Light Valley Solar

Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan

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Light Valley Solar

DCO Submission

[EN0110012/APP/LVS/07.04] Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan

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1 Introduction

1.1 Overview and purpose of the document

1.1.1 Light Valley Solar Limited (the 'Applicant') has prepared this Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) in relation to an Application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of Light Valley Solar (the 'Proposed Development').

1.1.2 The Proposed Development is being led by the Applicant, Light Valley Solar Limited, which is a subsidiary of Island Green Power (IGP) UK Limited. IGP is a leading international developer of renewable energy projects, established in 2013.

1.1.3 The aim of this oDEMP is to demonstrate how the mitigation measures relevant to operational activities included in the ES will be implemented. This document does not address construction or operational activities, which are subject to separate environmental management plans and procedures. Please refer to the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) [EN0110012/APP/LVS/07.02] and Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan (oOEMP) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/07.03**] for further information.

1.1.4 Once the Proposed Development ceases to operate, the development will be decommissioned. The operational life of the Proposed Development is anticipated to be up to 60 years. A 60-year period for the operational phase of the Proposed Development has therefore been assessed in the Environmental Statement which accompanies the DCO Application.

1.1.5 A Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) (which must incorporate a Decommissioning Traffic Management Plan (DTMP)) will be produced and submitted to North Yorkshire Council for approval following the appointment of a decommissioning Contractor(s), and prior to the commencement of any decommissioning works for the Proposed Development. Approval and implementation of the DEMP is secured through a Requirement in the draft DCO Application.

1.1.6 It is recognised that there could be multiple DEMP(s) prepared in substantial accordance with this oDEMP to deal with different parts of the Proposed Development, depending on the detailed decommissioning strategy undertaken. Where this is the case, each detailed DEMP will set out how the management of construction impacts will be co-ordinated across areas covered by different DEMPs.

1.1.7 The nature of the decommissioning activities and potential for significant effects is anticipated to be similar to, and no worse, than construction. The DEMPs and DTMP will therefore include measures consistent with the principles of what is included in the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP)

[**EN0110012/APP/LVS/07.02**] and the detailed CEMPs, as well as the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/07.12**] submitted with the Application, covering issues such as transportation methods, pollution prevention, and noise management.

1.1.8 The DEMP(s) will adhere with regulations and guidance applicable at the time, but is expected to include:

1) An overview of the Proposed Development, decommissioning activities, and programme;
2) Prior assessment of potential environmental impacts;
3) Mitigation measures to prevent or reduce potential adverse impacts;
4) Monitoring of effectiveness of mitigation measures; and
5) Links to other complementary plans and procedures

1.2 The Order Limits and Proposed Development

Order Limits

1.2.1 The Order Limits (also referred to as 'the Site') outline the maximum extent of the land that will be required to facilitate the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of the Proposed Development and are shown on Figure 1.1: Site Location and Order Limits Plan (Volume 2) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.01.01**]. The Order Limits are described in Chapter 2: The Proposed Development (Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.02**] of the ES.

1.2.2 The Order Limits cover an area of approximately 1,270 hectares (ha) located within the administrative areas of North Yorkshire Council, near Selby. The Proposed Development comprises four broad areas:

1) Solar Development Sites (total area of 900 ha);
2) Cable Route Corridor (total area of 328.5 ha)
3) Highways Improvement Areas (HIA) (total area of 17.1 ha); and
4) Solar Development Site 8 Access (total area of 24.1 ha).

The Proposed Development

1.2.3 The Proposed Development comprises a solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generating station of over 100 megawatts (MW) and 'associated development' comprising a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), grid connection infrastructure and other infrastructure integral to the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases.

1.2.4 The main element of the Proposed Development comprises seven Solar Development Sites (Solar Development Sites 1-4 and 6-8) that will accommodate the Solar PV Panels. A BESS Compound will be located within Solar

Development Site 2. The BESS is intended to store surplus electricity generated by the solar PV system and/or energy from the grid.

1.2.5 The Cable Route Corridor is the area within which the export connection cables (hereafter referred to as the 'Grid Connection Cables') would be located to connect the Solar PV Sites to the National Grid at the existing Monk Fryston Substation (hereafter referred to as the 'Existing National Grid Monk Fryston Substation') and the area within which cables connecting the Solar Development Sites would be located (hereafter referred to as 'Interconnecting Cables') (refer to Figure 2-1: Illustrative Site Layout Plan (ES Volume 2) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.02.01**].

1.2.6 Further details of the Proposed Development are presented in Chapter 2: The Proposed Development [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.02**] and the design envelope for the Proposed Development is set out in the Design Parameters and Commitments document [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/05.06**] and the limits of deviation shown on the Works Plans [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/02.03**].

1.2.7 It is currently anticipated that construction works will commence (at the earliest) in 2028. The operational life of the Proposed Development will be no more than 60 years and decommissioning is estimated to commence around 2090. Decommissioning may take between 24-36 months. However, it is possible that decommissioning may take less time, and this will be confirmed in the final DEMP.

2 Principles of decommissioning and environmental considerations

2.1 Decommissioning activities

2.1.1 The process of decommissioning will involve the removal of all solar infrastructure, including the solar PV modules, and BESS and all associated infrastructure (including On-Site Cabling) to 1.2 m bgl. The components will be recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and processes at that time. Any piles will be removed. It is expected that relatively minor decommissioning activities will require the removal of the manholes (fibre chambers) within the Cable Route Corridor to allow access to the joint bay and link boxes.

2.1.2 Upon decommissioning, the above-ground physical infrastructure at the Solar Development Sites will be removed and each Solar Development Site restored to its current use and returned to the landowner. This will include the areas of agricultural land where the agricultural resource has been maintained (and potentially improved) during operation, and the established habitats. Post-decommissioning, the landowners will choose how the land is to be used and managed, the landowner may return all of the land to arable use, although it is likely that established habitats such as hedgerows and woodland would be retained given their potential benefits to agricultural land and the wider farming estate.

2.1.3 Where land is to be returned to agricultural use, checks on land drainage will be carried out and previously identified land drains that were removed or permanently affected by the works would be reinstated or replaced with equivalent drainage provision, unless otherwise agreed with the relevant landowner.

2.1.4 During the initial stages of decommissioning, access to the permissive paths will be maintained where this is reasonably practicable. Following the initial stages, permissive paths will be removed, with the precise timing to be determined by the Contractor(s) and communicated to North Yorkshire Council in accordance with the detailed DEMP.

2.1.5 The mode of dealing with Interconnecting Cables and Grid Connection Cables during decommissioning will be dependent upon government policy and good practice at that time. Currently, the most environmentally acceptable option is considered to be leaving the cables in situ, as this avoids disturbance to overlying land and habitats and to neighbouring communities. Alternatively, the cables can be removed by opening up the ground at regular intervals and pulling the cable through to the extraction point, leaving the ducting and jointing bays in place, avoiding the need to open up the entire length of the cable route. If the cables were to be removed from within the Avoidance Areas the cable would be pulled from outside these areas. Confirmation of the approach to be taken, including a

benefits /impacts analysis of the impacts of the preferred approach, will be set out in the detailed DEMP.

2.1.6 The benefits/impacts analysis will:

1) Assess the environmental implications of removing versus retaining buried cabling and other subsurface infrastructure;
2) Consider factors including soil quality and structure, groundwater impacts, biodiversity, waste generation, carbon impact, and the safety of future land users;
3) Take into account contemporary best practice and regulatory guidance at the point of decommissioning; and
4) Provide a clear justification for the proposed approach, supported by evidence and if necessary site survey results and consultation with the relevant authorities.

2.1.7 All excavations are to be backfilled using soil sourced on the Solar Development Sites, or within imported soil where required, using appropriate soil management techniques. Some soil profiling may be required, and the land will be contoured.

2.1.8 To restore the land to its pre-construction condition at the end of operation, the soil resources within the Order Limits will need to be managed through construction, operation and decommissioning. The detailed DEMP(s) will include provisions for the management of soils consistent with the principles of the Outline Soil Resources Management Plan (oSRMP) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/07.14**], the approved detailed SRMP(s) for the construction phase, and the soil management measures included in the approved detailed Operation Environmental Management Plan(s). Measures to be implemented include:

1) Ensuring the protection and conservation of soil resources; and
2) Maintaining the physical properties of the soils through best practice.

2.1.9 Providing on-site reference on the management of soil resources for Contractor(s) undertaking the proposed works. The Agricultural Land Classification Reports (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.05.01**] were undertaken as part of the DCO Application and will form the basis of how the land will be left at the end of the operational phase. At decommissioning, the soil is anticipated to have undergone up to 60 years of recovery, given that while the Proposed Development is operational, the land will be used for lower intensity farming practices, such as for sheep grazing or being left fallow. It is therefore expected to be of the same or better quality once decommissioned, as it is at present.

2.1.10 Where localised soil compaction occurs from the presence of structures such as the substations or the BESS, or the weight of mobile machinery used through construction, operation and decommissioning, management measures will be identified, consistent with the principles in the oSRMP [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/07.14**], the approved detailed SRMP(s) for the

construction phase, and the soil management measures included in the approved detailed OEMP(s) to alleviate compaction (e.g. through ploughing and aeration), to maintain soil structure and enable reinstatement of the land to its original use.

2.1.11 Permissive paths will be managed up to decommissioning, with the timing of their removal to be confirmed within the detailed DEMP.

2.1.12 Pre-decommissioning surveys and assessments will be required to identify the appropriateness of embedded mitigation measures for the future baseline of the Proposed Development, and to conform with all applicable biodiversity policies and legislation. This will be further outlined in the detailed DEMP.

2.2 Decommissioning programme

2.2.1 The decommissioning of the Proposed Development is expected to take between 24 and 36 months to be completed.

2.2.2 The Proposed Development is assessed in the ES as being decommissioned after up to 60 years of operation. Including the likely duration of the construction and decommissioning phases, the land would be required for the Proposed Development for approximately up to 65 years in total.

2.2.3 Each DEMP prepared for any part of the decommissioning works shall be accompanied by a programme setting out the programme for the works covered by that plan.

3 Mitigation and management

3.1 Purpose

3.1.1 This section of the oDEMP sets out the mitigation and management measures to be included as a minimum in the detailed DEMP(s). It also identifies where monitoring is proposed, to assess the effectiveness of the mitigation measures. Nothing in this oDEMP would prevent the modification or omission of the control measures set out in Table 3-1-Table 3-13 where the decommissioning methodology means that the measures can be so modified or omitted. This will be confirmed (including confirming that the absence or change to such control measures would not lead to any materially new or materially different effects than those reported in the ES) at the time of submission of the detailed DEMP.

3.2 Committed decommissioning mitigation and management measures

Table 3-1 Air Quality

Mitigation/Enhancement Measure
Standards of good practice for air quality, as set out in the Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) 'Guidance on the Assessment of Dust from Demolition and Construction', or relevant guidance will be followed during decommissioning to minimise dust from activities and vehicles. A Dust Management Plan (DMP) may be required as part of the DEMP and would detail any dust monitoring required prior to and during decommissioning, including any relevant baseline dust monitoring to be undertaken before activities commence. Records will be kept of all dust and air quality complaints, cause(s) will be identified and appropriate measures to reduce emissions will be taken in a timely manner. A further record will be kept of the measures taken. Measures proposed for the construction phase (see oCEMP [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/07.02**]) will also be adopted for the decommissioning phase in respect of Air Quality.

Table 3-2 Agricultural Land and Soils

Mitigation/Enhancement Measure
Agriculture The detailed DEMP(s) will include soil resource management measures. These measures will cover soil handling, reconditioning and soil/land restoration during decommissioning and soil aftercare post decommissioning. Land use temporarily will be reinstated where practicable to its pre-construction condition and use (or a condition agreed with the landowner). Hedgerows, fences and walls impacted during decommissioning works will be reinstated to a similar quantity and quality to those that were removed, with landowner agreement. Earthwork mounds and stockpiled soil (if required as part of decommissioning works) will be protected (to minimise erosion and dust generation) by covering, seeding, or using water suppression where appropriate (to be determined by the soil types). Soil reinstatement will include measures to remove compaction (where required) and to ensure soil restoration. ▪ Remove compaction, where required; and ▪ Details of measures required for soil restoration. It will be particularly important to avoid causing soil compaction during the decommissioning phase. To reduce ground pressure, tracked plant and machinery should be equipped with low ground pressure tyres.

Mitigation/Enhancement Measure
In areas where agricultural land and soil is reinstated this should be carried out in accordance with the guidance in Defra's Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites (2009) or the relevant good practice guidance at the time of works.
Ground conditions Good practice avoidance and mitigation measures proposed during decommissioning works include: ▪ Site workers will be made aware of the possibility of encountering localised contamination through toolbox talks. Good standards of personal hygiene, welfare facilities on-site and the use of appropriate levels of personal protective equipment (PPE) will be enforced. All personnel will be educated about the potential environmental impacts of their activities, ensuring that all workers are fully aware of the risks and the necessary precautions to take to minimise pollution. ▪ Workers will adhere to health, safety and environmental precautions to reduce the potential for accidents and incidents. ▪ Discovery Strategy, for any potential contamination land uncovered during decommissioning that was not previously identified during construction. ▪ To mitigate the risk of airborne contamination, a dust suppression and management measures will be implemented, as per Table 3-1. These measures will control dust emissions during decommissioning activities, preventing them from migrating off-site and impacting neighbouring environments. ▪ For any topsoil displacement as part of decommissioning, this should be appropriately stored and reused. Site compounds and stockpiles will be located as far as practicable away from receptors. ▪ Bulk fuels or chemicals used on-site during the decommissioning phase should be stored appropriately, within an impervious bund of 110% of the volume of the container to reduce the potential for impact to the environment in the event of a container failure/leak of battery chemicals during a fire and/or associated fire suppressant foam and waters. Any spillages will be promptly addressed by appropriate measures, such as spill kits, and an Emergency Spillage Plan will be developed alongside the detailed DEMP(s). The Contractor(s) will ensure immediate notification of the Environment Agency in the event of any suspected pollution incidents, facilitating response measures.
Contaminated Land During decommissioning the potential exists that previously unidentified soil and groundwater contamination may be exposed. The Contractor(s) will implement a watching brief and discovery protocol for unexpected contamination identified during works. In the unlikely event that contamination is encountered that is not consistent with the risk assessment and observations from any intrusive ground investigations this will be identified as unexpected contamination and the following procedures implemented: ▪ Works should cease in the area affected and the area cordoned off. ▪ A competent geoenvironmental specialist should be consulted who will advise on next steps. ▪ Contaminated material should be sampled and tested, either in-situ in the ground (and left undisturbed while the samples are tested and results interpreted) or if safe to do so excavated and stockpiled separately in an appropriate manner (i.e. bunded, covered and away from surface watercourses).

Mitigation/Enhancement Measure
▪ Measures should be taken to ensure protection of site staff, neighbours and the environment, particularly by controlling dust and surface water runoff from the contaminated area. ▪ Appropriate mitigation will be applied to impermeable structures (including clay stanks) if, following the analysis undertaken in section 2.1, removal of cabling is taken forward to prevent new preferential flows paths from being created. Mitigation measures will be confirmed in the detailed DEMP.

Table 3-3 Biodiversity and ornithology

Mitigation/Enhancement Measure
Standard management measures will be implemented to prevent pollution incidents, minimise effects on ecology from noise and vibration, and prevent and minimise dust creation and air pollution. These management measures are likely to be the same as those contained within the oCEMP [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/07.02**], but will include restrictions on working in proximity to important habitats (by buffering and protective fencing – to align with those established during construction and maintained during operation), precautions to take during periods of prolonged dry or wet weather, restrictions on the use and storage of chemicals, oils and fuels, and the avoidance of sediment runoff and use of sediment barriers near to ditches and watercourses. Precautionary working method statements concerning the above actions would be produced and implemented. Site checks will be completed periodically by the site manager or a suitable delegate during the decommissioning phase to ensure compliance with requirements of the DEMP. No more than twelve months prior to any decommissioning works commencing, the relevant parts of the Proposed Development will be visited by an appropriately qualified ecologist to characterise the new baseline and identify any ecological constraints likely to arise from decommissioning activities. As a minimum, an extended UKHab walkover survey (or equivalent, in accordance with best practice guidelines available at the point of decommissioning) will be required to identify the potential presence of protected species and important habitats. Further surveys may then be required for particular habitats or species. The ecological value of the Proposed Development may change during the lifetime of the Proposed Development; in particular, changes in ecological conditions both within the Order Limits and on a national scale as a result of climate change (and other factors) may result in new ecological objectives that cannot at the current time be reasonably foreseen. As such, decommissioning activities will need to take account of changes in ecological objectives that have occurred over the operational phase and be in alignment with the legislation at the time of decommissioning. Examples of likely mitigation measures to be adopted during decommissioning include: **Ecological Clerk of Works** The method statements to be detailed in the DEMP would be controlled and monitored through the direction of an appointed Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) who will be present on-site as required during the decommissioning works. The ECoW would also ensure that pre-arranged mitigation is undertaken, and records are kept. Delivery of a Toolbox Talk by the ECoW to all site personnel, raising awareness of sensitive ecological features (such as bird nesting areas and buffer zones) and communicating the correct working practices to minimise disturbance or harm. **Nesting and breeding birds** Measures will be implemented to mitigate for impacts to nesting and breeding birds. Where reasonably practicable, vegetation clearance works would be undertaken outside the bird breeding season (taken to be March-August, although these timings may be different at the point of decommissioning as a result of climate).

Mitigation/Enhancement Measure
For removal of the solar panels and other infrastructure within 250 m of the southern portion of the Solar Development Site 1, where it adjoins the Bird Mitigation Area, will be undertaken outside of the non-breeding bird period (April to August, inclusive), pending on climate at the point of decommissioning). **Reptiles and amphibians** Reasonable avoidance measures will be used during habitat clearance suitable for amphibians and reptiles, encouraging animals to move away from affected areas to adjacent suitable habitats. **Badgers** Pre-commencement badger surveys and implementation of an appropriate buffer of 30m around a badger sett during decommissioning works. **Bats** Implementation of an appropriate buffer of between 8-25m around trees with bat root potential or identified bat roots during decommissioning works. **Otter** A pre-commencement otter survey will be conducted at least three months prior to the start of decommissioning works, to check for any new otter resting places / holts which may be impacted by disturbance or directly impacted through proposed decommissioning activities. If new holts / resting places are identified, suitable mitigation will be put in place to protect / mitigate the feature impacted. To further reduce decommissioning impacts to otter, Precautionary Working Methods (PWMs) will be adopted to protect the species e.g. the inclusion of ramps or mammal ladders should any excavations be left open overnight to reduce the likelihood of mammal entrapment. **Water Vole** An updated suite of water vole surveys of the Order Limits will be conducted in the suitable season (one survey April to June, one survey July to September) prior to the start of decommissioning works, to confirm the use of the ditch network by the species at that time, which may be impacted by disturbance or directly impacted through proposed decommissioning activities. Should water vole be confirmed within the ditches where work is required, a Natural England licence will be procured which would include relevant mitigation measures. To further reduce decommissioning impacts to water vole, Precautionary Working Methods (PWMs) will be adopted to protect the species e.g. the supervision of works by an ECoW, 10 m buffer established from watercourses where possible, use of appropriate machinery to minimise noise and vibration, and supervised displacement if required. **Brown Hare and Hedgehog** PWMs will be adopted to protect the species e.g. the inclusion of ramps or mammal ladders should any excavations be left open overnight to reduce the likelihood of mammal entrapment, and a pre commencement checks for leverets should clearance of suitable brown hare habitat be completed in the breeding season.

Mitigation/Enhancement Measure
Invasive species Pre-decommissioning surveys will be undertaken to provide an update on the presence and location of any invasive species which will help to inform any revision(s) required to the detailed Invasive Species Management Plan, alongside the detailed DEMP(s). If any future infestations of invasive non-native species are identified prior to any decommissioning works, exclusion zones will be established around them, and the ECoW contacted for advice, as required. **Fish and aquatic species** Where necessary, the timing of decommissioning works expected to significantly increase noise and vibration around watercourses with suitability to support species of conservation value will be taken outside periods of fish spawning or noise mitigation required.

Table 3-4 Climate Change Resilience and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Mitigation/Enhancement Measure
The requirements for decommissioning are subject to change as the environment beyond 2089 is likely to be considerably different to today. The future technological, regulatory, and environmental landscape beyond 2089 is difficult to predict with certainty, so maintaining flexibility in the decommissioning approach is prudent. Measures proposed for the construction phase (see oCEMP [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/07.02]**) will also be adopted for the decommissioning phase in respect of climate change resilience and GHG emissions. However, new best practices and methods may become common place in the future that go beyond those listed for the oCEMP and therefore would be included in the detailed DEMP as appropriate. Suitable measures will be implemented during decommissioning to manage the heightened risks posed by flooding and extreme weather events, due to climate change. The safety of all members will be paramount during the decommissioning phase. It is not considered appropriate to specify such requirements now as the decommissioning environment is likely to be considerably different to today. However, general measures will likely include: ▪ Work should be scheduled during the cooler parts of the day, such as early mornings or late afternoons, to avoid extreme temperatures and heatwaves. Shade structures will be provided in rest areas, and workers will have access to drinking water and regular breaks. ▪ Workers will be required to wear UV-protective clothing, hats and sunglasses. Sunscreen will be made available as part of PPE, and shaded work zones will be established where feasible. ▪ Contractor(s) will regularly monitor weather forecasts and Environment Agency flood alerts to ensure appropriate safety measures are in place for extreme events (e.g. flash floods, heavy rainfall or strong winds). This will be outlined in a Flood Warning and Evacuation Plan (FWEP) prepared alongside the detailed DEMP(s) prior to decommissioning works. The FWEP will be developed taking into account the measures outlined in the Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.15.01**]. ▪ Fire safety plans will be developed for all site facilities, and Contractor(s) should follow best practices such as keeping flammable materials away from ignition sources and ensuring fire extinguishers are readily available.

Table 3-5 Cultural Heritage

Mitigation/Enhancement Measure
Activities associated with the decommissioning phase are not considered to cause further impact to buried archaeological remains beyond that which will occur during the construction phase. Likewise, the decommissioning phase is not considered to cause additional indirect impacts to heritage assets to those caused during the commissioning or operational phases. Potential impacts to archaeological remains not previously truncated by the construction phase of the Cable Route are unlikely as cables are anticipated to be either left in-situ or removed through trenchless methods such as pull techniques. Following decommissioning and removal of plant and structures the baseline condition for the identified heritage assets will be restored. In line with the Archaeological Mitigation Strategy [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/07.11**], archaeological protection measures in the detailed DEMP(s) will be agreed with the Archaeological Advisor to the relevant Local Planning Authority prior to decommissioning, which will be sufficient to safeguard any archaeological remains during the decommissioning phase.

Table 3-6 Landscape and Visual

Mitigation/Enhancement Measure
▪ All necessary protective fencing will be installed prior to the commencement of any site clearance or decommissioning works; and ▪ Temporary site lighting during decommissioning required to enable safe working during hours of darkness will be designed as far as reasonably practical so as not to cause a nuisance outside of the Proposed Development. Standard best practice measures will be employed to minimise light spill, including glare.

Table 3-7 Arboriculture

Mitigation/Enhancement Measure
Tree Protection Measures: ▪ A pre-commencement survey of vegetation prior to decommissioning will be undertaken to establish the extent to identify required protection zones; ▪ A tree survey and Arboriculture Impact Assessment/Arboricultural Method Statement (ArbMS) in line with BS 5837:2012 or subsequent update, would be undertaken ahead of any decommissioning works that will set out the measures to be followed to minimise tree loss or damage. All works would be undertaken in line with the ArbMS to be prepared alongside the detailed DEMP(s); ▪ Where works in close proximity to retained trees cannot be practically avoided, these works will be undertaken in accordance with current best practice, defined in BS 5837:2012 Trees (or subsequent update) in relation to design, demolition and construction. Permanent Access Points and visibility splays for the Sites will be the same as those used for construction. Decommissioning and removal of Solar PV Panels will take place using the existing access tracks installed at the construction stage, ensuring that there should be no additional tree root or canopy impacts to retained trees during decommissioning works. However, trees may grow or seed during the operation phase that cannot be not accounted for at this time and may require pruning or removal to allow decommissioning. The requirement for any such works will be identified by a qualified arboriculturist in an Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) and/or Arboricultural Method Statement (ArbMS) to be prepared alongside the detailed DEMP(s) produced prior to the commencement of decommissioning works. Any tree pruning works required for decommissioning will be undertaken by a professionally qualified and insured arborist working in accordance with British Standard 3998:2010 ‘Tree Work – Recommendations’. The mode of dealing with Interconnecting Cables and Grid Connection Cables during decommissioning would be dependent upon government policy and good practice at that time. Currently, the most environmentally acceptable option is considered to be leaving the cables in situ, as this avoids disturbance to overlying land and habitats and to neighbouring communities. Alternatively, the cables can be removed by opening up the ground at regular intervals and pulling the cable through to the extraction point, leaving the ducting and jointing bays in place, avoiding the need

Mitigation/Enhancement Measure
to open up the entire length of the cable route. If the cables were to be removed from within the Avoidance Areas the cable would be pulled from outside these areas.

Table 3-8 Major Accidents and Disasters

Mitigation/Enhancement Measure
The risk of major accidents and disasters during decommissioning will be addressed through relevant risk assessments and management plans prior to undertaking the works. All works will be undertaken in accordance with relevant Health and Safety legislation and guidance with relevant emergency details publicised and communicated to all site personnel. Measures to mitigate the risks of major accidents and disasters are covered in the Climate Change, Ecology, Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage, Transport and Access and Waste sections. Consultation with HSE required for any decommissioning works that fall within identified COMAH sites. The Applicant will provide arrangements for Sherburn Aerodrome fire and rescue service, or North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service on their behalf, to gain access to the Site in the event of an aircraft incident.

Table 3-9 Noise and Vibration

Mitigation/Enhancement Measure
Standards of good practice for noise and vibration will be followed to minimise noise and vibration impacts from activities and vehicles. The DEMP measures will be based on the principles of the oCEMP [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/07.02**] which include: ▪ Unnecessary revving of engines will be avoided, and equipment will be switched off when not in use. ▪ Consideration will also be given to traffic routing, timing and access points to the Proposed Development to minimise noise impacts at existing receptors. ▪ Drop heights of materials will be minimised. ▪ Plant will always be used in accordance with manufacturers' instructions. Care will be taken to site equipment away from noise sensitive areas. Where practicable, loading and unloading will also be carried out away from such areas. ▪ Regular and effective maintenance by trained personnel will be undertaken to keep plant and equipment working to manufacturer's specifications. ▪ During noisy activities, localised screening of noise generating sources, such as temporary site hoarding will be implemented where appropriate to minimise any potential impacts on nearby noise sensitive receptors.

Mitigation/Enhancement Measure
▪ Core working hours on site are likely to be Monday to Friday 07:00 – 18:00 and between 08:00 – 13:00 on Saturdays. Some activities may be required outside the core working hours (such as the arrival / departure of construction workers, the delivery of abnormal loads, or in emergencies). The Contractor(s) will seek prior approval from the relevant authority for works outside the core working hours. ▪ Requirements for monitoring during the decommissioning stages will be set out and agreed. The noise monitoring scheme is expected to be similar to that for the construction phase. ▪ The detailed DEMP(s) will account for any new sensitive receptors or changes to the baseline conditions since construction.

Table 3-10 Socioeconomics

Mitigation/Enhancement Measure
Measures proposed for the construction phase (see oCEMP [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/07.02]**) will also be adopted for the decommissioning phase in respect of socioeconomics. Recreational routes within the Order Limits will be sought to be kept open during decommissioning, with any crossing or traffic conflict points overseen by spotters or banksmen for HGVs. Where closures are deemed necessary, these will be temporary in nature and supported by appropriate amount of notice and suitable diversions. Details of such measures will be included in the detailed DEMP(s) and will be consistent with the principles of the measures set out in the Outline PRoWMP [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/07.09**]. The decommissioning Contractor(s) will provide support for workers to find suitable accommodation, as required, in locations where impact upon existing residents and visitors can be minimised. The decommissioning Contractor(s) will consider the most environmentally acceptable option regarding decommissioning the cable infrastructure. Consideration will be given to socioeconomic impacts on agricultural users of the land along the as-built Cable Route Corridor during decommissioning optioneering. Apprenticeship and training schemes, and local recruitment and procurement, would be promoted during the decommissioning phase, with details of these set out in the detailed DEMP(s). Limit works and traffic related noise and disruption to Birkin Fisheries Tea room, Gascoigne Wood fishery and Homestead Livery Yard, Fairfield Equine Facilitated Wellbeing) applying the principles set out in the oCEMP, as appropriate to the status of those facilities at the time of decommissioning. Where practicable, the most disruptive activities will be scheduled outside of these peak times to preserve the tranquillity of the site. Decommissioning works will be carried out in a manner which ensures that the use of the access track off Common Lane to the west of Field 6.8 by those parties who have the legal right to use it will not be restricted.

Table 3-11 Traffic and Movement

Mitigation/Enhancement Measure
A Decommissioning Traffic Management Plan will be prepared to manage traffic associated with decommissioning and will include measures to minimise the impact of construction traffic on surrounding roads, including disruption and risk of traffic accidents along local access roads and along Public Rights of Way (PRoW). Measures will include: ▪ Restricting movement of Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) to certain routes and time windows within the day. ▪ Use of temporary traffic management to construct, and where required, manage accesses. ▪ A monitoring system and Delivery Management System to record the route of HGVs to and from the Order Limits and regulate their arrival times to ensure compliance. ▪ Encouraging alternative travel arrangements for site personnel, including car sharing and shuttle bus services in order to reduce the volume of vehicle trips required.

Table 3-12 Water Resources and Flood Risk

Mitigation/Enhancement Measure
Relevant Good Practice Guidance and Guidance for Pollution Prevention, as well as additional good practice guidance for the water environment including British Standards and key CIRIA documents, will be followed for the water environment and flood risk during decommissioning. Best practice pollution prevention measures will be implemented for the storage and handling of materials. Fuels, oils and chemicals will be stored in integrally bunded above-ground tanks compliant with the Oil Storage Regulations, with secondary containment designed to accommodate a minimum of 110% of the storage volume. Storage areas will be covered to prevent rainwater ingress and should avoid areas susceptible to flooding and be located away from watercourses, drains and sensitive receptors where practicable. There will be regular inspection and maintenance of storage containers and associated infrastructure. Refuelling will be undertaken within designated areas of decommissioning compounds, with spill kits, drip trays and other containment measures available at fuelling points and on plant to enable rapid response to any accidental releases. Additional containment measures, such as bunded or lined areas, will be used for activities including the mixing, curing and pouring of concrete, adopting a control-at-source approach. Where required, oil interceptors and other appropriate drainage controls will be incorporated to prevent contamination of surface water. Water suppression measures will be implemented as necessary to minimise dust emissions during decommissioning. A Water Management Plan will be developed as part of the DEMP (if required). The plan will detail management measures including any water quality monitoring measures and will be consistent with the principles of the measures set out in the outline CEMP [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/07.02**]. Should decommissioning require significant water use, this will be assessed in detail at the appropriate time and appropriate measures included in the detailed DEMP(s), as relevant, in line with prevailing guidance and regulatory requirements. If runoff from the decommissioning of the Site is treated on-site, a Water Discharge Activity Permit will be acquired, as necessary. Piles which have been put in place during construction should either be left in situ, or decommissioning needs to take into account groundwater protection and be in line with borehole decommissioning guidance from the EA. Regular water quality monitoring is recommended in order to efficiently detect potential accidental pollution events. A monitoring plan will be developed, in line with monitoring set out in Section 3 of outline Pollution and Spillage Response Plan **[EN0110012/APP/LVS/07.08],** which will outline the frequency of water quality monitoring prior to and during decommissioning. The monitoring plan will be developed in consultation with the EA. Surface water systems would be decommissioned with due regard to water quality management and the prevention of uncontrolled runoff. The decommissioning process would typically involve dewatering, disconnecting, and sealing any drainage outfalls to prevent uncontrolled discharges; removing silt or debris from any drainage features including SuDS; and ensuring no residual contaminants remain that could pose a risk to surface or ground waters.

Mitigation/Enhancement Measure
Infiltration systems or storage tanks would be emptied and inspected to ensure they do not pose any residual flood or pollution risks. Components may need to be completely removed, with surrounding areas reinstated or landscaped appropriately for the planned end use. Foul water generation will be limited to welfare facilities. In the absence of mains sewer connections, temporary foul flows will be managed via a sealed non-mains drainage solution, comprising either a cesspool or package treatment plant subject to detailed design. Where required, off-site disposal will be undertaken by a licensed contractor, or treated effluent will be discharged in accordance with the Environment Agency's General Binding Rules or an environmental permit. Systems will be designed to avoid impacts on water resources and located outside areas of flood risk, as confirmed by the Flood Risk Assessment. For foul water drainage systems, any remaining effluent within drainage features would be safely removed by licensed waste contractors in accordance with regulatory guidelines. Manholes, inspection chambers, and pipework would be inspected, suitably capped off, and removed. If any elements are to be abandoned and retained in situ, they must be sealed to prevent the ingress of debris or surface water. All decommissioning activities would adhere to an appropriate specification developed in accordance with industry standard documents, such as the Civil Engineering Specification for the Water Industry (CESWI), 8th Edition, current at the time of writing. An outline Pollution and Spillage Response Plan **[EN0110012/APP/LVS/07.08]** has been prepared which sets out the intended strategies for managing pollution and spillage incidents on site. A detailed PSRP will be developed following the appointment of the decommissioning Contractor(s), prior to the start of decommissioning updating measures undertaken during the construction and operation phases of the Proposed Development. This will be consistent with the principles set out in the outline plan.

Table 3-13 Other Environmental Matters

Mitigation/Enhancement Measure
Waste As detailed in the outline Materials and Waste Management Plan (oMWMP) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/07.07**] suitable measures for the sustainable use of resources and waste management will be implemented during decommissioning. The Contractor(s) will seek to use material resources efficiently, reduce waste at source, reduce waste that requires final disposal to landfill and apply the principles of the waste hierarchy. Infrastructure, such as PV panels and battery storage units, will be removed and recycled as far as practical and in accordance with legislation and guidance applicable at the time, or if more suitable at the time, sold for refurbishment and reuse. It is anticipated that waste products associated with the decommissioning process, would not need to be shipped as a result of decommissioning of the Proposed Development. A detailed Materials and Waste Management Plan will be prepared alongside the detailed DEMP(s), setting out how measures to manage the disposal of waste from the Order Limits may be required in accordance with relevant legislative and policy requirements (to be updated at the time of decommissioning). The separation of the main waste streams on-site, prior to transport to approved licensed third party waste facilities, including Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) re-processors, for recycling or disposal will take place. The provision of pre-fabricated welfare units and construction site offices also allow for the reduction of construction and demolition waste generated by the Proposed Development. The detailed MWMP will ensure decommissioning waste streams are sent to waste recycling and handling facilities that have sufficient capacity to handle waste arisings from the Proposed Development without adversely impacting upon their capacity to handle waste arising for all other waste streams in the authority area.

3.3 Responding to environmental incidents and emergencies

3.3.1 The Contractor(s) will designate an Environmental Manager who will be responsible for the implementation of the detailed DEMP(s). This individual will be notified as soon as it is safe to do so following an environmental incident or emergency. A reporting procedure will be agreed with North Yorkshire Council. NYFRS and the Environment Agency. Staff will be informed of this process and made aware that it is everyone's responsibility to call the emergency services, should this be needed.

1) A Flood Warning and Evacuation Plan (FWEP) will be developed prior to the commencement of construction and will be a live document that will be updated during the operation and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development. The FWEP will be developed taking into account the measures outlined in the Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.15.01**] and the updated FWEP will be presented alongside the detailed DEMP for approval by NYC.

3.4 Good practice

3.4.1 The Considerate Constructors Scheme (CCS), or equivalent scheme at the time, will be adopted to assist in reducing pollution and nuisance from the Proposed Development, by employing best practice measures which go beyond statutory compliance, where relevant to decommissioning.

3.5 Public Communication and Liaison

3.5.1 Prior to the commencement of decommissioning, the Contractor(s) will develop and implement a Decommissioning Stakeholder Communications Plan alongside the detailed DEMP(s) that will include community engagement measures and will detail a complaints procedure. It is likely that a display board will be installed on-site, and a website will be set up. These will include contact details for the Site Manager or alternative public interface with whom nuisance or complaints can be lodged, and the head or regional office contact information. A logbook of complaints will be prepared and managed by the Site Manager or nominated representative.

3.5.2 Any environmental complaints received will be investigated with appropriate action taken and recorded, so that a full audit trail is available should the complainant raise the issue(s) with the relevant local planning authority.

3.5.3 Before decommissioning works begin a Community Liaison Group will be set up in accordance with the DCO and will continue through until the works have been completed as a formal forum for local issues to be raised. A Community Liaison Officer (or alternative) will be appointed to lead discussions with local communities during the decommissioning phase.

4 Implementation

4.1.1 The detailed DEMP(s) will set out roles, responsibilities and actions required in respect of implementation of the mitigation measures, including:

1) An organogram showing team roles, names and responsibilities;
2) Training requirements for relevant personnel on environmental topics;
3) Information regarding on-site briefings and toolbox talks that will be used to equip relevant staff with the necessary level of knowledge to follow environmental control procedures;
4) Measures to advise employees of changing circumstances as work progresses;
5) Communication methods;
6) Document control;
7) Monitoring, inspections and audits of site operations; and
8) Environmental emergency procedures.

5 Monitoring and reporting

5.1.1 Environmental monitoring of the Proposed Development and its impacts will be undertaken throughout the decommissioning phase. Monitoring requirements will be detailed in the detailed DEMP(s).

5.1.2 The Environmental Manager will observe site activities and report any deviations from the detailed DEMP(s) in a logbook, along with the action taken and general conditions at the time. The Applicant will be informed by the Contractor(s) of any deviations from the detailed DEMP(s) as soon as practicable following identification of such issues. The Environmental Manager would also act as day-to-day contact with North Yorkshire Council and other regulatory agencies such as the Environment Agency.

5.1.3 During decommissioning, the Environmental Manager will conduct regular walkover inspections to ensure all requirements of the detailed DEMP(s) are being met. Actions from these surveys will be documented on an Environmental Action Scheme for implementation.

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