WHITESTONE SOLAR FARM

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5.11 Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan

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Prepared by:

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Prepared for:

Whitestone Net Zero Ltd

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Glossary

Term	Meaning
Cable Corridors	Corridors within which the high voltage cables would be constructed.
Environment Statement (ES)	The Environmental Statement which presents the environmental information relating to the Proposed Development. The ES has been prepared to present information for formal consultation in accordance with current EIA regulation.
Long Lane 400kV Substation	The new 400 kilovolt substation proposed on land immediately east of Long Lane, Brinsworth , S60 4JJ.
Order Limits	Total area comprising the Site and Cable Corridor.
The Applicant	Whitestone Net Zero Ltd.
The Application	The Application to be submitted to the Secretary of State for a Development Consent Order.
The Proposed Development	The proposed Whitestone Solar Farm.

Term	Meaning
The Site	The land planned to be used to Solar PV array and associated infrastructure, BESS substation, and landscaping and habitat enhancement. The Site is split into W1, W2, and W3.
Whitestone 1 (W1)	The northern parcels of the Whitestone Solar Farm.
Whitestone 2 (W2)	The middle parcels of the Whitestone Solar Farm.
Whitestone 3 (W3)	The southern parcels of the Whitestone Solar Farm

Acronyms

Acronym	Meaning
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
BPEO	Best Practicable Environmental Option
CCS	Considerate Constructors Scheme
CCTV	Closed-Circuit Television
CDC	City of Doncaster Council
DCO	Development Consent Order
DEMP	Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan
DMP	Dust Management Plan
DTMP	Decommissioning Traffic Management Plan
ECoW	Environmental Clerk of Works
EcoCoW	Ecological Clerk of Works
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ERM	Environmental Resources Management
ES	Environmental Statement
HGV	Heavy Goods Vehicle
HRA	Hazard Risk Analysis
INNS	Invasive Non-Native Species
LPA	Local Planning Authority
NEDDC	North East Derbyshire District Council
NGR	National Grid Reference
oCTMP	Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan
oDEMP	Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan
oLEMP	Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan
oSWMP	Outline Site Waste Management Plan
PRoW	Public Rights of Way
PV	Photovoltaic
RMBC	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
TMMS	Traffic Management and Monitoring System

Acronym	Meaning
W1	Whitestone 1
W2	Whitestone 2
W3	Whitestone 3

Units

Units	Meaning
Ha	Hectares
Km	Kilometres
kV	Kilovolts
M	Metres
MW	Megawatts

1 OUTLINE DECOMMISSIONING ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

1.1 Introduction

Background

1.1.1 This Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) has been prepared by Environmental Resources Management Ltd (ERM) on behalf of Whitestone Net Zero Ltd (the Applicant) for the Whitestone Solar Farm Project (the Proposed Development). The purpose of this oDEMP is to establish the overarching framework through which decommissioning-phase environmental mitigation, monitoring and control measures will be implemented.

1.1.2 The Proposed Development is located to the east of Sheffield, South Yorkshire, within the administrative areas of the City of Doncaster Council (CDC), North East Derbyshire District Council (NEDDC), Derbyshire County Council (DCC) and Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC). The Site and Cable Corridors together form the Application's Order Limits as described in **ES Chapter 3: The Site and Surrounding Area [EN0110020/APP/6.3]**.

1.1.3 The Order Limits comprise approximately 1,488 hectares (ha), including 339ha for Cable Corridors and 1,149ha for solar and associated infrastructure, landscape mitigation, and habitat enhancement (the Site). The Order Limits are centred around National Grid Reference (NGR) SK 485887 and extend approximately 18.5km north–south and 8km east–west at their widest extent.

1.1.4 For Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) purposes, the Site has been divided into three distinct areas, as illustrated in **ES Figure 3.2: Site Referencing [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**:

- Whitestone 1 (W1)
- Whitestone 2 (W2); and
- Whitestone 3 (W3).

1.1.5 The Proposed Development comprises over 100 megawatts of solar photovoltaic (PV) arrays supported by a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), onsite substations, associated supporting infrastructure, and grid connection infrastructure. It encompasses all phases of the project lifecycle, including construction, operation and maintenance, and eventual decommissioning. This oDEMP sets out the strategy for managing environmental effects during the decommissioning phase, consistent with the principles assessed within the Environmental Statement (ES).

1.1.6 The Proposed Development will connect to the new National Grid substation at Brinsworth (Long Lane 400kV Substation), situated east of Long Lane, Rotherham at approximately NGR SK 444895. This substation is the subject of a separate planning application being pursued by National Grid. It is anticipated that the

substation will be operational in time for the Proposed Development to connect from 2029 onwards.

1.1.7 The main components of the Proposed Development are:

- Solar PV Infrastructure
- Interconnection Cables
- BESS
- Substations
- Highway Works
- Landscaping and biodiversity mitigation / enhancement
- Drainage Works
- Temporary Construction Compounds; and
- Other Works (access tracks, security, lighting, and Glint and Glare fencing).

1.1.8 The purpose of the oDEMP is to provide the framework through which the Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP), as secured by a requirement in Schedule 2 to the **draft DCO [EN011020/APP/3.1]**, will be prepared, which in turn details how environmental measures for the management of decommissioning activities will be implemented as part of the Proposed Development. This document does not address construction or operational activities, which are subject to separate environmental management plans. An **outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN0110020/APP/5.9]** and an **outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [EN0110020/APP/5.10]** have also been submitted with the Application.

1.1.9 The oDEMP sets out the overarching principles and environmental measures that will be applied during the decommissioning phase to mitigate potential impacts on environmental receptors.

1.1.10 The oDEMP will be used to inform the DEMP, which will be submitted for approval prior to the commencement of the decommissioning phase and will operate as a 'live' document during the decommissioning phase.

1.1.11 The measures set out in this oDEMP are based on industry standards and best practice at the time of writing, driven by international and national legislation as well as national and local policy. In line with this, the measures proposed are intended to be proportionate to the potential effect on environmental receptors with commensurately more robust measures proposed where greater effects are likely to occur.

Complementary Plans and Procedures

1.1.12 Other environmental management plans submitted with this ES are listed below:

- **Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan** [**EN0110020/APP/5.9]**, including:
  - Outline Soil Management Plan
  - Outline Site Waste Management Plan
  - Outline Dust Management Plan
  - Outline Excavated Materials Management Plan; and

  - Outline Incident Response Plan;
- **Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [EN0110020/APP/5.11]**
- **Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN0110020/APP/5.12]**
- **Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan** [**EN0110020/APP/5.13]**
- **Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan [EN0110020/APP/5.14]**
- **Outline Battery Safety Management Plan [EN0110020/APP/5.15]**
- **Outline Written Scheme of Investigation [EN0110020/APP/5.16]**
- **Outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy [EN0110020/APP/5.17]**; and
- **Outline Cable Construction Method Statement [EN0110020/APP/5.19]**.

2 PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

2.1.1 Likely significant effects have been identified through the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process and are reported in the **Environmental Statement (ES) [APP 6.1 – 6.20]**. The oDEMP sets out the best practice measures that were accounted for in the **ES [APP 6.1-6.20]** which will be applied during the decommissioning phase of the Proposed Development to adequately protect environmental resources. Detailed proposals for such measures will be documented within the Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP), which will be prepared prior to the commencement of decommissioning in substantial accordance with the oDEMP, as such the DEMP will provide the same or greater level of environmental protection as the measures described in this oDEMP. The measures set out are proportionate to the level of risk, and where greater risks are identified during decommissioning, additional or refined measures will be implemented as appropriate.

2.1.2 The approach set out in this oDEMP establishes the framework that will inform the preparation of the DEMP and associated decommissioning-phase plans, setting out how environmental measures for the management of decommissioning activities will be implemented as part of the Proposed Development.

2.2 Objectives

2.2.1 The objectives of the DEMP are to:

- Provide a clear and auditable framework for the management of decommissioning activities that ensures the effective implementation of environmental mitigation measures identified through the EIA process
- Ensure that decommissioning activities are undertaken in compliance with relevant legislation, the requirements of the DCO, and the commitments set out in the ES
- Define the environmental management measures, procedures and controls that will be applied during construction to avoid, reduce or manage potential adverse environmental effects
- Establish clear roles and responsibilities for environmental management during the decommissioning phase, including arrangements for monitoring, reporting and responding to environmental incidents or non-compliance; and
- Provide a mechanism through which site-specific and detailed decommissioning phase controls can be developed and applied, informed by detailed design, construction programming and site conditions.

3 OUTLINE DECOMMISSIONING ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

3.1.1 This section sets out the decommissioning activities for the Proposed Development.

3.2 Decommissioning Activities

3.2.1 The Proposed Development would be operational for 60 years, after which it would be decommissioned in accordance with the approach outlined in **ES Chapter 5: The Proposed Development [EN0110020/APP/6.5]**. Decommissioning is expected to involve the dismantling and recycling of the PV arrays, along with associated vehicle movements. In line with **ES Chapter 5: The Proposed Development [EN0110020/APP/6.5]**, certain components**,** such as landscape and biodiversity mitigation and Site access tracks would be left in place, subject to landowner agreement. Cables and ducts for cabling buried below plough depth would be left in place unless in situations where the original use of the land is impacted.

3.2.2 The specific method of decommissioning for the Proposed Development at the end of its operational life is uncertain at present, as engineering approaches and decommissioning technologies are expected to evolve over the operational lifecycle. It is also anticipated that some areas of habitat and biodiversity mitigation and enhancement may be retained in situ where this would benefit long-term species protection. Any reinstatement works affecting protected species would be undertaken in accordance with the relevant legislation, and species licences would be obtained where required.

3.2.3 Public Rights of Way and Permissive Path actions applicable during decommissioning are further detailed within the **outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan [EN0110020/APP/7.7].**

3.2.4 These activities would be undertaken in accordance with recognised industry best practice. The specific methodologies used at the end of the operational life may evolve over time, and appropriate assumptions will be applied where required.

3.3 Decommissioning Programme

3.3.1 Decommissioning is expected to take between 12 and 24 months and would be undertaken in phases. As a result multiple DEMPs may be prepared, approved and implemented for individual decommissioning phases.

3.3.2 Further details on decommissioning phases will be provided within the DEMP in consultation with the relevant planning authorities, prior to decommissioning commencing.

3.4 Working Hours

3.4.1 The core working hours would be between 0700 and 1900 hours Monday to Friday and 0700 to 1300 hours on Saturdays. There would be no working on Sundays or bank holidays.

3.4.2 There may be exceptions to working beyond these times, for example, in the case of emergencies. Where practicable, decommissioning activities taking place nearby sensitive receptors would be prioritised to be undertaken during daylight, to limit potential impacts.

3.5 Roles and Responsibilities

3.5.1 Key roles and responsibilities during the decommissioning phase in managing environmental impacts will be identified and defined in the DEMP(s) once those roles are designated, they will likely include, but are not limited to:

- Applicant – Overall responsibility for compliance. The Applicant is responsible for ensuring that requirements are effectively implemented, controlled, and appropriately documented
- Principal Contractor – Lead responsibility for the effective management of environmental risks that could occur during the decommissioning of the Proposed Development. This includes appointing suitably qualified personnel and ensuring all activities are undertaken in compliance with the relevant legislation, policy and guidance at the time of decommissioning
- Site Manager - Responsible for the overall coordination of onsite activities during decommissioning. The Site Manager will be based onsite full-time and will oversee day-to-day works, ensuring that activities are undertaken safely and in accordance with the DEMP, DCO requirements, and relevant legislation
- Decommissioning Project Manager - Holds overall responsibility for ensuring that all requirements of the DCO, DEMP(s), and relevant environmental and health and safety legislation are implemented, resourced, reviewed, and reported on appropriately. This role provides strategic oversight of the decommissioning programme
- Environment Manager - Responsible for the management of all environmental aspects onsite, ensuring compliance with environmental legislation, good practice, and the mitigation and monitoring measures set out in the ES and DEMP. The Environment Manager will oversee environmental monitoring, undertake regular inspections, and report or respond to any incidents or non-compliances. The role will also include liaising with environmental bodies and other relevant third parties where required
- Environmental Clerk of Works (ECoW) - Provides specialist advice on environmental and ecological risks during decommissioning. The ECoW will oversee the implementation of measures relating to protected species, habitat management, pollution prevention, surface water management, air quality, and noise control
- Ecological Clerk of Works (EcoCoW) - Responsible for managing biodiversity-related risks during decommissioning, including advising on the protection of valued habitats and species. The EcoCoW will provide practical solutions to ensure works proceed in a manner that safeguards ecological interests; and

- Health and Safety Manager - Responsible for monitoring and controlling compliance with health and safety legislation, standards, and site-specific requirements. This includes overseeing safe systems of work, conducting inspections, and ensuring corrective actions are implemented.

3.5.2 These roles and responsibilities are indicative and will be confirmed in the DEMP(s).

3.6 Control of Noise

3.6.1 Noise-generating activities during decommissioning will be managed to minimise disturbance to nearby sensitive receptors. As far as practicable, noisier tasks will be scheduled during daytime periods when existing background sound levels are typically higher. Local residents and other nearby receptors will be kept informed of the timing and duration of any particularly noisy activities.

3.6.2 All mobile and static plant will be fitted with appropriate silencers, mufflers, or acoustic covers, and will be regularly maintained to ensure optimal performance. Plant and machinery will be shut down when not in active use or throttled down to the minimum practicable level. Vehicles and equipment will be operated in a manner that avoids unnecessary revving, dropping of materials, or other avoidable noise-generating actions.

3.6.3 Where required, temporary acoustic barriers may be installed around specific work areas to reduce noise breakout. Ancillary plant (e.g., generators or pumps) will be located as far as reasonably practicable from sensitive receptors and oriented to use natural or constructed screening.

3.6.4 Reversing alarms on mobile plant will utilise non-tonal, broadband systems (white-noise alarms) to minimise intrusive noise while maintaining safety. Traffic associated with decommissioning will be routed to avoid sensitive locations where possible.

3.6.5 These measures will be applied in line with recognised good practice to ensure noise impacts during the decommissioning phase are kept as low as reasonably practicable.

3.7 Control of Light

3.7.1 Decommissioning activities will generally be limited to daylight hours only.

3.7.2 Lighting will be directional to limit light spread into the wider environment, particularly sensitive receptors, such as villages. Any use of lighting equipment throughout decommissioning will consider the Institute of Lighting Professionals Guidance Notes, particularly Guidance Note 01 For the Reduction of Obtrusive Light[1] and Guidance Note 08 Bats and Artificial Lighting[2].

3.8 Traffic Management and Parking Provision

3.8.1 The traffic management mitigation measures set out in the **outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP) [EN0110020/APP/5.12]** will be applicable to the decommissioning of the Proposed Development. However, prior to the commencement of decommissioning a Decommissioning Traffic Management Plan (DTMP) will be produced in consultation with the relevant LPAs and regulatory bodies. A Traffic Management and Monitoring System (TMMS) will be

considered for implementation as part of the DTMP to provide details of the technologies and other means employed to monitor HGVs to/from the Compounds which will allow compliance monitoring to be undertaken.

3.8.2 To minimise potential impacts, it is assumed that decommissioning activities will use the same access points that were used during construction. It is anticipated that the main access points to the solar PV arrays would be off the public road network with connections to the M1 and M18 primarily. However, all access will be confirmed as the Proposed Development's design progresses and in consultation with the relevant Highways Authorities and National Highways, as appropriate.

3.8.3 Appropriate parking facilities will be provided for decommissioning workers. Under no circumstances will heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) be allowed to lay-up in surrounding roads.

3.9 Recovery, Recycling and Disposing of Waste

3.9.1 The waste strategy during decommissioning is outlined in **outline Site Waste Management Plan** (oSWMP) within the **outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN0110020/APP/7.2]**. The oSWMP will be updated prior to commencement of decommissioning and will consider the legislation, policy and guidance at the time.

3.9.2 Application of the 'Waste Hierarchy' will be at the core of the DEMP, and any material assets will be recycled where practicable to do so. The 'Waste Hierarchy' promotes a selection of the Best Practicable Environmental Option (BPEO), and is outlined below:

- Prevention
- Preparing for Re-Use
- Recycling
- Other Recovery; and
- Disposal.

3.9.3 Wastes generated during the decommissioning phase are likely to predominantly consist of building materials, for example concrete, metal and electrical cables, etc., which are readily recycled. Special wastes, such as battery and PV panel components, will be managed in line with the relevant legislation, policy and guidance at the time of decommissioning.

3.10 Security

3.10.1 Site security during decommissioning will be managed by the Contractor, who will ensure that appropriate measures are in place to safeguard personnel, the public, and equipment. The existing perimeter fencing around the solar PV arrays will remain in place for the duration of the decommissioning works and will be one of the final elements of infrastructure to be removed. Temporary security measures, such as closed-circuit television (CCTV) and controlled access points may be installed where necessary to maintain effective site control as decommissioning progresses.

3.10.2 It is anticipated that the Proposed Development's CCTV system will be one of the last elements to be decommissioned, and that temporary CCTV may also be installed at strategic locations.

3.10.3 Storage of materials will be kept secure to prevent theft or vandalism. A safe system for accessing the materials storage areas would be implemented.

3.11 Good Practice

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

3.12 Public Communication and Liaison

3.12.1 Prior to commencement of the decommissioning phase, the Contractor will develop and implement a Stakeholder Communication Plan that includes community engagement and will detail a complaints procedure. In line with the decommissioning Stakeholder Communications Plan, 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.

3.12.2 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 LPAs.

3.12.3 A Community Liaison Group will also be set up prior to the decommissioning phase, and a Community Liaison Officer (or alternative) will be appointed to lead a discussion with local communities during the decommissioning works.

4 ENVIRONMENTAL MEASURES

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 This section of the oDEMP sets out the mitigation measures to be implemented throughout the decommissioning of the Proposed Development to reduce the likelihood of significant effects. Decommissioning impacts are likely to be of a similar magnitude and extent to the construction phase. Therefore, all mitigation measures set out in **Table 1.1** are consistent with that of the **oCEMP [EN0110020/APP/5.9]** and represent the minimum environmental controls for decommissioning. The mitigation measures set out in this oDEMP will be secured, implemented and, where necessary, reviewed and refined through the preparation and approved implementation of the DEMP.

4.1.2 It is assumed that all mitigation will accord with the legislation and guidance in force at the time decommissioning is undertaken. **Table 1.1** presents the likely mitigation based on current baseline information, with all measures to be reviewed and, where necessary, updated within the DEMP prior to decommissioning to reflect site conditions at that time.

Table 1.1 Environmental Measures

Potential Receptors	Predicted Changes and Potential Effects	Proposed Measures
Biodiversity and Nature Conservation		
Habitats and species	Habitat degradation and destruction	Basic protection measures for fauna will be implemented during decommissioning to avoid harm to legally protected and notable species, drawing on measures equivalent to those applied during construction and adapted as appropriate. These measures will be defined and secured through the DEMP and may include timing considerations, ecological checks, protection of retained habitats and application of precautionary working methods where required, informed by ecological advice.
Nocturnal species	Disturbance from an alteration in baseline conditions (e.g., light, noise, vibration, and human activity)	Decommissioning activities will primarily be undertaken during daylight hours, however, additional lighting may be required, for example, during the winter. Additional lighting will comprise temporary lighting towers with full directional lighting to limit light spill and will be managed through the DEMP, where required.
Habitats and species	Spread of invasive non-native species (INNS)	Pre-decommissioning surveys will be undertaken where required to provide an update on the presence and location of any INNS that could be impacted by the Proposed Development. The findings of the pre-decommissioning surveys will inform the implementation of mitigation measures to prevent their spread. Any mitigation measures required will be defined and implemented through the DEMP, informed by the survey findings.
Breeding bird species	Habitat degradation and destruction, population decline	Pre-decommissioning surveys will be undertaken where required to provide an update on the presence and location of breeding bird species.

Potential Receptors	Predicted Changes and Potential Effects	Proposed Measures
		Work within areas which are likely to impact breeding birds, such as ecological enhancement and mitigation areas, will be undertaken outside of the main breeding season.
Landscape and Visual		
Local residents; Visitors	Temporary visual effects from decommissioning activities, including to landscape character views, visual amenity, and setting	Landscape and visual protection measures will reflect the approach adopted during construction and the screening approach is detailed in the **Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (oLEMP) [EN0110020/APP/5.13]**. These measures will include: • Retention and protection of established landscape mitigation, where not directly affected by decommissioning works, with any removal or reinstatement managed through the DEMP • Use of defined decommissioning working areas, prioritising previously disturbed areas to minimise additional landscape change and visual disturbance • Protection of retained vegetation, including the use of appropriate fencing and buffer zones to prevent accidental damage to trees, hedgerows and woodland • Management of temporary decommissioning features, including plant, machinery, stockpiles and laydown areas, to minimise visual clutter and limit the duration of temporary landscape effects; • Control of lighting, with any temporary lighting being task-specific, directional and time-limited to minimise effects on nearby receptors; and

Potential Receptors	Predicted Changes and Potential Effects	Proposed Measures
		• Reinstatement of disturbed areas, including reinstatement of soils, landform and vegetation following removal of infrastructure. Measures will be implemented and managed through the DEMP, drawing on the oLEMP where relevant. Biodiversity and landscape mitigation and enhancement areas would be retained subject to landowner approval. Consultation with the appropriate stakeholders and landowners would be undertaken in advance of decommissioning to discuss opportunities to retain the biodiversity and landscape mitigation and enhancement areas beyond the lifespan of the Proposed Development, as appropriate.
Cultural Heritage and Archaeology		
Areas of Heightened Archaeological Sensitivity; Known and unknown buried archaeology; Archaeological remains	Increased risk of damage to archaeological remains of regional or higher research value during decommissioning; Loss of archaeological information;	No additional mitigation specific to the decommissioning phase is proposed beyond that already defined and secured for the construction phase of the Proposed Development. Decommissioning activities will be undertaken in a sensitive manner and will apply the same principles, controls and avoidance measures established for construction. Decommissioning activities within areas of archaeological sensitivity will be undertaken in accordance with the sensitive decommissioning strategy set out in the **Archaeological Investigation and Preservation Strategy [EN0110020/APP/6.20]** and secured by the **Outline Written Scheme of Investigation [EN0110020/APP/5.16]**. This includes the application of appropriate archaeological controls,

Potential Receptors	Predicted Changes and Potential Effects	Proposed Measures
		mitigation and monitoring measures equivalent to those established for construction, where relevant. Specific measures will be set out in the DEMP, where required, informed by the archaeological context at the time of decommissioning.
Ground Conditions and Land Quality		
Soil resource; BMV agricultural land; Excavated materials; Underlying geology	Physical compaction, damage, and loss of soil structure; Mobilisation of contaminants during excavation and ground disturbance; Adverse effects arising from inappropriate handling, storage, or disposal of excavated materials; Temporary loss of soil function; Degradation of agricultural land quality	Measures to manage and mitigate potential effects on ground conditions and land quality during decommissioning will be implemented through the DEMP. These measures will include: • Management of the dismantling and removal of infrastructure in a manner that minimises disturbance to soils and underlying ground conditions • Appropriate handling, storage and reinstatement of soils to maintain soil structure, quality and function and to support Site restoration • Management of excavated materials in accordance with best practicable environmental practice at the time of decommissioning • Implementation of pollution prevention and control measures to prevent contamination of soils, controlled waters and adjacent sensitive receptors • Procedures for the identification, assessment and appropriate management of any unexpected contamination encountered during decommissioning works; and

Potential Receptors	Predicted Changes and Potential Effects	Proposed Measures
		• Measures to protect controlled waters and other sensitive receptors from adverse effects arising from decommissioning activities.
Water Resources and Flood Risk		
Surface waters, groundwater, watercourses, floodplain function, aquatic habitats	Potential impacts of decommissioning activities on water resources and flood risk	Decommissioning activities will be managed using measures equivalent to those applied during construction, adapted as necessary to reflect the temporary nature and reduced scale of works. Mitigation measures will include: • Implementation of pollution prevention and control measures to prevent contamination of surface water and groundwater, including controls on the storage, handling and use of fuels, oils and other potentially polluting substances • Maintenance of appropriate buffer distances from watercourses, waterbodies and drainage features, except where works are unavoidably required, with site-specific controls applied in such locations • Management of surface water runoff during decommissioning works to prevent erosion and ensure flood risk is not increased on-site or elsewhere • Suspension or modification of works during periods of heavy rainfall or elevated flood risk, where necessary • Application of sediment and erosion control measures, including management of exposed soils, stockpiles and excavations to prevent sediment mobilisation

Potential Receptors	Predicted Changes and Potential Effects	Proposed Measures
		• Appropriate reinstatement of disturbed areas following removal of infrastructure to restore infiltration capacity and reduce runoff • Use of controlled methods for removal or alteration of access tracks, crossings and drainage features to minimise disturbance to watercourses and maintain flow continuity; and • Protection of public and private water supplies, licensed abstractions and springs through the application of established groundwater protection measures.
Groundwater, habitats and species	Potential impacts of decommissioning activities on groundwater source.	The Water Consumption Plan produced prior to the commencement of construction of the Proposed Development and will outline the anticipated water demand for the Proposed Development during decommissioning and the potable water source and wastewater approach. The Water Consumption Plan will be reviewed and updated as necessary prior to decommissioning.
Climate Change and Greenhouse Gases		
Global climate	Potential impacts of decommissioning activities on climate change and greenhouse gas emission	Decommissioning activities will be undertaken in accordance with mitigation principles established for the construction phase and maintained through DEMP. The DEMP will: • Apply the waste management hierarchy as a core principle, prioritising prevention, re-use and recycling, with disposal used only as a last resort • Manage dismantling and removal activities to minimise disturbance to soils, landform and retained environmental features, using methods equivalent to those applied during construction; • Guide the reinstatement and restoration of land where infrastructure is removed, including

Potential Receptors	Predicted Changes and Potential Effects	Proposed Measures
		appropriate replacement of soils and restoration of ground conditions, to enable the Site to be returned to an appropriate post-development condition consistent with landowner requirements and the environmental baseline at the time of decommissioning • Retain landscape and ecological features established during construction and operation, where appropriate, and avoid unnecessary disturbance to habitats, drainage features and access infrastructure that are intended to remain post-decommissioning; and • Ensure pollution prevention, surface water management, traffic control and environmental good practice measures applied during construction are carried through to the decommissioning phase, proportionate to the scale and duration of works.
Local residents, employees, habitats and species	Increased flood risk as a result of climate change induced rainfall	Future climate change has the potential to increase flood risk. As a result, appropriate standard and good practice control measures relating to flood risk will be included in the DEMP.
Local residents and employees	Increased extreme heat days causing health and safety hazards for workers, staff and visitors onsite	The Applicant will develop a Decommissioning Health and Safety Plan which will entail measures to mitigate or avoid health and safety hazards due to extreme heat.
Air Quality		
Local air quality	Potential impacts of decommissioning activities on air quality and dust	Air quality and dust impacts during decommissioning will be managed using proportionate measures equivalent to those applied during construction, reflecting the temporary nature of the works. Mitigation measures will include:

Potential Receptors	Predicted Changes and Potential Effects	Proposed Measures
		• Implementation of a proportionate communications approach, including provision of contact details for the party responsible for decommissioning works to enable air quality-related enquiries and complaints to be received and addressed promptly • Appointment of a nominated site contact responsible for air quality and dust management during decommissioning • Preparation and implementation of a Dust Management Plan, setting out proportionate measures for the control of dust and particulate emissions during decommissioning works; • Procedures to log, investigate and respond to air quality or dust complaints or incidents, with records retained and made available to the relevant local authority if required • Management of site layout and activities to minimise dust generation, including locating works away from sensitive receptors where practicable, use of temporary screening where required, appropriate management of stockpiles, prompt removal of dusty materials, prevention of mud or water runoff, and use of wet cleaning methods • Adoption of good practice measures for plant and vehicles, including no idling, use of electric or battery-powered equipment where practicable, enforcement of low site speed limits, and proportionate traffic and logistics controls to minimise vehicle movements and emissions

Potential Receptors	Predicted Changes and Potential Effects	Proposed Measures
		• Use of appropriate dust suppression techniques, including use of dampening, enclosed or covered handling where practicable, minimisation of drop heights, application of water sprays where required, and prompt clean-up of spillages using wet methods • Management of exposed soils and stockpiles through prompt stabilisation by re-vegetation or temporary coverings, with covers removed only in small, active work areas as necessary; and • Measures to minimise trackout and maintain highway cleanliness, including use of water-assisted sweepers where required, covering of vehicles, maintenance of hard-surfaced haul routes, inspection and prompt repair of routes, wheel-washing where reasonably practicable, and siting of access points away from sensitive receptors where possible.
Local air quality	Potential impact to local air quality caused by emissions from decommissioning traffic	The DEMP will include, if required, a Decommissioning Traffic Management Plan (DTMP). The DTMP will include measures similar to the **outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP) [EN0110020/APP/5.12]** to control the emissions associated with decommissioning activities.
Traffic and Transport		
Local residents, road users	Potential impacts of decommissioning activities on traffic receptors.	Traffic impacts during decommissioning will be managed using measures aligned with those set out in the **oCTMP [EN0110020/APP/5.12]**, adapted as appropriate to reflect the nature, scale and duration of decommissioning works. Mitigation measures will likely include:

Potential Receptors	Predicted Changes and Potential Effects	Proposed Measures
		• Use of site access and egress arrangements designed in accordance with national road design standards and agreed with the relevant highway authorities • Management of interactions with the public highway through appropriate visibility, signage and traffic controls, with decommissioning traffic giving due regard to other road users • Routing and scheduling of Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) movements to minimise disruption to the local road network, including avoidance of peak traffic periods where practicable • Use of internal Site routes where practicable to reduce reliance on the public road network; • Application of delivery management arrangements to regulate HGV movements and support compliance with agreed routing and timing measures • Monitoring of HGV movements to support adherence to agreed traffic management measures and enable corrective action where required • Management of staff travel to minimise congestion and vehicle movements, including use of higher-order routes where practicable; and • Use of appropriately qualified haulage contractors for abnormal loads, including compliance with permitting and coordination requirements. A DTMP will be included within the DEMP.
Noise and Vibration		

Potential Receptors	Predicted Changes and Potential Effects	Proposed Measures
Local residents, users of PRoWs	Potential impacts of decommissioning activities on noise sensitive receptors	Noise and vibration impacts during decommissioning will be managed using mitigation measures equivalent to those as set out in the **oCEMP [EN0110020/APP/5.9]**, adapted as appropriate to reflect the nature, scale and duration of decommissioning activities. Mitigation measures will include: • Scheduling decommissioning activities so that noisier works are undertaken, where practicable, during daytime periods when ambient sound levels are typically higher • Keeping local residents and other sensitive receptors informed, where appropriate, of the timing and duration of any particularly noisy activities • Use of appropriately selected plant and equipment, including fitting exhaust silencers and mufflers to vehicles and mechanical plant, and regular maintenance to control noise and vibration emissions • Shutting down plant and machinery when not in active use, or throttling down to the minimum practicable level • Careful loading and handling of materials to minimise drop heights and impulsive noise • Locating ancillary plant, such as generators and pumps, as far as reasonably practicable from noise-sensitive receptors and, where necessary, use of temporary acoustic screening • Fitting mobile plant with non-tonal, broadband (white-noise) reversing alarms to reduce intrusive noise; and

Potential Receptors	Predicted Changes and Potential Effects	Proposed Measures
		• Managing decommissioning traffic and plant movements to avoid sensitive locations where practicable, including routing and scheduling controls as set out in the DTMP, where required.
Socio-Economics and Land Use		
Local residents, users of PRoWs, local economy	Temporary disruption to land use, public access and local communities during decommissioning	Decommissioning of the Proposed Development will be undertaken in a manner that minimises disruption to land use, public access and local communities, with effects expected to be comparable to, or less than, those arising during construction. Mitigation measures will include: • Retention of existing site access arrangements where practicable, with decommissioning traffic managed in accordance with the DTMP, where required, to minimise disruption to local communities and land users • Removal of infrastructure in a controlled and phased manner to enable reinstatement of land and facilitate the return of the majority of the Site to its original or agreed post-development use, subject to landowner agreement and any retained infrastructure • Management of waste arising from decommissioning in accordance with the Waste Hierarchy, prioritising prevention, re-use and recycling over disposal • Identification and implementation of opportunities for re-use, recycling or recovery of materials generated during decommissioning, including solar PV components, electrical equipment, metals and construction materials, in line with relevant legislation, guidance and best

Potential Receptors	Predicted Changes and Potential Effects	Proposed Measures
		practicable environmental option at the time of decommissioning; and • Secure handling, storage and removal of waste and materials to prevent adverse effects on land quality, local amenity and surrounding land uses.
Users of PRoWs	Disruption to users of Public Rights of Way (PRoW) as a result of decommissioning activities	Decommissioning activities will be managed to limit disturbance to local land uses, PRoW, users of the surrounding road network and nearby receptors, with measures aligned with those set out in the **oCEMP [EN0110020/APP/5.9]** and adapted to reflect the temporary nature of decommissioning works. Access to existing PRoW will be retained during decommissioning where reasonably practicable, with any localised management measures implemented to ensure user safety and accessibility, as set out in the DEMP. Where PRoW within the Order Limits require localised management to ensure user safety and accessibility, appropriate measures will be implemented in accordance with the **Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan [EN0110020/APP/5.14]** and detailed within the DEMP.
Other Environmental Topics		
Waste		
Regional and national landfill capacity; GHG emissions	Generation of decommissioning waste, including surplus soils, with potential impact on landfill capacity	Decommissioning will be undertaken in accordance with the waste hierarchy (see Section 3), with preference given to prevention, re-use and recycling over disposal. The DEMP will include a Decommissioning Waste Plan, proportionate to the nature and scale of works at the time of decommissioning. Materials arising from decommissioning (including solar PV modules, electrical components, metals and concrete) will be

Potential Receptors	Predicted Changes and Potential Effects	Proposed Measures
		segregated and managed to enable recycling or recovery where practicable, in line with relevant legislation, guidance and best practicable environmental option at that time.
Telecommunications and Utilities		
Underground utilities and telecommunications infrastructure	Damage to existing utilities from ground disturbance, trenching or piling during decommissioning	Decommissioning will be undertaken in accordance with procedures equivalent to those set out in the **oCEMP [EN0110020/APP/5.9]** to safeguard existing telecommunications and utilities infrastructure. The DEMP, if required, will include continued liaison with relevant statutory undertakers and service providers prior to and during decommissioning, and the application of established safe working practices when working in proximity to above- or below-ground infrastructure. An updated utilities search will be undertaken prior to decommissioning to identify any infrastructure installed during the operational phase that may require protection.
Major Accidents and Disasters		
Workers, local communities and the environment	Potential for major accidents and disasters as a result of decommissioning activities	Decommissioning will be undertaken in accordance with established safety and environmental management procedures proportionate to the risks present at the time. Prior to commencement of decommissioning, a Hazard and Risk Analysis (HRA) will be undertaken to identify relevant risks and appropriate control measures. Decommissioning activities will apply embedded mitigation equivalent to those set out in the **oCEMP [EN0110020/APP/5.9]** and **oOEMP [EN0110020/APP/5.10]**, including emergency preparedness, pollution prevention, traffic management and protection of sensitive receptors.

Implementation and Operation

4.1.3 The DEMP(s) will define the full set of roles, responsibilities and actions required to implement the measures described in this oDEMP. The DEMP(s) will provide clear, practical instructions to ensure that all environmental controls are effectively applied during decommissioning. The DEMP(s) will include:

- Organogram and Responsibilities - A clear organogram showing team roles, names and responsibilities, including reporting lines and key points of contact;
- Training Requirements - Details of required training for relevant personnel on environmental topics, ensuring staff have the skills and knowledge needed to follow environmental control procedures
- Site Briefings and Toolbox Talks - Information on the programme of onsite briefings and toolbox talks to ensure personnel are aware of environmental risks, required mitigation measures, and any updates to procedures
- Change Management Measures - Procedures for informing staff of changing circumstances as work progresses, including updates to environmental risks, mitigation measures, or Site conditions
- Communication Methods - Clear communication routes within the project team and with external stakeholders (e.g., LPAs, regulators, landowners), ensuring issues are escalated and addressed promptly
- Document Control - Arrangements for managing all environmental documentation, ensuring that the most current versions of plans, procedures and records are available to relevant staff
- Monitoring, Inspections and Audits - Processes for undertaking regular monitoring, inspections and audits of Site operations to confirm compliance with the DEMP, relevant legislation and good practice; and
- Environmental Emergency Procedures - Emergency response arrangements for environmental incidents, including spill response, flood events, pollution risks and any other unplanned occurrences.

4.2 Checking and Corrective Action

Monitoring and Reporting

4.2.1 To meet the requirements of the DEMP(s), environmental monitoring of the Proposed Development and its potential impacts will be undertaken throughout the decommissioning phase. Monitoring requirements will be confirmed in the DEMP(s) and will be proportionate to the activities taking place at each stage of the works.

4.2.2 Key monitoring activities will include:

- On-site presence during critical activities
- Observation and recording of decommissioning activities
- Reporting and notification procedures
- Liaison with regulators
- Formal inspections; and

- Final review following completion of works.

4.2.3 The appointed Environmental Manager will be present on site to conduct site investigations and undertake audits to ensure compliance with the DEMP. Should any deviations from the DEMP be identified, the Environmental Manager will notify the Principal Contractor as soon as practicable and ensure corrective actions are implemented if applicable.

Records

4.2.4 The Environment Manager will retain records of environmental monitoring and implementation of the DEMP. These records will include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Results of formal inspections
- Licenses and approvals
- Other environmental surveys and investigations
- Environmental equipment test records; and
- Corrective actions taken in response to accidents, incidents and breaches or complaints received from a third party.

4.2.5 Records will be managed through management systems established for safety, quality and the environment which will be certified in line with the ISO 14001 standards.

4.2.6 Records of all monitoring, inspections and audits relating to environmental issues will be retained and stored in an appropriate manner.

4.2.7 The DEMP(s) will be updated if it is necessary to add additional control measures, with a full review as required throughout the decommissioning period. Existing control measures and mitigation will not be amended without prior agreement with the relevant local authority.

References

[1] Institute of Lighting Professionals (2021). The Reduction of Obtrusive Light. (Online). Available at: GN01 For the reduction of obtrusive light 2021 [Accessed November 2025].

[2] Institute of Lighting Professionals. (2023). Bats and Artificial Lighting at Night. (Online). Available at: GN08 Bats and Artificial Lighting. [Accessed November 2025].

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