

Green Hill Solar Farm

EN010170

Environmental Statement Technical Addendum to Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage

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Issue Sheet

Report Prepared for: Green Hill Solar Farm

Examination – Change Application 2/Deadline 5

Technical Addendum to Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage

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1 Cultural Heritage

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This technical addendum presents the updates and clarifications to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) concerning the potential archaeological impacts of the Scheme during the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases. This addendum focuses on the potential archaeological effects from the emerging engineering information associated with the continued detailed design review of the electrical design.
- 1.1.2 At the time of writing the Environmental Statement (ES) **Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage [APP-049]**, the areas corresponding to Works Nos. 6 and 9 on the **Works Plans [CR2/GH2.4_E]** across fields FF19, FF27 and FF28 were assumed to be required solely for ecological mitigation and landscape planting, notwithstanding that there were limited areas identified on the Works Plans as accommodating cabling works (being Works Nos. 1(d) and 5B). Subsequent detailed design development has confirmed that cabling installation is required within these areas.
- 1.1.3 ES Appendix 12.6: Archaeological Mitigation Strategy (Revision B) **[CR2/GH6.3.12.6_B]** and Technical Addendum to Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage **[CR2/GH8.4.2]** have been submitted alongside the Change Application but do not form part of the documentation supporting the requested changes. These documents are provided in advance of Deadline 5 as they clarify the environmental information assessed in the Environmental Statement, against which the changes in this Change Application have been reviewed.
- 1.1.4 It is acknowledged that, while the Technical Addendum supports the Change Application **[CR2/GH9.6]** by virtue of its relevance to Change No. 3 within Green Hill F, it is primarily relevant to the application more generally, as it relates to the existing design of the Scheme. It should therefore be considered as part of the examination irrespective of the Change Application. Change 3 seeks optionality for the cable connection between Green Hill F and Green Hill G substations to be 132kV (Work No. 5A), including in areas where the existing proposals provide for 33kV cabling to be laid. This change is shown on the Works Plan **[CR2/GH2.4_E]**.
- 1.1.5 The next iteration of the draft DCO, anticipated to be submitted at Deadline 5, will include the Technical Addendum under Schedule 13 documents and plans to be certified, part 2 substitute and supplementary documents.
- 1.1.6 This addendum therefore updates the assessment to consider the potential archaeological effects associated with cabling works in these locations and to determine whether the conclusions of the original ES remain valid.
- 1.1.7 For project description details, please refer to **ES Chapter 4: Scheme Description Revision A [REP1-031]**.
- 1.1.8 This technical addendum has been prepared by Lanpro (see **Statement of Competence [APP-065]**).
- 1.1.9 The Legislation, Planning Policy and Guidance presented **Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage [APP-049]** has not changed or been updated and are therefore still applicable.



- 1.1.10 The Assessment Methodology and Significance Criteria presented in **Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage [APP-049]** of the ES have not changed or been updated and are therefore still applicable.
- 1.1.11 The Assessment Assumptions and Limitations presented in **Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage [APP-049]** of the ES have not changed or been updated and are therefore still applicable.
- 1.1.12 The Baseline Conditions presented in **Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage [APP-049]** of the ES have not been updated and are therefore still applicable.
- 1.1.13 The embedded mitigation measures presented in **Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage [APP-049]** of the ES have not changed or been updated and are therefore still applicable. Embedded mitigation in the form of trenchless cabling techniques (such as horizontal directional drilling (HDD)) is discussed in paragraph 12.7.10 of **[APP-049]**. Paragraph 12.9.3 of **[APP-049]** states that additional archaeological mitigation required during the construction phase of the Scheme is detailed in the overarching **Archaeological Mitigation Strategy (AMS) (ES Appendix 12.6 Revision B [CR2/GH6.3.12.6_B])**. Paragraph 7.3.6 of the AMS **[CR2/GH6.3.12.6_B]** states *“if mitigation by preservation in situ is deemed unsuitable for any areas with archaeological remains that require mitigation, strip map and sample will be considered as a suitable alternative in accordance with the final design.”*
- 1.1.14 A review of the electrical design has identified that there are two sites where there is a potential for adverse ‘significant’ effects to occur ranging between **neutral to major/moderate** as a result of proposed cabling in Fields FF19, FF27 and FF28. This is the case whether the cabling is laid as Work No. 1(d) or 5B. The two sites comprise FF19-01 (Prehistoric Features) and FF27-01 (IA/ RB). Settlement (Roman Villa)) (see Table 12.15 of **Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage [APP-049]**). Two mitigation options have been discussed and agreed with Historic England and the North Northamptonshire Archaeological Officer, and the AMS has been updated in accordance with these discussions. Following the implementation of the agreed embedded and/or additional mitigation measures residual effects would be reduced to **neutral to negligible Adverse**, which is **not significant**.

1.2 Assessment of Likely Significant Effects

Onsite Construction Impacts to Archaeological Assets

- 1.2.1 Impacts to onsite archaeological assets would occur during the construction phase as a result of the installation of buried cabling in Fields FF19, FF27 and FF28. These works would have the potential to result in an adverse, permanent and irreversible impact upon buried archaeology.

Significance of Effect

- 1.2.2 Depending on the construction methodology for the installation of the cabling (Work Nos. 1(d) and 5B), two Sites have been identified where there is a potential for significant effects: FF19-01 (Prehistoric Features) and FF27-01 (IA/ RB Settlement (Roman Villa)).
- 1.2.3 If the cabling is installed using a trenchless cabling techniques (such as HDD), which is undertaken to a sufficient depth to avoid archaeological features in line



with the methodology outlined in section 7.3 of the AMS [CR2/GH6.3.12.6_B], this would provide sufficient embedded mitigation, allowing archaeological features to be preserved in situ. In which case, there would be a **neutral adverse effect** to FF19-01 and FF27-01, which is **not significant**.

- 1.2.4 If cabling is installed using an open cut methodology, this could cause direct impacts to buried archaeological remains, there is a potential for **moderate to major/moderate** adverse effects to FF19-01 and FF27-01 during construction phase of the Scheme, which is **significant**.

Onsite Operational Phase Impacts to Archaeological Assets

- 1.2.5 It is not anticipated that there would be any additional ground works beyond the construction phase that would cause impacts to archaeological features as a result of the installation or removal of cabling. As such no impacts have been identified during the operational phase.

- 1.2.6 Where irreversible impacts occur to archaeological assets during the construction phase (i.e. strip, map and sample excavation), no further operational impacts are possible (i.e. the asset has been recorded and excavated and is no longer in situ to be impacted).

Decommissioning Impacts to Archaeological Assets

- 1.2.7 It is not anticipated that there would be any additional ground works beyond the construction phase that would cause impacts to archaeological features as a result of the installation or removal of cabling. As such no impacts have been identified during the decommissioning phase.

- 1.2.8 Where irreversible impacts occur to archaeological assets during the construction phase (i.e. strip, map and sample excavation), no further decommissioning impacts are possible (i.e. the asset has been recorded and excavated and is no longer in situ to be impacted).

1.3 Additional Mitigation Measures

- 1.3.1 If the cabling is installed using a trenchless cabling techniques (such as HDD) no additional mitigation would be required.

- 1.3.2 If cabling is installed using an open cut methodology, additional mitigation in the form of strip, map and sample would be undertaken prior to the installation in line with the methodology outlined in section 7.5 of the AMS [CR2/GH6.3.12.6_B] for cabling across FF19-01 and FF27-01. The proposed additional mitigation is sufficient to mitigate against impacts to archaeological features and has been agreed with Historic England and the North Northamptonshire Archaeological Officer. An updated Statement of Common Ground with North Northamptonshire Council and Historic England to reflect this agreement will be submitted at Deadline 5. The overarching AMS (ES Appendix 12.6 Archaeological Mitigation Strategy Revision B [CR2/GH6.3.12.6_B]) has been updated following consultation with both stakeholders to reflect the agreed mitigation approach.

- 1.3.3 The preferred mitigation approach will be finalised during the detailed design stage and once established and will be agreed with the County Archaeologist and Historic England.



- 1.3.4 The AMS is an overarching document which is secured in Schedule 2, Requirement 12 of the **Draft DCO Revision C [REP3-024]**. It is envisaged that WSIs will be appended to the AMS detailing the individual phases of work and will take into consideration the final detailed design of the Scheme.

1.4 Residual Effects

- 1.4.1 If the cabling is installed using a trenchless cabling technique (HDD) there would be a **neutral adverse effect** to FF19-01 and FF27-01, which is **not significant**.
- 1.4.2 If the cable is installed via an open cut methodology the residual effect would be reduced to **negligible adverse**, which is **not significant**, following the implementation of the additional mitigation detailed in paragraph 1.3.2 above.