All wild birds, their active nests and eggs are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. This makes it an offence to deliberately or recklessly kill or injure any wild bird or damage or destroy any active nest or eggs of a wild bird.

5.9.5. Cleaning of bird boxes cannot be undertaken between the months of March and August inclusive, when birds may be actively using the boxes for nesting. To avoid disturbance during the bird nesting season, bird boxes will be cleaned, annually, between October and February instead to prevent the build-up of nest parasites in the boxes.

Bat boxes

5.9.6. Bat boxes will be inspected by a suitably licensed bat surveyor for evidence of uptake as per the post-construction monitoring programme (see timing in Section 6), and any evidence of roosting bats will be recorded to assist with ongoing management of tree shelter belt areas on site.

5.9.7. Where monitoring is not undertaken above, the condition of all wildlife boxes installed will be monitored annually during the operation of the Scheme and replacements will be made as necessary. Inspections can be timed to coincide with the required inspections of new tree and shrub plantings.

5.9.8. Bat boxes are, in most circumstances, unlikely to be used by hibernating bats during winter months (between November and February inclusive). Therefore, any maintenance that is required on bat boxes would be undertaken during these months, when any bird nests will be removed, after ensuring they are not in use. All bats and their roosts are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Therefore, it is an offence to possess, control, transport, sell or exchange any live or dead bat. Therefore, if bats are

inadvertently discovered during maintenance, the person undertaking the maintenance would leave the box undisturbed.

Creation of Habitat Piles

5.9.9. Habitat piles and hibernacula would be constructed throughout the Scheme in suitable areas, such as close to ponds or the newly created grassland areas. Habitat piles would be created using natural materials, generated during clearance of the Site, such as logs, turf, and grass arisings.

5.9.10. These would provide refuge and hibernation opportunities for reptiles, as well as dead wood habitat for invertebrates, which would in turn benefit fauna such as bats, birds and hedgehogs, a priority species within the Greater Lincolnshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

5.10. Protected Species

5.10.1. The habitat creation, prescribed above and detailed in Sections 5.2 to 5.9, will be of benefit to a wide range of protected species that were identified within the Site. Table 5-6 summarises the habitat creation and benefits to protected species.

Table 5-6: Summary of habitat creation and benefits to protected species

Habitat Creation / Management prescription	Species benefits
Bird boxes	Breeding Birds
Bat boxes	Bat species
Habitat piles	Common lizard, common frog, common toad, common newts
Cut grass piles	Grass snake
Watercourse Habitat Enhancement Buffer	Water vole and otter
Farmland Bird Mitigation Areas	Skylark and other farmland birds

5.11. Habitat Management Areas

Overview

5.11.1. As shown on the **Works Plans** (Doc Ref. 2.3) and illustrated by the Outline Landscape Masterplans (refer to **Annex A** of this document), Habitat Management Areas have been identified across the Solar Development Areas in areas where only habitat management works are proposed. Their purpose and function are summarised within Table 5-7 below.

Table 5-7: Habitat Management Areas (HMA)

Ref	Area (ha)	Purpose / Management Proposals
HMA1	8.79	Arable use in this location will be maintained to provide a buffer between the PV arrays and the Crowland Airfield, operated by the Peterborough & Spalding Gliding Club. The purpose of the HMA is to minimise impacts on the users of Crowland Airfield by providing a buffer from physical development.
HMA2	6.92	This is an area identified to have a higher potential for below ground archaeological assets. As such, no physical development is proposed in this location and the HMA is proposed to be managed as a semi-improved grassland.
HMA3	19.66	This is an area identified to form part of the Postland Catchment Flood Zone 3b. As such, no physical development is proposed in this location. It is proposed that this area will remain within arable use and will provide skylark plots (see Farmland Bird Mitigation Strategy section above).
HMA4	39.54	This area includes the Settlement NE of Whitebread Farm Scheduled Monument and adjoining fields. As such, no physical development is proposed in this location. It is proposed that this area will remain within arable use and will provide skylark plots (see Farmland Bird Mitigation Strategy section above).
HMA5	2.21	This is an area identified to form part of the Postland Catchment Flood Zone 3b and is identified as an area with known archaeology. As such, no physical development is

Ref	Area (ha)	Purpose / Management Proposals
		proposed in this location. It is proposed that this area will be managed as species rich grassland.
HMA6	69.41	This area includes the Settlement W of Cate's Cove Corner Scheduled Monument and fields to the south-east which have been identified as Grade 1 / 2 best and most versatile agricultural land and as areas with known archaeology. As such, no physical development is proposed in this location. It is proposed that this area will remain within arable use and will provide skylark plots (see Farmland Bird Mitigation Strategy section above).
HMA7	4.26	This is a landscape buffer area from Langary Gate Road residential properties to avoid impacts on residential visual amenity and potential glint and glare impacts. It also includes areas of known archaeology. The area will be managed as species rich grassland, with advanced planting provided on the boundary.
HMA8	23.19	This is the field where the crash site of the WWII German Dornier 217 bomber aircraft has been recorded. The risk of unexploded ordnance within this field remains high. As such, no physical development is proposed in this location. It has been kept within the Order Limits as a potential skylark mitigation area, subject to a detailed UXO risk assessment (see Farmland Bird Mitigation Strategy section above).

Scheduled Monuments

5.11.2. Scheduled Monuments within the Scheme boundary are protected primarily under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979[58] that provides legal protection for nationally important archaeological sites and monuments in the UK. Any landscape mitigation or ecological management

[58] Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1979/46 [Accessed 09/11/2025]

works may be subject to Scheduled Monument Consent. Should land within a Scheduled Monument require a change of use from agricultural work to an alternative, an application for a change to the Monuments Class Consent may also be required. Details of this will be included in the detailed LEMP.

5.12. Management and Maintenance of Permissive Paths

5.12.1. As stated in **ES Chapter 2: The Scheme** (Doc Ref. 6.1), a permissive path will be provided connecting PRoW between Queens Bank and Shepeau Stow, following the boundary of the Settlement W (west) of Cate's Cove Corner Scheduled Monument. The permissive path will be located within a corridor that measures up to 20m in width. The permissive path will be suitable for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders and provide information boards on the historic and natural environment. The indicative alignment of the permissive path is shown on Outline Landscape Masterplans (refer to **Annex A** of this document). The permissive path will provide increased public access across the landscape and, thus, responds positively to local green infrastructure strategies and local planning policies relating to rural access and recreational amenity.

5.12.2. Maintenance will be required to ensure safe passage of all users. This will include mowing, removal of potential obstructions and repairs to any fences, gates, and signage, where appropriate.

6. Pre and Post Construction Monitoring

Purpose

6.1.1. Monitoring will confirm that the functions of this OLEMP are delivered and identify when remedial action is required. Baseline data collected in 2024–2025 will be refreshed prior to construction where more than two survey seasons have elapsed or access constraints existed, using comparable methods for relevant receptors (breeding and wintering birds, bat activity and tree PRFs, badger, water vole and otter). Updated baselines will inform method statements, micro-siting and any licensing. Proposed monitoring requirements are further set out below.

Construction

- ECoW oversight of sensitive works (riparian interfaces, tree PRF works, badger territories, reptile-suitable margins), toolbox talks and method-statement sign-off.
- Daily visual checks for dust and pollution near sensitive edges; spill/dust controls as per **OCEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.10); incident/near-miss logging and corrective actions.
- Weekly–monthly ECoW compliance notes as appropriate, retained in a register.

Operation

Targeted operational checks (early years)

- Skylark (FBMS): territory mapping in years 1, 2 and 5 within FBMAs, with adaptive management if targets are not met;
- Riparian: checks at all crossing points post-construction and after the first maintenance season; refine planting/management if needed;
- Lighting audits: at commissioning and end of first operational summer to confirm bat-sensitive design compliance; repeat after any lighting changes;
- INNS surveillance: along working corridors and riparian interfaces with rapid response if detected.

Habitat establishment and condition

- Walkover surveys between April and June in years 2, 4, 6 and 10, then every five years to year 40, to confirm establishment/condition and

compliance with prescriptions for trees, hedgerows, grassland and aquatic/riparian habitats. Apply success criteria (e.g., 85% hedgerow/planting survival at year 5; species-rich grassland sward targets; riparian planting establishment) and implement remedial measures if thresholds are not met.

Species monitoring (aligning with early years and 5-year review cycle)

- Birds: breeding bird checks in years 1, 3, 5 and 10, then every five years to 40; targeted wintering bird checks along the Grid Connection Route in years 1–2 where needed to inform/verify span marking;
- Bats: bat box occupancy checks annually in years 1–3 then every 3–5 years; activity surveys on key commuting features in years 1 and 5 (and after material habitat/lighting changes). Works that might disturb roosts will follow licensing and timing constraints; monitoring will define objectives, triggers and responsibilities in line with current bat guidance (BCT 2025);
- Badger: sett status/permeability checks in years 1, 3 and 5, then at 5-year reviews; maintain badger gates where fitted;
- Riparian mammals: water vole/otter checks at crossings in the first active season post-build and at year 2; apply CL31 displacement and post-works verification where relevant;
- Reptiles: presence/absence checks in year 1 at suitable margins and after any major vegetation management that alters habitat suitability;
- BNG condition assessments: years 2, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30, using the agreed metric and condition sheets, to evidence net gain trajectory in accordance with the **Biodiversity Net Gain Report** (Doc Ref. 7.9).

Nest/roost boxes

- Maintenance checks of bat and bird boxes will follow Section 5.10, with refitting/repair/replacement as required. Inspections will be undertaken at appropriate seasons and under licence where disturbance of Schedule 1 birds or bat roosts could occur.

Adaptive management, reporting and responsibilities

- Monitoring results will inform five-year management reviews for the duration of the LEMP. Clear success criteria and triggers will be applied (e.g., skylark territories within agreed range relative to baseline/forecast; hedgerow survival and structural targets; bat activity/commuting route

functionality; riparian planting establishment). The Applicant (or successor) will:

- Nominate leads responsible for each survey topic, secure access, and ring-fence funding for long-term monitoring and remedial works;
- Submit summary monitoring reports annually in years 1–2 and at five-year intervals thereafter to the relevant planning authority (and Natural England where licences apply), updating the commitments register and management prescriptions accordingly.

7. Ecological Steering Group

7.1.1. This section sets out the draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Ecological Steering Group (ESG). The remit of the ESG is as follows:

- To provide communication on landscape and biodiversity matters between the Scheme and relevant stakeholders;
- To monitor the progress and implementation of the detailed LEMP(s), the aim of which is to achieve the biodiversity mitigation and enhancement as laid out in the OLEMP;
- To provide scrutiny of the BNG monitoring undertaken by the Applicant;
- To consider and suggest remedial habitat management measures to be implemented when habitat creation and enhancement are not meeting the required condition as outlined in the LEMP(s), based on a review of monitoring reports;
- To undertake a compliance audit of the LEMP(s) against key performance indicators (to be agreed with the ESG following approval of the LEMP(s)) every five years;

7.1.2. To work with the Applicant in meeting its commitments in the DEMP with regards to dealing with ecological habitats post the carrying out of the decommissioning works; The Applicant shall have regard to any reviews, recommendations or updates received from the ESG in accordance with its terms of reference and having regard what is reasonable, practicable and achievable.

7.1.3. The formation of the ESG may provide opportunities for strategic collaboration with other cumulative schemes within the region.

7.1.4. The ESG would convene in advance of the commencement of works, and continue to exist until completion of decommissioning works, unless a shorter period is agreed with the LPAs and Natural England and the Environment Agency.

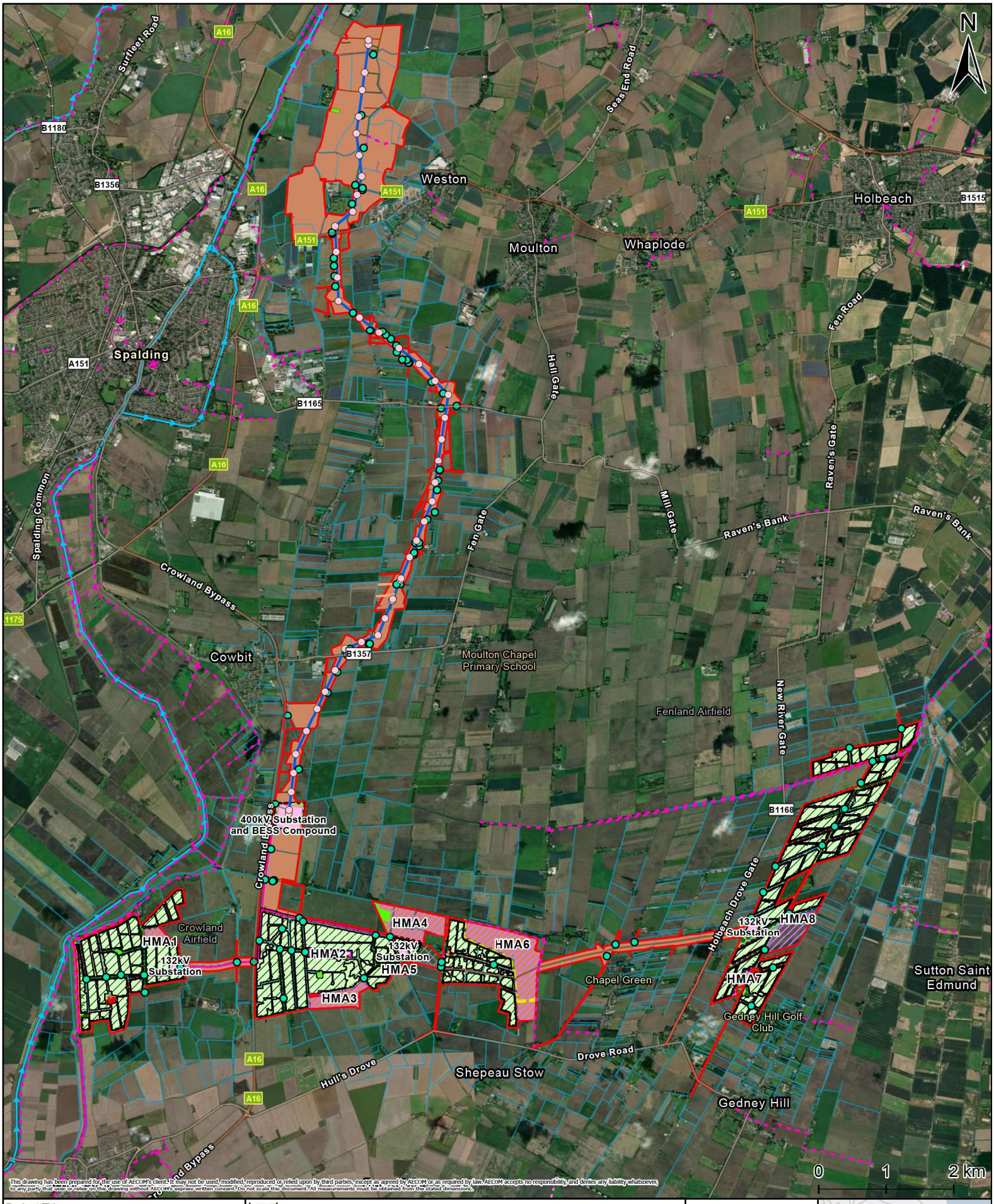
7.1.5. The ESG shall comprise but not necessarily be limited to:

- Representatives nominated by the Applicant, at least one of which will be a suitably qualified and experienced ecologist;
- Representative(s) from Lincolnshire County Council;

- Representative(s) from South Holland District Council;
- Representative(s) from Natural England; and
- Representative(s) from the Environment Agency.

7.1.6. The remit of the ESG cannot be extended beyond the scope of measures in this OLEMP.

Annex A Outline Landscape Masterplan



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Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan Figure 1: Outline Landscape Masterplans (Sheet 1 of 26)

Scale	Version	Drawn	Reviewed
1:50,000	2	CT	AD

Legend

- Order Limits
- Watercourse Crossing
- Public Right of Way
- Designated Main River
- Ordinary Watercourse
- EA Land Ownership

Solar Development Area

- Fence
- Existing Road
- Permissive Path
- New Access Track
- PV Panel
- Substation
- Solar Station

Inter-Array Connections

- Underground Cable
- Overhead Line

Grid Connection Route

- Tower
- Permanent Access Line
- Indicative Alignment
- CSEC
- CSEC Bunding
- Maintenance Access

Landscape

- Advanced Planting
- Proposed Band of Shrubs
- Proposed Band of Shrubs & Scattered Trees
- Strengthened Band of Scattered Trees
- Retained Agriculture
- Retained Pasture
- Habitat Management Area
- Proposed Species Rich Grassland
- Proposed Semi Improved Grassland

Vegetation

- Affected Managed
- Potential Impact
- Retained

Date: 22/10/2026

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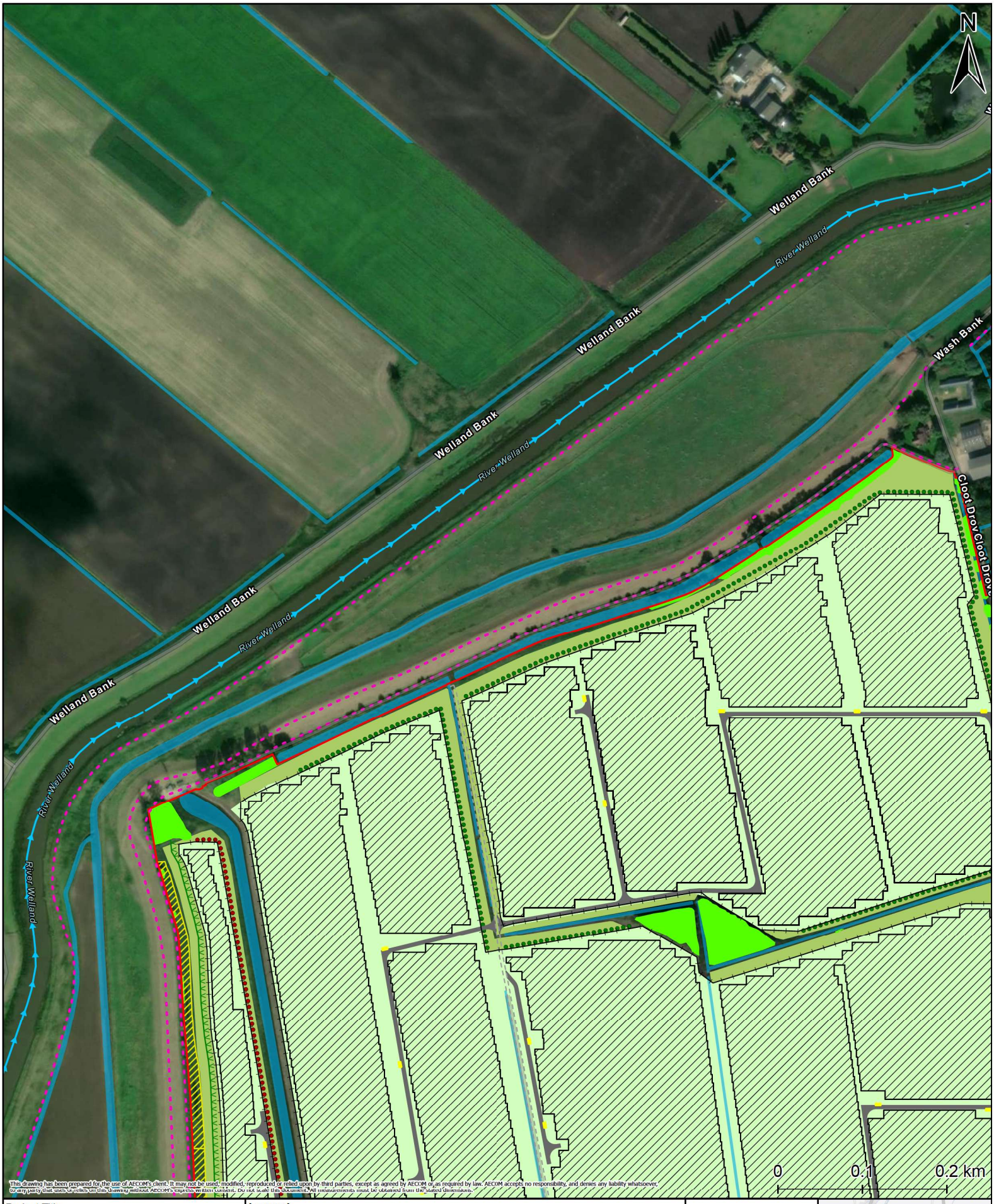
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Notes

Proposed watercourse crossings will have with 15m habitat enhancement buffer up and downstream, subject to review with Internal Drainage Boards.

Meridian Solar





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Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan
Figure 1: Outline Landscape Masterplans
(Sheet 2 of 26)

Scale	Version	Drawn	Reviewed
1:4,000	2	CT	AD

Legend

- Order Limits
- Public Right of Way
- Designated Main River
- Ordinary Watercourse
- EA Land Ownership

Solar Development Area

- Fence
- PV Panel
- Solar Station
- Existing Road
- New Access Track

Landscape

- Proposed Band of Shrubs
- Proposed Band of Shrubs & Scattered Trees
- Strengthened Band of Scattered Trees
- Proposed Species Rich Grassland
- Proposed Semi Improved Grassland

Vegetation

- Retained

Date: 22/10/2026

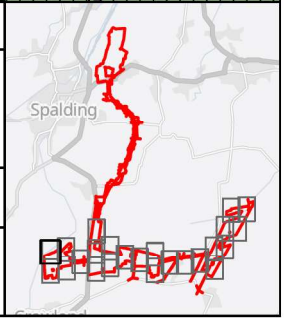
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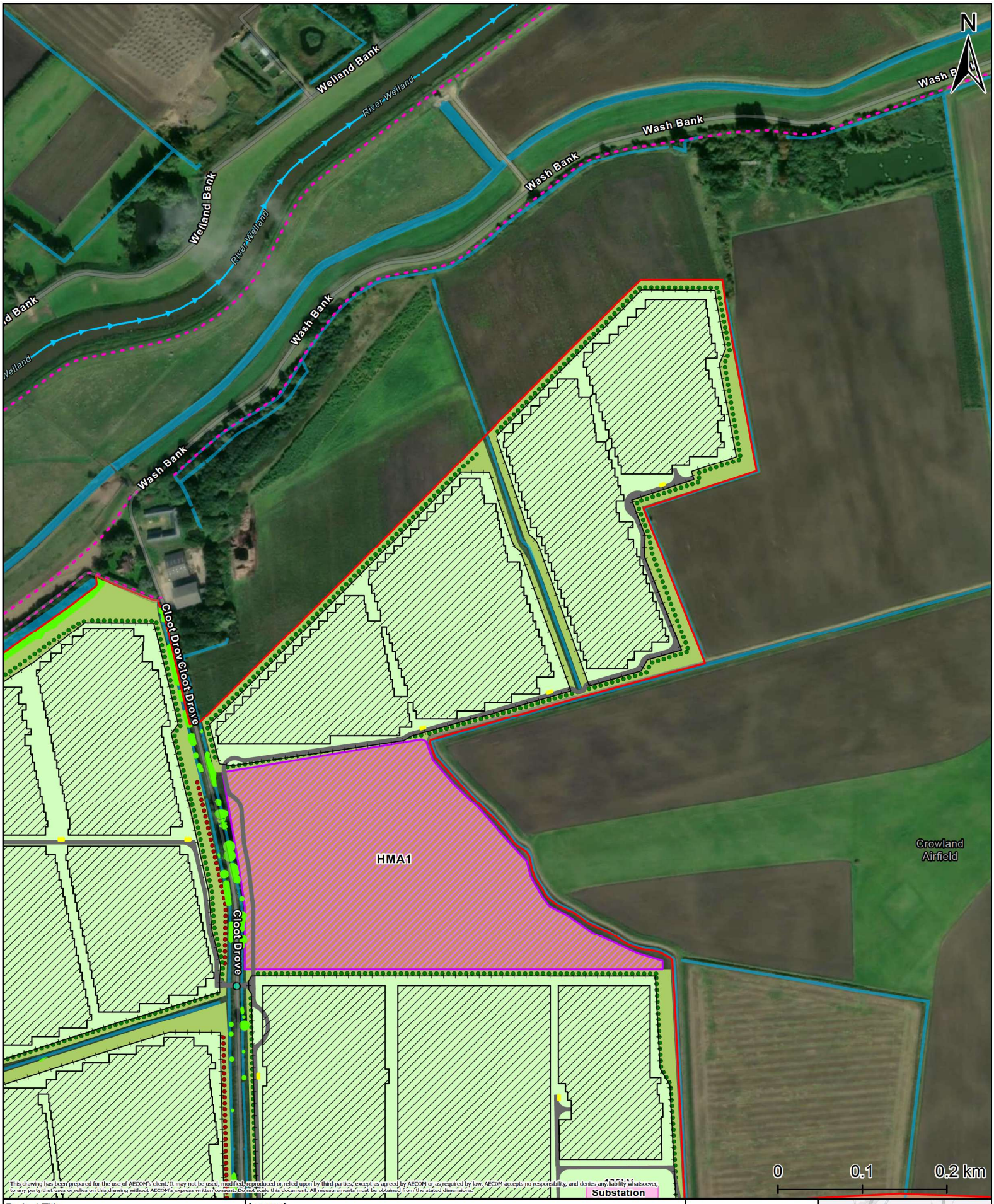
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Notes

Proposed watercourse crossing with 15m habitat enhancement buffer up and downstream, subject to review with Internal Drainage Boards.

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Project Title
Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title
Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan
Figure 1: Outline Landscape Masterplans
(Sheet 3 of 26)

Scale	Version	Drawn	Reviewed
1:4,000	2	CT	AD

Legend

- Order Limits
- Watercourse Crossing
- Public Right of Way
- Designated Main River
- Ordinary Watercourse

Solar Development Area

- Fence
- PV Panel
- Substation
- Solar Station
- Existing Road
- New Access Track

Landscape

- Proposed Band of Shrubs
- Proposed Dand of Shrubs & Scattered Trees
- Retained Agriculture
- Habitat Management Area
- Proposed Species Rich Grassland
- Proposed Semi Improved Grassland

Vegetation

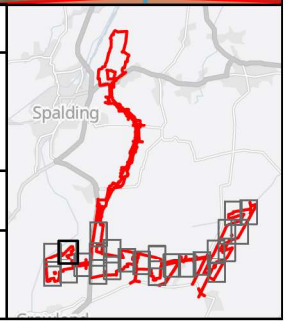
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Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan Figure 1: Outline Landscape Masterplans (Sheet 4 of 26)

Scale	Version	Drawn	Reviewed
1:4,000	2	CT	AD

Legend

- Order Limits
- Watercourse Crossing
- Public Right of Way
- Designated Main River
- Ordinary Watercourse
- EA Land Ownership

Solar Development Area

- Fence
- PV Panel
- Solar Station
- Existing Road
- New Access Track

Landscape

- Proposed Band of Shrubs
- Proposed Band of Shrubs & Scattered Trees
- Strengthened Band of Scattered Trees
- Proposed Species Rich Grassland
- Proposed Semi Improved Grassland

Vegetation

- Retained

Date: 22/10/2026

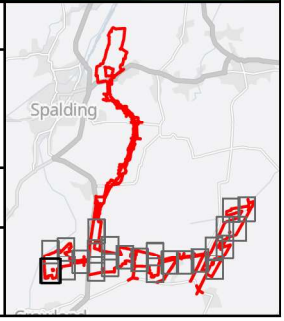
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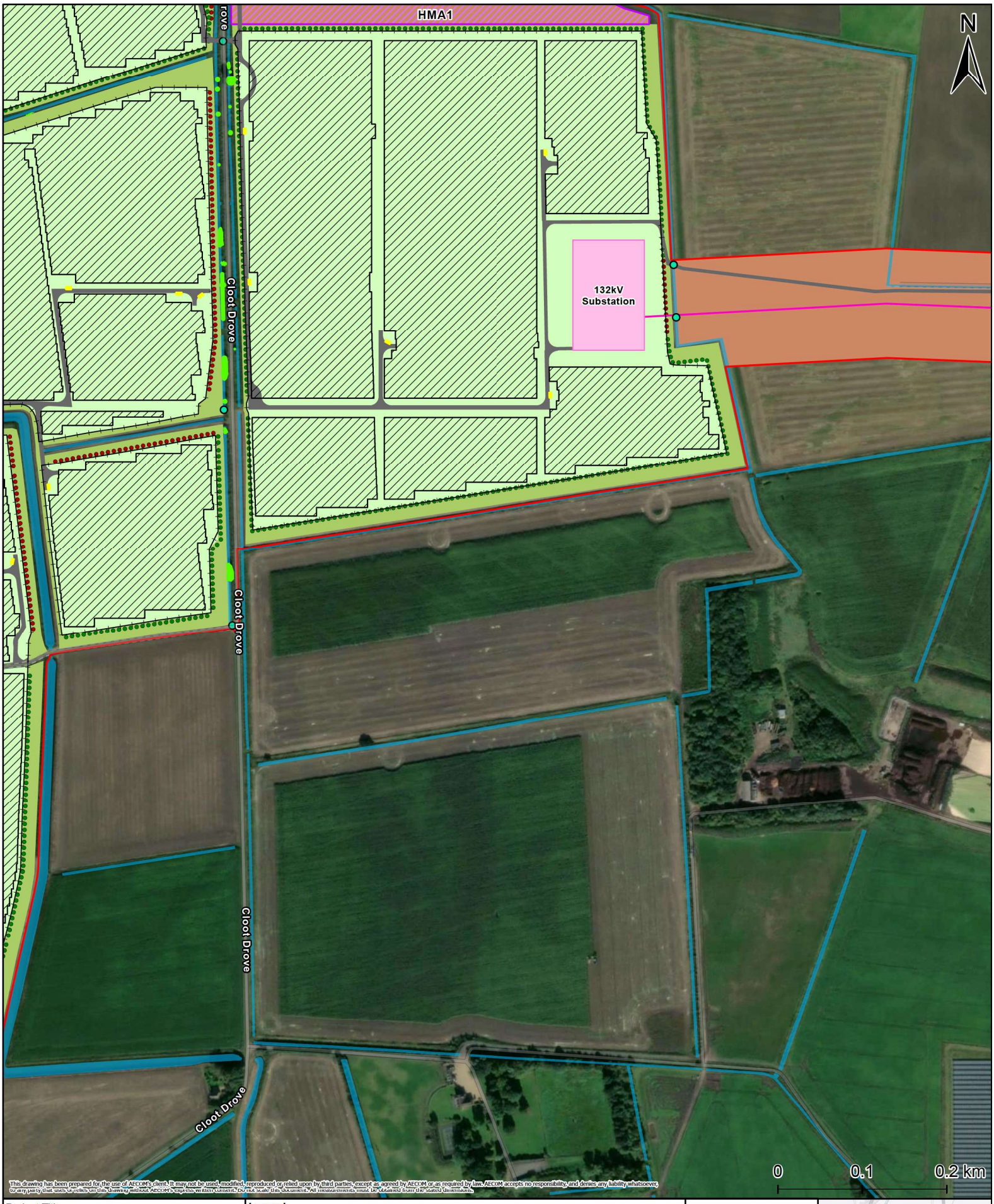
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Notes

Proposed watercourse crossing with 15m habitat enhancement buffer up and downstream, subject to review with Internal Drainage Boards.

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Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan
Figure 1: Outline Landscape Masterplans
(Sheet 5 of 26)

Scale	Version	Drawn	Reviewed
1:4,000	2	CT	AD

Legend

- Order Limits
- Watercourse Crossing
- Ordinary Watercourse

Solar Development Area

- Fence
- PV Panel
- Substation
- Solar Station

Inter-Array Connections

- Underground Cable
- Existing Road
- New Access Track

Landscape

- Proposed Band of Shrubs
- Proposed Band of Shrubs & Scattered Trees
- Retained Agriculture
- Habitat Management Area
- Proposed Species Rich Grassland
- Proposed Semi Improved Grassland

Vegetation

- Retained

Date: 22/10/2026

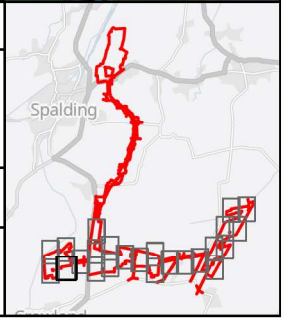
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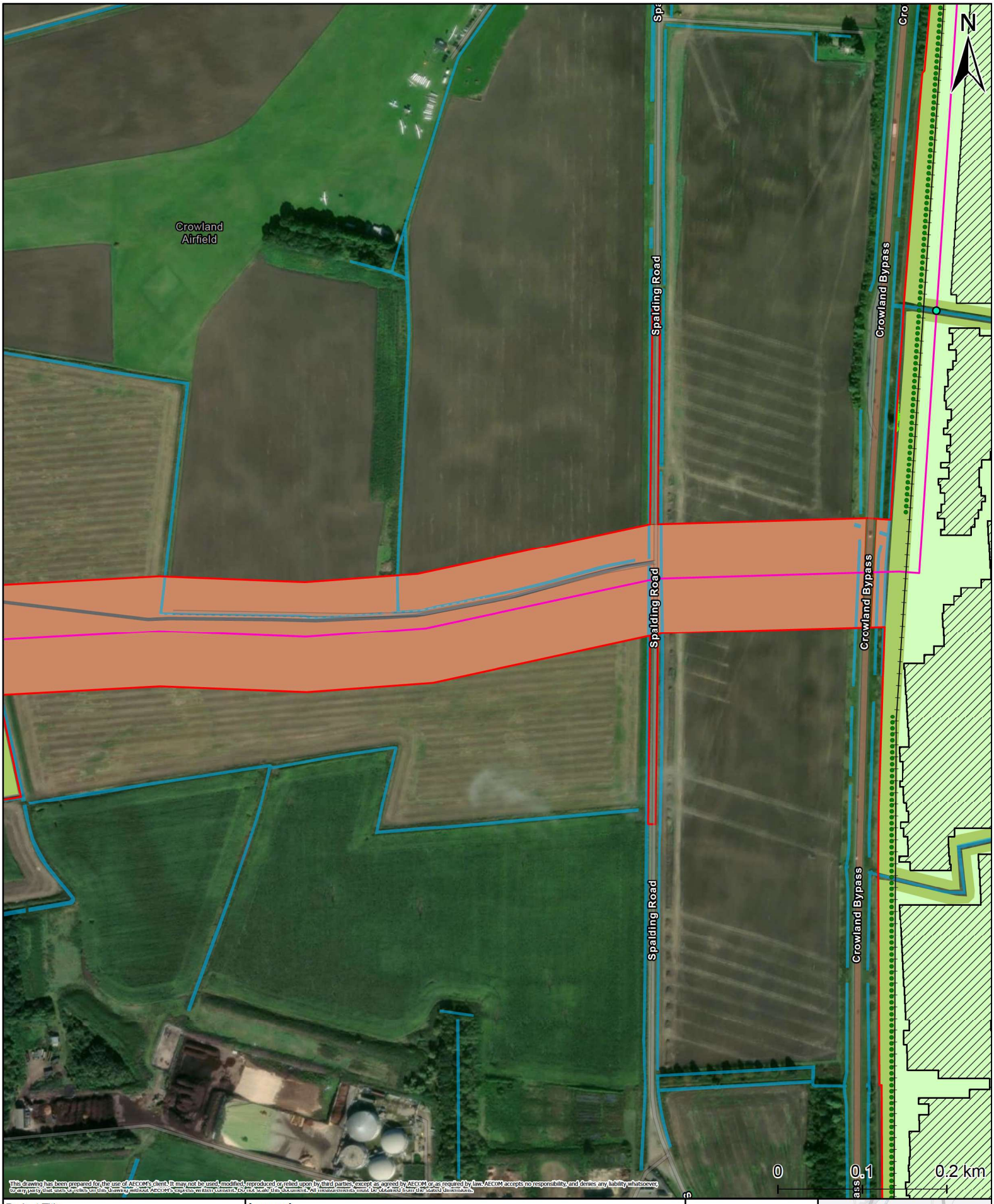
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Notes

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Project Title
Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title
Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan
Figure 1: Outline Landscape Masterplans
(Sheet 6 of 26)

Scale	Version	Drawn	Reviewed
1:4,000	2	CT	AD

Legend

- Order Limits
- Watercourse Crossing
- Ordinary Watercourse

Solar Development Area

- Fence
- PV Panel

Inter-Array Connections

- Underground Cable
- Existing Road
- New Access Track

Landscape

- Proposed Band of Shrubs & Scattered Trees
- Retained Agriculture
- Proposed Species Rich Grassland
- Proposed Semi Improved Grassland

Vegetation

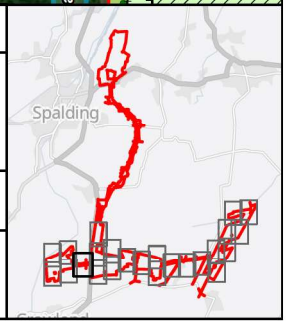
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Notes
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Meridian Solar





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Project Title
Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title
Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan
Figure 1: Outline Landscape Masterplans
(Sheet 7 of 26)

Scale	Version	Drawn	Reviewed
1:4,000	2	CT	AD

Legend

- Order Limits
- Watercourse Crossing
- Public Right of Way
- Ordinary Watercourse

Solar Development Area

- Fence
- Substation

Inter-Array Connections

- Underground Cable

Grid Connection Route

- Tower
- Indicative Alignment
- Maintenance Access
- Existing Road

Landscape

- Proposed Band of Shrubs
- Proposed Band of Shrubs & Scattered Trees
- Retained Agriculture
- Proposed Species Rich Grassland

Vegetation

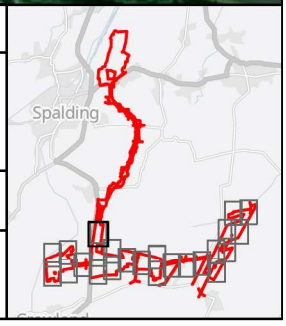
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Notes
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Meridian Solar





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Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan Figure 1: Outline Landscape Masterplans (Sheet 8 of 26)

Scale	Version	Drawn	Reviewed
1:4,000	2	CT	AD

Legend

- Order Limits
- Watercourse Crossing
- Ordinary Watercourse

Solar Development Area

- Fence
- PV Panel
- Solar Station

Inter-Array Connections

- Underground Cable
- Existing Road
- New Access Track

Landscape

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- Proposed Band of Shrubs & Scattered Trees
- Retained Agriculture
- Habitat Management Area
- Proposed Species Rich Grassland
- Proposed Semi Improved Grassland

Vegetation

- Retained

Date: 22/10/2026

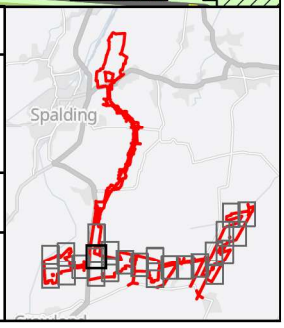
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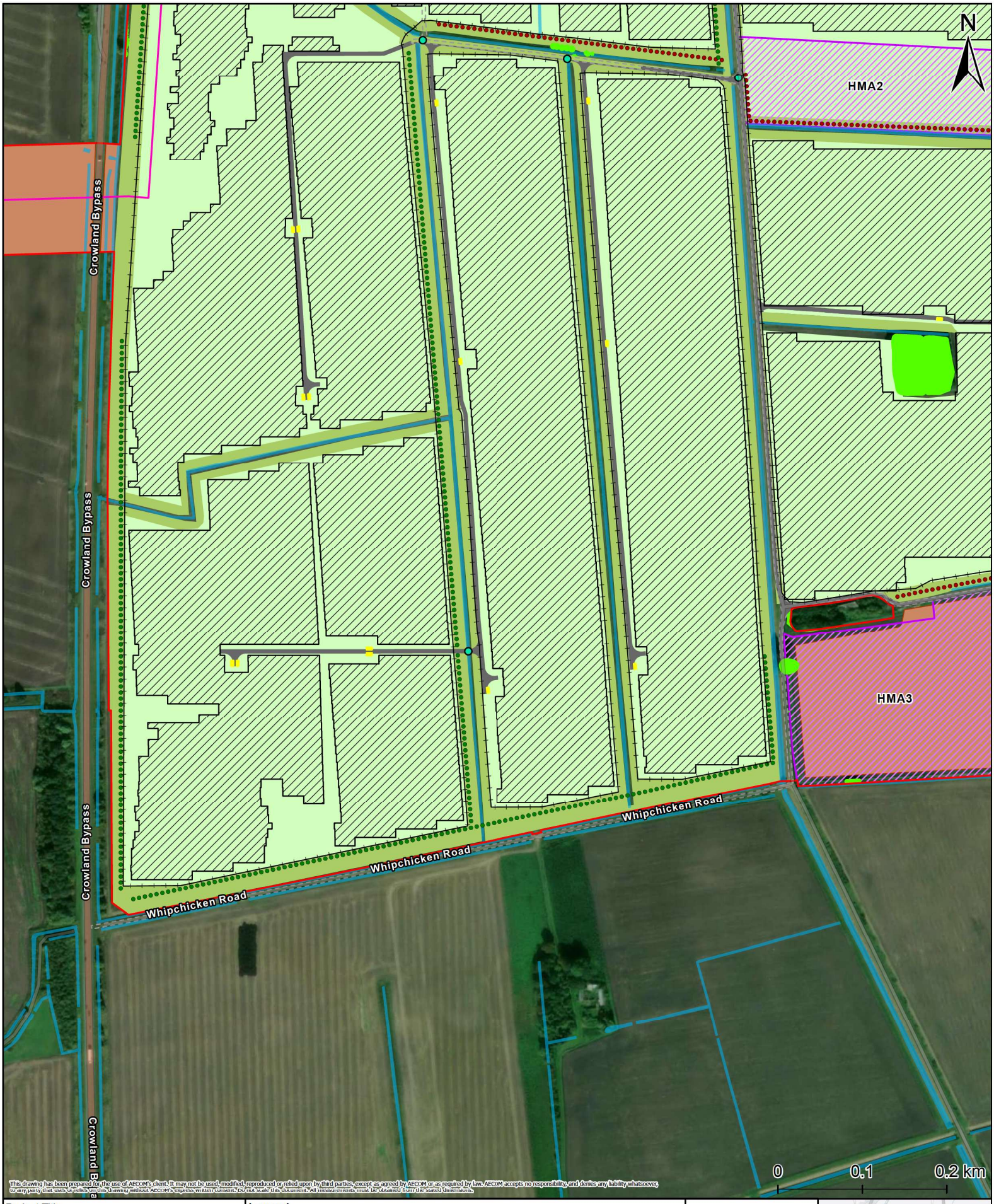
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Notes

Proposed watercourse crossing with 15m habitat enhancement buffer up and downstream, subject to review with Internal Drainage Boards.

Meridian Solar





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Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan
Figure 1: Outline Landscape Masterplans
(Sheet 9 of 26)

Scale	Version	Drawn	Reviewed
1:4,000	2	CT	AD

Legend

- Order Limits
- Watercourse Crossing
- Ordinary Watercourse

Solar Development Area

- Fence
- PV Panel
- Solar Station

Inter-Array Connections

- Underground Cable
- Existing Road
- New Access Track

Landscape

- Proposed Band of Shrubs
- Proposed Band of Shrubs & Scattered Trees
- Retained Agriculture
- Habitat Management Area
- Proposed Species Rich Grassland
- Proposed Semi Improved Grassland

Vegetation

- Retained

Date: 22/10/2026

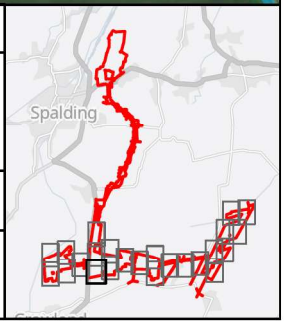
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Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan Figure 1: Outline Landscape Masterplans (Sheet 10 of 26)

Scale	Version	Drawn	Reviewed
1:4,000	2	CT	AD

Legend

- Order Limits
- Watercourse Crossing
- Ordinary Watercourse

Solar Development Area

- Fence
- PV Panel
- Solar Station

Inter-Array Connections

- Underground Cable
- Existing Road
- New Access Track

Landscape

- Proposed Band of Shrubs
- Proposed Band of Shrubs & Scattered Trees
- Retained Agriculture
- Habitat Management Area
- Proposed Species Rich Grassland
- Proposed Semi Improved Grassland

Vegetation

- Retained

Date: 22/10/2026

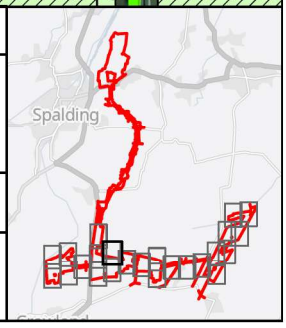
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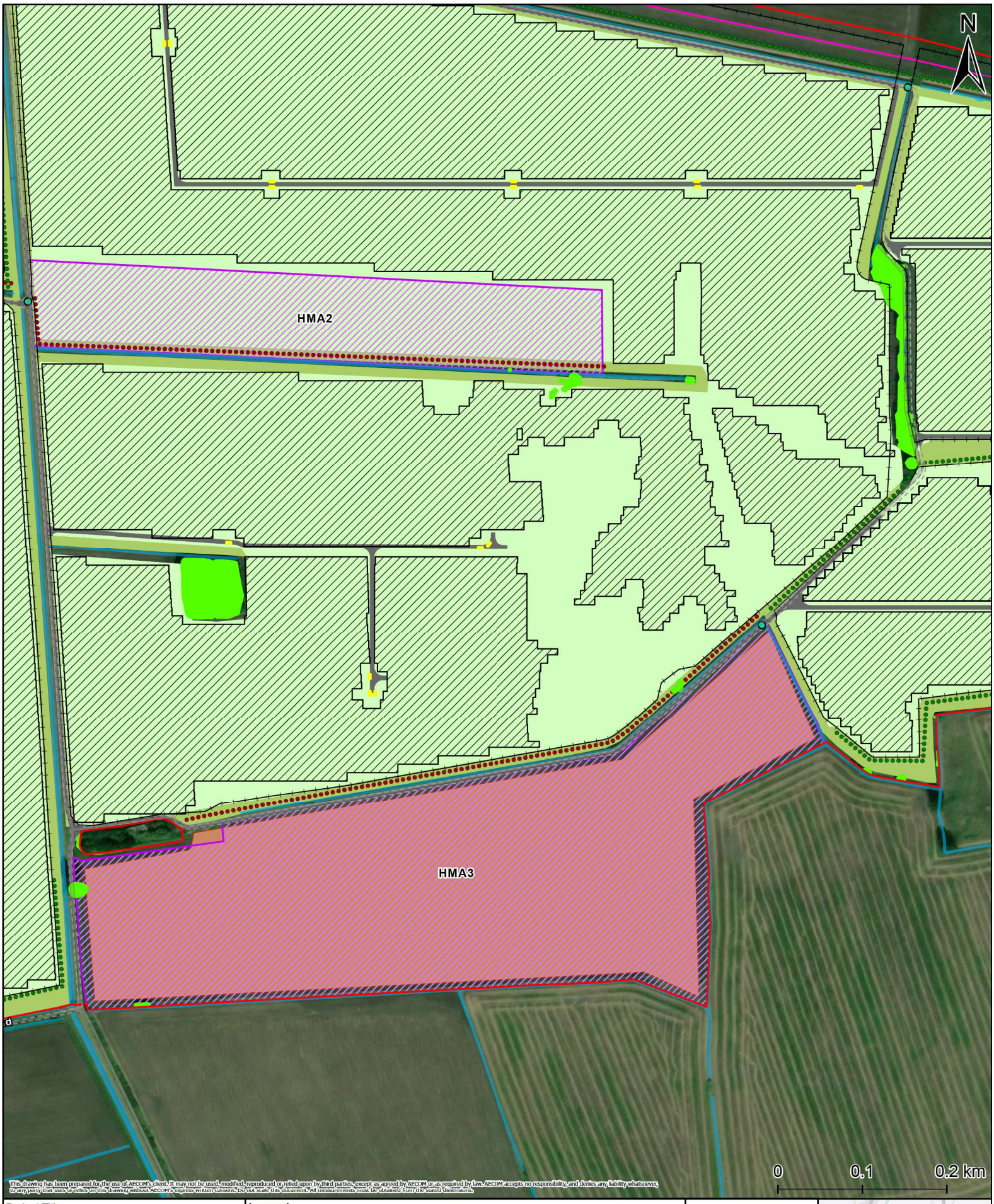
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Meridian Solar





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Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan
Figure 1: Outline Landscape Masterplans
(Sheet 11 of 26)

Scale	Version	Drawn	Reviewed
1:4,000	2	CT	AD

Legend

- Order Limits
- Watercourse Crossing
- Ordinary Watercourse

Solar Development Area

- Fence
- PV Panel
- Solar Station

Inter-Array Connections

- Underground Cable
- Existing Road
- New Access Track

Landscape

- Proposed Band of Shrubs
- Proposed Band of Shrubs & Scattered Trees
- Retained Agriculture
- Habitat Management Area
- Proposed Species Rich Grassland
- Proposed Semi Improved Grassland

Vegetation

- Retained

Date: 22/10/2026

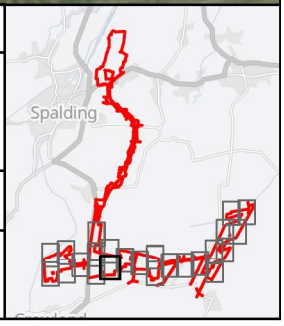
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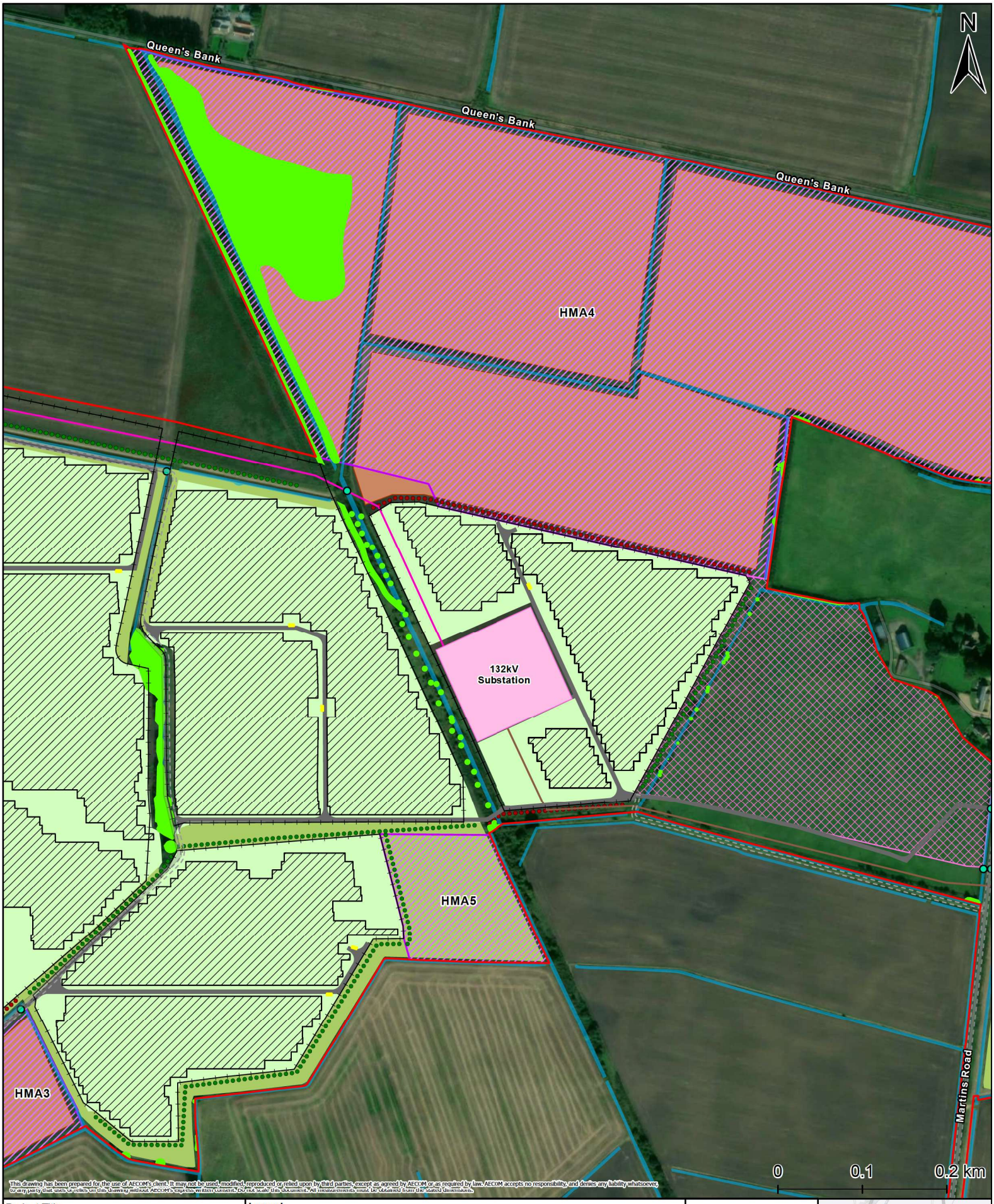
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Meridian Solar





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Project Title
Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title
Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan
Figure 1: Outline Landscape Masterplans
(Sheet 12 of 26)

Scale	Version	Drawn	Reviewed
1:4,000	2	CT	AD

Legend

- Order Limits
- Watercourse Crossing
- Ordinary Watercourse

Solar Development Area

- Fence
- PV Panel
- Substation
- Solar Station

Inter-Array Connections

- Underground Cable
- Overhead Line
- Existing Road
- New Access Track

Landscape

- Proposed Band of Shrubs
- Proposed Band of Shrubs & Scattered Trees
- Retained Agriculture
- Retained Pasture
- Habitat Management Area
- Proposed Species Rich Grassland
- Proposed Semi Improved Grassland

Vegetation

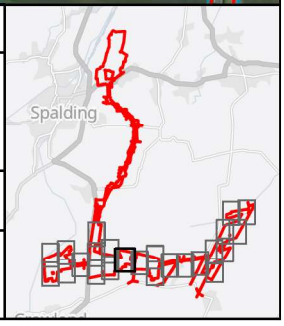
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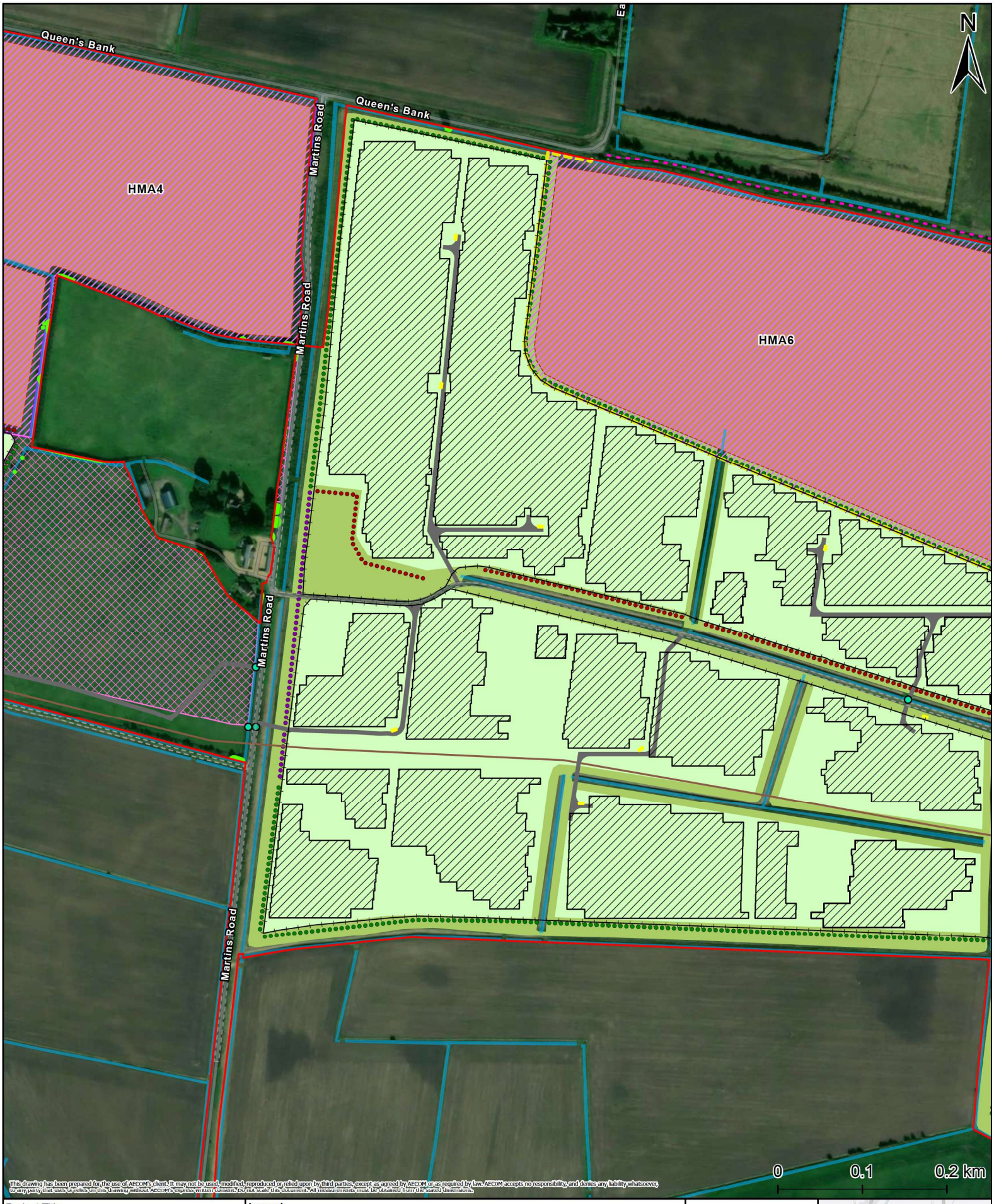
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Notes
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Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan
Figure 1: Outline Landscape Masterplans
(Sheet 13 of 26)

Scale	Version	Drawn	Reviewed
1:4,000	2	CT	AD

Legend

- Order Limits
- Watercourse Crossing
- Public Right of Way
- Ordinary Watercourse

Solar Development Area

- Fence
- PV Panel
- Solar Station

Inter-Array Connections

- Overhead Line
- Existing Road
- Permissive Path
- New Access Track

Landscape

- Advanced Planting
- Proposed Band of Shrubs
- Proposed Band of Shrubs & Scattered Trees
- Retained Agriculture
- Retained Pasture
- Habitat Management Area
- Proposed Species Rich Grassland
- Proposed Semi Improved Grassland

Vegetation

- Retained

Date: 22/10/2026

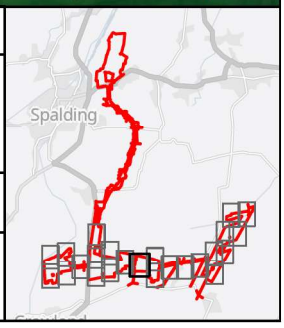
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Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan Figure 1: Outline Landscape Masterplans (Sheet 14 of 26)

Scale	Version	Drawn	Reviewed
1:4,000	2	CT	AD

Legend

- Order Limits
- Watercourse Crossing
- Public Right of Way
- Ordinary Watercourse

Solar Development Area

- Fence
- PV Panel
- Solar Station

Inter-Array Connections

- Overhead Line
- Existing Road
- Permissive Path
- New Access Track

Landscape

- Proposed Band of Shrubs
- Proposed Band of Shrubs & Scattered Trees
- Strengthened Band of Scattered Trees
- Retained Agriculture
- Habitat Management Area
- Proposed Species Rich Grassland
- Proposed Semi Improved Grassland

Vegetation

- Retained

Date: 22/10/2026

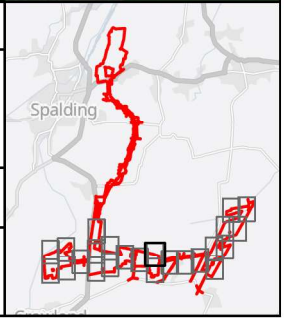
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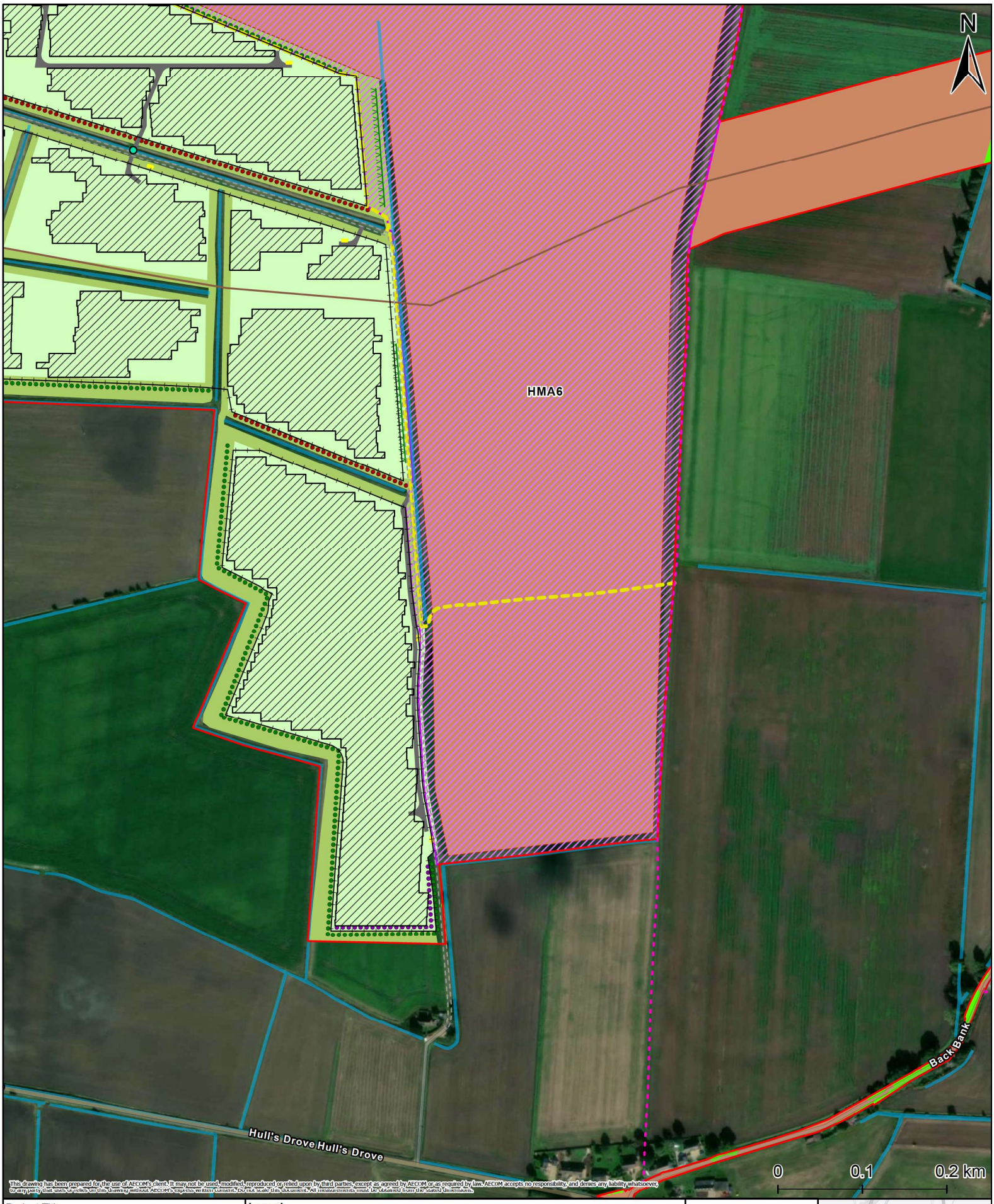
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Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan Figure 1: Outline Landscape Masterplans (Sheet 15 of 26)

Scale	Version	Drawn	Reviewed
1:4,000	2	CT	AD

Legend

- Order Limits
- Watercourse Crossing
- Public Right of Way
- Ordinary Watercourse

Solar Development Area

- Fence
- PV Panel
- Solar Station

Inter-Array Connections

- Overhead Line
- Existing Road
- Permissive Path
- New Access Track

Landscape

- Advanced Planting
- Proposed Band of Shrubs
- Proposed Band of Shrubs & Scattered Trees
- Strengthened Band of Scattered Trees
- Retained Agriculture
- Habitat Management Area
- Proposed Species Rich Grassland
- Proposed Semi Improved Grassland

Vegetation

- Retained

Date: 22/10/2026

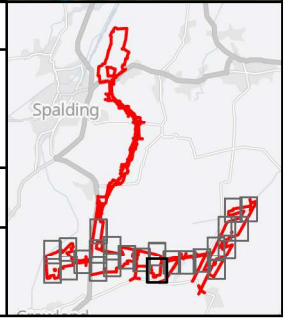
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Project Title
Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title
Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan
Figure 1: Outline Landscape Masterplans
(Sheet 16 of 26)

Scale	Version	Drawn	Reviewed
1:4,000	2	CT	AD

Legend

- Order Limits
- Watercourse Crossing
- Public Right of Way
- Ordinary Watercourse

Inter-Array Connections

- Overhead Line

Landscape

- Retained Agriculture

Vegetation

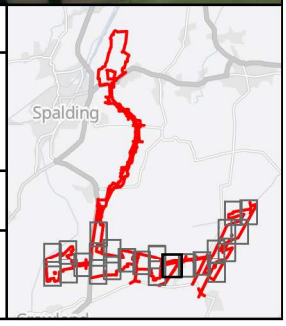
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Project Title
Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title
Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan
Figure 1: Outline Landscape Masterplans
(Sheet 17 of 26)

Scale	Version	Drawn	Reviewed
1:4,000	2	CT	AD

Legend

- Order Limits
- Watercourse Crossing
- Ordinary Watercourse

Inter-Array Connections

- Overhead Line

Landscape

- Retained Agriculture

Vegetation

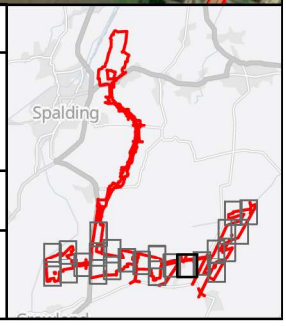
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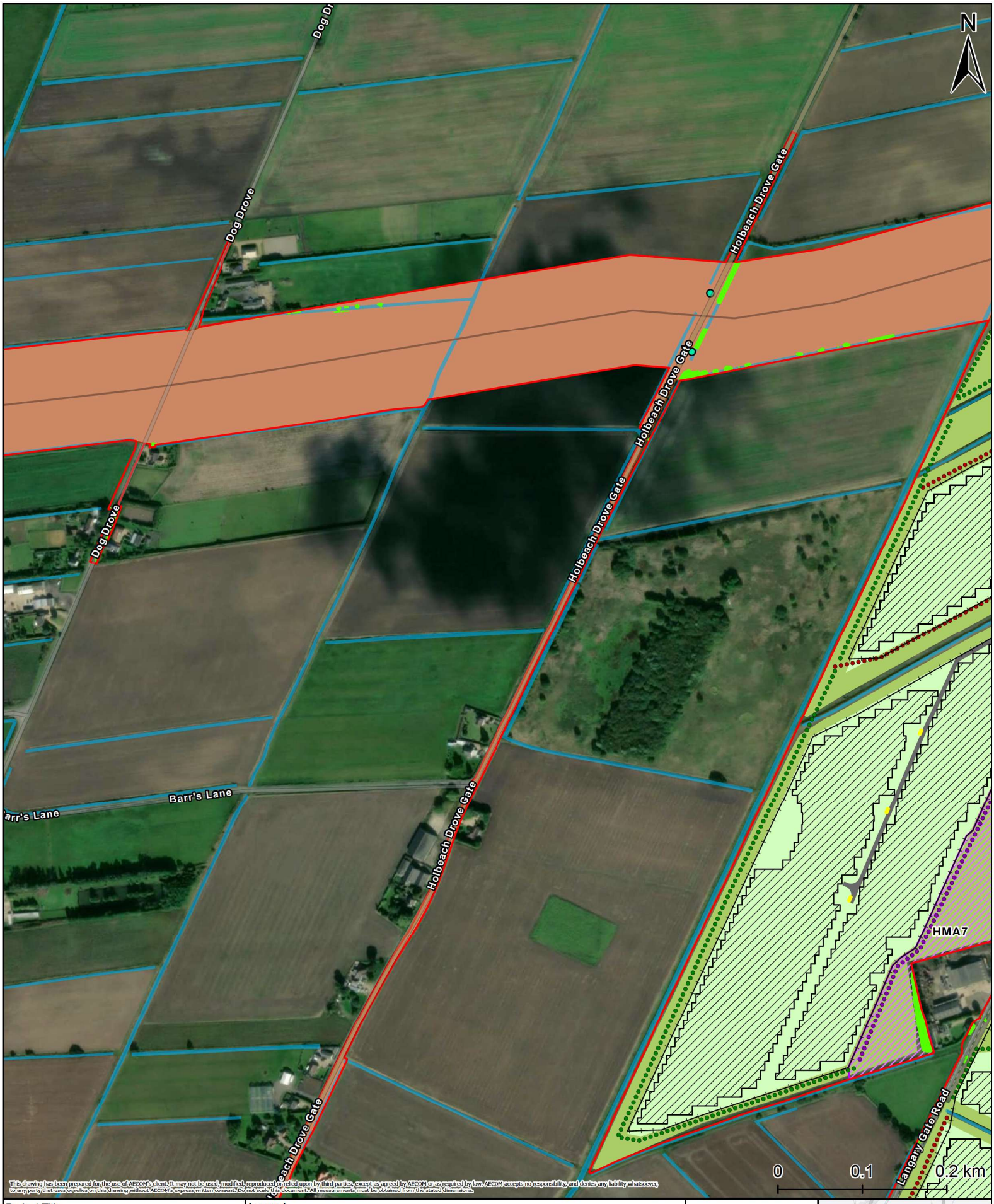
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Project Title
Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title
Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan
Figure 1: Outline Landscape Masterplans
(Sheet 18 of 26)

Scale	Version	Drawn	Reviewed
1:4,000	2	CT	AD

Legend

- Order Limits
- Watercourse Crossing
- Ordinary Watercourse

Solar Development Area

- Fence
- PV Panel
- Solar Station

Inter-Array Connections

- Overhead Line
- Existing Road
- New Access Track

Landscape

- Advanced Planting
- Proposed Band of Shrubs
- Proposed Band of Shrubs & Scattered Trees
- Retained Agriculture
- Habitat Management Area
- Proposed Species Rich Grassland
- Proposed Semi Improved Grassland

Vegetation

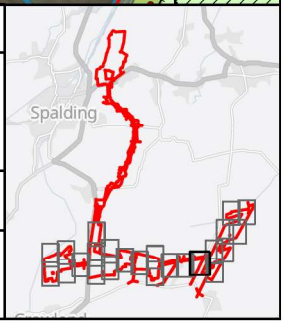
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Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan
Figure 1: Outline Landscape Masterplans
(Sheet 19 of 26)

Scale	Version	Drawn	Reviewed
1:4,000	2	CT	AD

Legend

- Order Limits
- Watercourse Crossing
- Public Right of Way
- Ordinary Watercourse

Solar Development Area

- Fence
- PV Panel
- Solar Station
- Existing Road
- New Access Track

Landscape

- Advanced Planting
- Proposed Band of Shrubs
- Proposed Band of Shrubs & Scattered Trees
- Strengthened Band of Scattered Trees
- Retained Agriculture
- Habitat Management Area
- Proposed Species Rich Grassland
- Proposed Semi Improved Grassland

Vegetation

- Retained

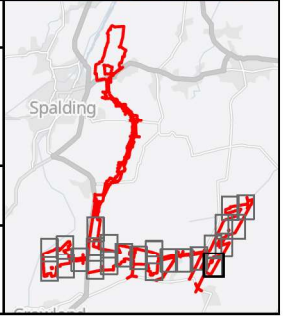
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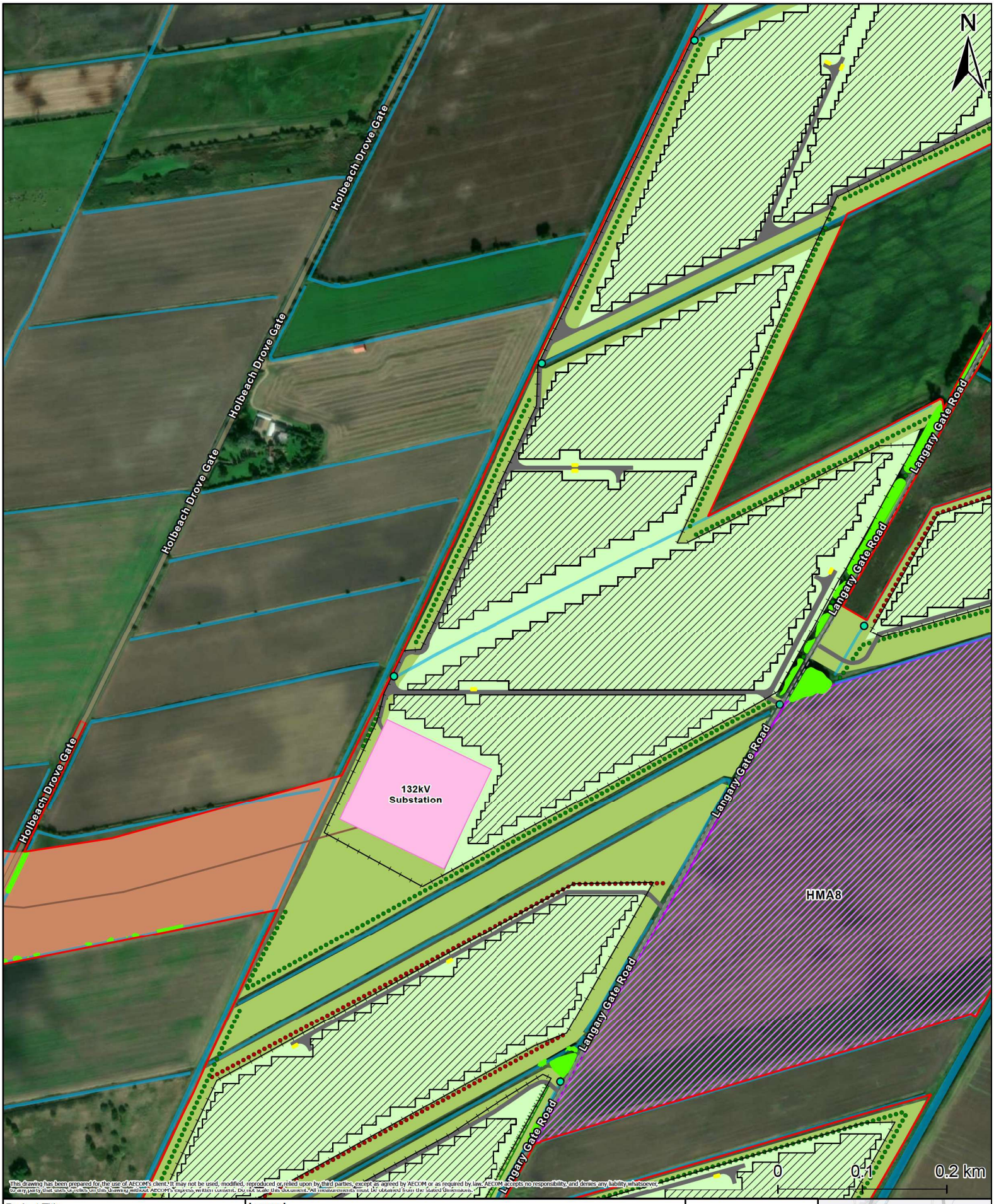
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Project Title
Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title
Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan
Figure 1: Outline Landscape Masterplans
(Sheet 20 of 26)

Scale	Version	Drawn	Reviewed
1:4,000	2	CT	AD

Legend

- Order Limits
- Watercourse Crossing
- Ordinary Watercourse

Solar Development Area

- Fence
- PV Panel
- Substation
- Solar Station

Inter-Array Connections

- Overhead Line
- Existing Road
- New Access Track

Landscape

- Proposed Band of Shrubs
- Proposed Band of Shrubs & Scattered Trees
- Strengthened Band of Scattered Trees
- Retained Agriculture
- Habitat Management Area
- Proposed Species Rich Grassland
- Proposed Semi Improved Grassland

Vegetation

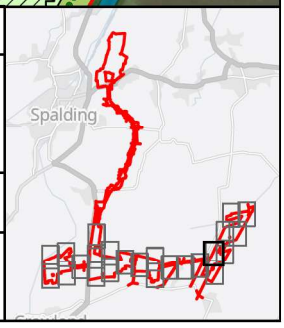
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Notes
Proposed watercourse crossing with 15m habitat enhancement buffer up and downstream, subject to review with Internal Drainage Boards.

Meridian Solar





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Project Title
Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title
Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan
Figure 1: Outline Landscape Masterplans
(Sheet 21 of 26)

Scale	Version	Drawn	Reviewed
1:4,000	2	CT	AD

Legend

- Order Limits
- Watercourse Crossing
- Ordinary Watercourse

Solar Development Area

- Fence
- PV Panel
- Solar Station
- Existing Road
- New Access Track

Landscape

- Proposed Band of Shrubs
- Proposed Band of Shrubs & Scattered Trees
- Habitat Management Area
- Proposed Species Rich Grassland
- Proposed Semi Improved Grassland

Vegetation

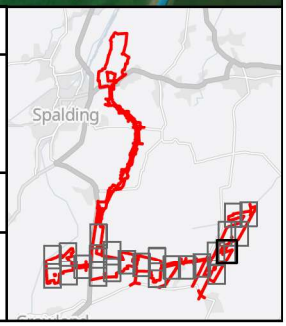
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Project Title
Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title
Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan
Figure 1: Outline Landscape Masterplans
(Sheet 22 of 26)

Scale	Version	Drawn	Reviewed
1:4,000	2	CT	AD

Legend

- Order Limits
- Watercourse Crossing
- Public Right of Way
- Ordinary Watercourse

Solar Development Area

- Fence
- PV Panel
- Solar Station
- Existing Road
- New Access Track

Landscape

- Proposed Band of Shrubs
- Proposed Band of Shrubs & Scattered Trees
- Proposed Species Rich Grassland
- Proposed Semi Improved Grassland

Vegetation

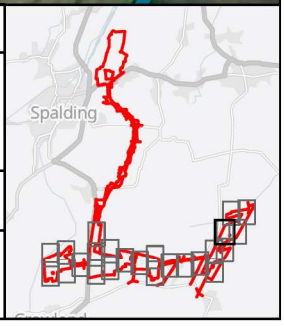
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Project Title
Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title
Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan
Figure 1: Outline Landscape Masterplans
(Sheet 23 of 26)

Scale	Version	Drawn	Reviewed
1:4,000	2	CT	AD

Legend

- Order Limits
- Watercourse Crossing
- Ordinary Watercourse

Solar Development Area

- Fence
- PV Panel
- Solar Station
- Existing Road
- New Access Track

Landscape

- Proposed Band of Shrubs
- Proposed Band of Shrubs & Scattered Trees
- Proposed Species Rich Grassland
- Proposed Semi Improved Grassland

Vegetation

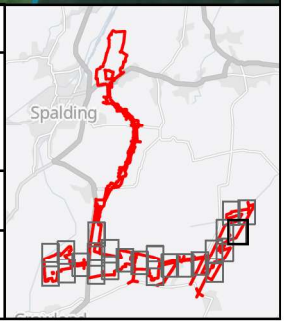
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Project Title
Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title
Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan
Figure 1: Outline Landscape Masterplans
(Sheet 24 of 26)

Scale	Version	Drawn	Reviewed
1:4,000	2	CT	AD

Legend

- Order Limits
- Watercourse Crossing
- Public Right of Way
- Ordinary Watercourse

Solar Development Area

- Fence
- PV Panel
- Solar Station
- Existing Road
- New Access Track

Landscape

- Proposed Band of Shrubs
- Proposed Band of Shrubs & Scattered Trees
- Proposed Species Rich Grassland
- Proposed Semi Improved Grassland

Vegetation

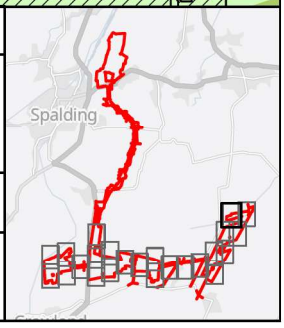
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Notes
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Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan
Figure 1: Outline Landscape Masterplans
(Sheet 25 of 26)

Scale	Version	Drawn	Reviewed
1:4,000	2	CT	AD

Legend

- Order Limits
- Watercourse Crossing
- Public Right of Way
- Ordinary Watercourse

Solar Development Area

- Fence
- PV Panel
- Solar Station
- Existing Road
- New Access Track

Landscape

- Advanced Planting
- Proposed Band of Shrubs
- Proposed Band of Shrubs & Scattered Trees
- Proposed Species Rich Grassland
- Proposed Semi Improved Grassland

Vegetation

- Retained

Date: 22/10/2026

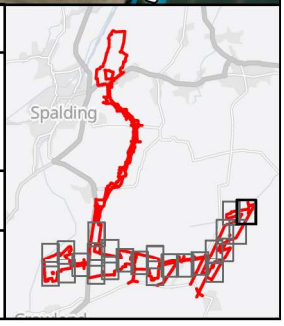
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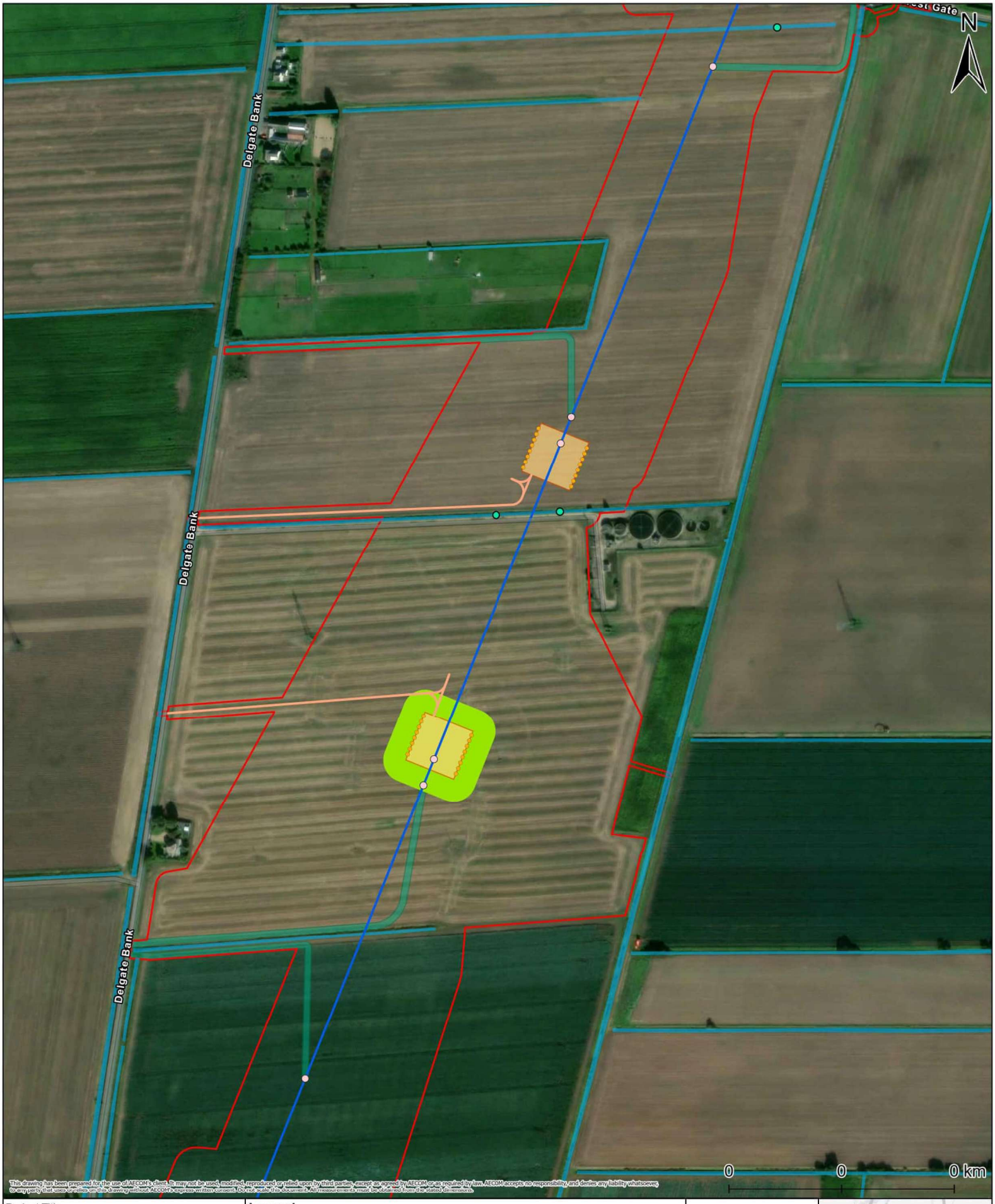
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Notes

Proposed watercourse crossing with 15m habitat enhancement buffer up and downstream, subject to review with Internal Drainage Boards.

Meridian Solar





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Project Title

Meridian Solar Farm

Map Title

Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan Figure 1: Outline Landscape Masterplans (Sheet 26 of 26)

Scale	Version	Drawn	Reviewed
1:3,000	0	LL	AK

Legend

- Order Limits
- Watercourse Crossing
- Ordinary Watercourse
- Indicative Alignment
- CSEC Bunding
- CSEC

Grid Connection Route

- Tower
- Permanent Access Line

Landscape

- Proposed Shrub
- Maintenance Access

Date: 20/03/2026

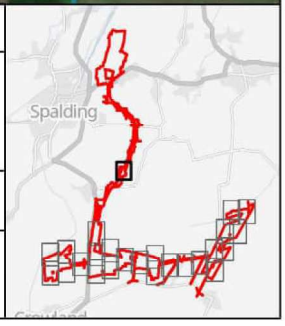
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Notes

Proposed watercourse crossing with 15m habitat enhancement buffer up and downstream, subject to review with internal Drainage Boards.

Meridian Solar



Glossary

Term	Definition
Baseline	Environmental conditions at specific periods of time present on, or near, the Site, against which future changes as a result of the Scheme are measured or predicted.
Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)	Battery energy storage system that would allow for the storage, import and export of electricity by the Scheme.
Decommissioning	To take out of use.
Decommissioning Phase	The phase of the Scheme where Scheme components would be dismantled and removed, with the Site reinstated to previous condition.
Development Consent Order (DCO)	An application made to the Planning Inspectorate for consent to carry out a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project. The Planning Inspectorate issues a recommendation to the relevant Secretary of State who decides if development consent is granted.
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	A systematic process of assessing a scheme's likely significant environmental effects undertaken in accordance with the EIA Regulations[59]
Environmental Statement (ES)	A formalised statement that includes the information that is reasonably required to assess the environmental effects of the Scheme and which the Applicant can, having regard to current knowledge and methods of assessment, reasonably be required to compile, but that includes at least the information referred to in the EIA Regulations.
Grid Connection Route	The 400kV overhead line connection (via steel lattice style towers with a standard height of approximately 50m) within the Grid Connection Corridor between

[59] The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/572/data.pdf [Accessed 09/03/2026]

Term	Definition
	the Solar Development Area and the proposed National Grid Weston Marsh Substation. The Grid Connection would connect the Scheme to the national electricity transmission system (NETS).

Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Description
AOD	Above Ordnance Datum
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
BMP	Biosecurity Management Plan
BNG	Biodiversity Net Gain
BRE	Building Research Establishment
BRE NSC	BRE National Solar Centre
BS	British Standard
BS 3998	Tree Work – Recommendations
BS 42020	Biodiversity – Code of Practice for Planning and Development
BS 5837	Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction – Recommendations
BS 8545	Trees from Nursery to Independence in the Landscape
BS 8683	Biodiversity Net Gain – Process for Designing and Implementing
CPRE	Campaign to Protect Rural England
CIRIA	Construction Industry Research and Information Association
CIRIA C741	Environmental Good Practice on Site (4th Edition)
CIRIA C746	Guidance on Invasive Non-Native Species Management
CoW	Clerk of Works
DCO	Development Consent Order
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Abbreviation	Description
DEMP	Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan
ECoW	Ecological Clerk of Works
EPSML	European Protected Species Mitigation Licence
ES	Environmental Statement
GLVIA	Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
HMA	Habitat Management Area
IDB	Internal Drainage Board
ILP	Institution of Lighting Professionals
IEMA	Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment
LBAP	Local Biodiversity Action Plan
LCC	Lincolnshire County Council
LCoW	Landscape Clerk of Works
LEMP	Landscape and Ecology Management Plan
LITGN	Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note
LWS	Local Wildlife Site
NCA	National Character Area
NE	Natural England
NERC Act	Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006)
NJUG	National Joint Utilities Group
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NPS	National Policy Statement
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
OCEMP	Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan
ODEMP	Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan
OHL	Overhead Line
OLEMP	Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan
OOEMP	Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan
PoC	Point of Connection

Abbreviation	Description
PRoW	Public Right of Way
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SANG	Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SELLP	South East Lincolnshire Local Plan
SHDC	South Holland District Council
SPA	Special Protection Area
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance
WFD	Water Framework Directive