

Heckington Fen Solar Park

EN010123

Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan

Applicant: Ecotricity (Heck Fen Solar) Limited

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OUTLINE OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

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1. Introduction

Purpose of this document

- 1.1. This **Outline Operational Environment Management Plan** (oOEMP) (document reference ExA.oOEMP-D2.V1) has been prepared on behalf of Ecotricity (Heck Fen Solar) Ltd (hereafter referred to as the “Applicant”) as part of an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of a ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generation and energy storage facility (hereafter referred to as “the Energy Park”), cable route to, and above and below ground works at, the National Grid Bicker Fen Substation (hereafter referred to as “the Proposed Development” (inclusive of the Energy Park)) on land at Six Hundreds Farm, Six Hundreds Drove, East Heckington, Sleaford, Lincolnshire. Heckington Fen Solar Park, as the project title for the draft DCO is hereafter referred to as “the Proposed Development”.
- 1.2. The oOEMP provides a framework for the operational and maintenance activities of the Proposed Development within the Order Limits. This oOEMP is designed with the objective of ensuring compliance with the relevant environmental legislation and mitigation measures set out within the ES.
- 1.3. This document does not address construction or decommissioning activities, which are subject to separate environmental management plans and procedures, including, an **Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan** (document reference 7.7), **Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan** (document reference 7.10) and **Outline Decommissioning and Restoration Plan** (document reference 7.9).
- 1.4. A suite of complementary environmental control plans and procedures for the operational phase have been included within the DCO application (separate to this document) and set out proposed mitigation for the operational phase. These include:
 - **Outline Landscape Ecological Management Plan** (document reference 7.7);
 - **Outline Energy Storage Safety Management Plan** (document reference 7.11);
 - **Outline Supply Chain, Employment and Skills Plan** (document reference 7.12)
 - The **Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan** (document reference 7.7) additionally secures as appendices:
 - **Outline Artificial Light Emissions Plan**
 - **Outline Watercourse Crossing Method Statement**
 - **Outline Contaminated Land and Groundwater Scheme**
 - **Outline Site Waste and Materials Management Plan**
 - **Outline Soil Management Plan** (document reference 7.15)
 - **Surface Water Drainage Strategy** as part of the **Flood Risk Assessment** (document reference 6.3.9.1)



- 1.5. The Proposed Development will be operational for 40 years following the date of final commissioning of the last phase and it is estimated the Proposed Development will be decommissioned in or around 2067/2068. It is anticipated that the Proposed Development is likely to become operational (or be commissioned) in phases or parts, and it is envisaged that the final detailed Operational Environment Management Plan(s) (OEMP(s)) may be prepared, approved and implemented for individual parts or phases of the Proposed Development. As a result, there could be multiple detailed OEMP(s) prepared in accordance with this oOEMP.
- 1.6. The detailed OEMP (s) will be produced once the DCO is granted and submitted to the appropriate local planning authorities for approval and following the appointment of a contractor, prior to the date of final commissioning. The detailed OEMP(s) will be required to be substantially in accordance with this oOEMP submitted as part of the DCO Application, as per the DCO Requirement.
- 1.7. As part of the DCO application, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been undertaken identifying likely significant effects from the Proposed Development and are reported on in the Environmental Statement (ES). In accordance with the requirements of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017¹ (hereafter known as the "EIA Regulations"), effects on the environment are assessed during the operational phase of the Proposed Development with a range of best practice mitigation measures described within the assessments. The oOEMP demonstrates how the operational mitigation and management measures included within the ES will be implemented. It also sets out the monitoring activities designed to demonstrate that such mitigation measures are carried out, and that they are effective.
- 1.8. This document provides the likely structure of the detailed OEMP(s) and relevant preliminary information. It also indicates what additional information or controls might be included under each sub-section within each OEMP(s).
- 1.9. The key elements of this oOEMP include:
 - An overview of the Proposed Development and associated operational programme;
 - Identification of potential environmental effects;
 - Proposed design and other mitigation measures (including how those measures will be implemented) to prevent or reduce potential adverse environment effects;
 - Monitoring and reporting of effectiveness of mitigation measures; and
 - Links to other control plans and procedures.
- 1.10. The following additional environmental management plans are secured by this oOEMP and will be prepared as part of the OEMP(s) prior to operation of the Proposed Development:
 - Emergency Response Plan,

¹ HMSO (2017) The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017

- Emergency Spillage Action Plan, and
- Health and Safety Plan.

- 1.11. Any additional licences, permits or approvals that are required for the operational phase of the Proposed Development and that are not disapplied by the DCO, will be set out in the OEMP(s), including any environmental information submitted in respect of them. However, this will not be a replication of the ES.
- 1.12. The appointed operational contractor will be responsible for working in accordance with the environmental controls documented in the OEMP(s). The overall responsibility for implementation of the OEMP(s) will lie with the appointed operational contractor as a contractual responsibility to the Applicant/ operator of the Site, as the Applicant / operator of the Site is ultimately responsible for compliance with the DCO.

The Applicant

- 1.13. The Applicant has submitted the DCO Application for Heckington Fen Solar Park for the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. The DCO Application is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, with the decision of whether to grant a DCO being made by the Secretary of State pursuant to the Planning Act 2008².

The Order Limits

- 1.14. The Order Limits comprise the Energy Park including primarily solar PV infrastructure and an Energy Storage System (ESS); associated electrical infrastructure for connection to the national transmission system, comprising, Cable Route Corridor (inclusive of On and Off-site Cable Route Corridor); and National Grid Bicker Fen Substation Extension Works. The Proposed Development is located within the administrative areas North Kesteven District Council and Boston Borough Council, and at a county level located within Lincolnshire.
- 1.15. The Order limits are described in **Chapter 3: Site Description, Site Selection and Iterative Design Process** (document reference 6.1.3) of the ES.
- 1.16. The land required for the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of the Proposed Development is shown on the **Works Plan** (document reference 2.2).

The Proposed Development

- 1.17. The Proposed Development is described in **Chapter 4: Proposed Development** (document reference 6.1.4) of the ES.

² HMSO (2008) The Planning Act 2008.

2. Operation Environmental Management

Introduction

- 2.1. This section sets out the general activities and site arrangements for the operational phase of the Proposed Development.

Operational Activities

- 2.2. During the operational phase, activity within the Order Limits will be minimal and will principally comprise vegetation management (in line with the **outline Landscape Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP)** (document reference 7.7) equipment maintenance and servicing, replacement and renew of any components that fail, and monitoring. It is anticipated that maintenance and servicing would include the inspection, removal, reconstruction, refurbishment or replacement of broken or faulty equipment to ensure the continued effective operation of the Proposed Development.
- 2.3. Along the Offsite Cable Route Corridor, operational activity will consist of routine inspections and any reactive maintenance such as where a cable has been damaged.
- 2.4. Bicker Fen Substation will be managed and maintained by National Grid. The Onsite Substation at the Proposed Development, within the Energy Park area, will be managed and maintained by the Applicant / operator of the Site.
- 2.5. **Chapter 14 Transport and Access** of the ES (document reference 6.1.14) during the Proposed Development's operational phase anticipates there to be around five visits to the Energy Park site per day for equipment maintenance, tending of sheep and maintenance of Biodiversity Net Gain Areas (including the community orchard). The largest vehicles that are likely to be used for this is not expected to be any larger than a 7.5 tonne van or 4x4 vehicles.
- 2.6. Operational jobs (estimated at 5 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) jobs on-site) include general operation and maintenance which may include some elements of fencing; landscaping; repair; and asset management. Beyond this, a further 1.5FTE is estimated by the shepherd for managing the flock. Operational staff would travel to site by four-wheel drive vehicle or medium/large van.
- 2.7. Welfare facilities will be required at the Onsite Substation, located in the Central Control Room Building. The welfare facilities would include a containerised septic tank. Any wastewater will be removed via tanker to local wastewater treatment works.
- 2.8. At least once a year, for the operational lifetime of the Proposed Development, the Applicant will provide notification (which is not subject to approval) of planned maintenance activities, as well as a wider project update to the local planning authorities.

Operation Programme

- 2.9. Operation of the Proposed Development is expected to start following construction, around Q3 2027. The Proposed Development's operational lifetime will be for 40 years following final commissioning, with decommissioning assumed for the purposes of the EIA to be no earlier than 2067.



Working Hours

- 2.10. The Energy Park site could be manned by up to 5 FTE staff during normal working hours (08.00–18.00), five days a week. Routine maintenance would be carried out as required Monday to Friday 08.00 – 18.00. Emergency maintenance would be carried out as and when needed. The shepherd may visit outside of these hours.

Control of Light

- 2.11. During operation, no part of the Energy Park and Offsite Cable Route Corridor will be continuously lit. National Grid Bicker Fen Substation already has artificial lighting within its compound and will continue to operate for the operational life of the Proposed Development.
- 2.12. CCTV cameras, which are directed into the Energy Park site, would use night-vision technology, which would be monitored remotely and avoid the need for night-time lighting. For security requirements, Passive Infra-red Detector (PID) systems (or similar) will be installed around the perimeter of the Energy Park to provide night vision functionality for the CCTV.
- 2.13. Within the Onsite Substation at the Energy Park there will be a requirement for artificial lighting. Artificial lighting would be provided to maintain sufficient security and health and safety for the Onsite Substation, whilst adopting the mitigation principles to avoid excessive glare and minimise spill of light to nearby receptors (including ecology and residents) outside of the Order Limits as far as reasonably practicable. This lighting will only be required at night or low light levels to ensure health and safety requirements are achieved. The lighting will be manually switched on and off and only to be operational when maintenance staff are active within the Onsite Substation. All planned maintenance of the Onsite Substation would take place in daylight hours so the need to use the lighting at the Onsite Substation would be limited to unplanned maintenance or specific security or safety concerns.
- 2.14. Within the Energy Storage System (ESS) area on the Energy Park it is proposed that there will be mobile artificial lighting which will be moved around the ESS as needed for maintenance purposes and/or if needed for the health and safety of workers within this area. These temporary lights would not be operational at times when workers are not within the ESS. As with the Onsite Substation, all planned maintenance of the ESS would take place in daylight hours. Therefore, the need to use the artificial lighting within the ESS would be limited to unplanned maintenance or specific security or safety concerns.
- 2.15. No operational lighting is proposed along the Offsite Cable Route Corridor. All planned maintenance of the Offsite Cable Route Corridor would take place in daylight hours. If unplanned maintenance was required during the operational lifetime of the Proposed Development it may be necessary to work at night or at low-light levels. At this time temporary lighting would be brought to the specific location along the Offsite Grid Route Corridor. It would be operational whilst maintenance crews were working and then turned off in daylight working hours and removed from the area when the unplanned maintenance work was completed.

- 2.16. All operational lighting will be deployed in accordance with the following recommendations to prevent or reduce the impact on human and ecological receptors:
- The use of lighting will be minimised to that required for safe site operations;
 - Lighting will utilise directional fittings to minimise outward light spill and glare (e.g., via the use of light hoods/cowls which direct light below the horizontal plane, preferably at an angle greater than 20 degrees from horizontal);
 - Lighting will be directed away from known and potential bat roosts and away from identified bat foraging areas; and
 - Lighting will be directed towards the interior of the Order Limits rather than towards the boundaries.
- 2.17. Control of light is fully detailed in **Appendix H: Outline Artificial Lights Emission Plan** of the **Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan** (document reference 7.7), and within the **Outline Design Principles** (document reference: 7.1).

Parking Provisions

- 2.18. During operation, parking on permeable gravel hardstanding will be provided within the operational compounds located on the Energy Park site. See **Figure 2.1 Indicative Site Layout** (document 6.2.2) as part of the ES with the indicative locations for the construction and operational compounds.

Management of Vegetation Planting

- 2.19. An **Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan** (oLEMP) (document reference: 7.8) has been prepared and submitted as part of the DCO application. The oLEMP provides a framework for delivering the landscape strategy and the successful establishment and future management of proposed landscape works associated with the Proposed Development. It sets out the short and long-term measures and practices that will be implemented to establish, monitor and manage landscape and ecology mitigation and enhancement (biodiversity net gain) measures embedded in the design, and to ensure compliance with relevant national and local planning policies.
- 2.20. The purpose of the oLEMP is:
- To ensure that clear objectives for the Proposed Development are agreed;
 - To set clear standards for the performance of landscape maintenance work prior to the handover to the operations and maintenance team;
 - To develop work programmes and schedules for landscape maintenance staff for the first year after completion and thereafter for a period of 40 years.
 - To preserve and enhance the site biodiversity.
 - To help in the allocation of financial resources for landscape maintenance.



- To help monitor success and progress against management targets.

2.21. A final Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) will be prepared in accordance with the oLEMP once the DCO is granted and will be submitted to and approved by the relevant local planning authority prior to the commencement of works in accordance with the Requirements contained in Schedule 2 of the **draft Development Consent Order (DCO)** (document reference 3.1). The final LEMP will be submitted prior to commencement of a phase (as defined under Requirement 3 of the DCO); at this stage it is expected that the National Grid extension works (Work No. 6B and 6C) of the **Works Plan** (document reference 2.2) will be a standalone phase meaning that National Grid will submit the final LEMP specific for their phase of works.

Grazing Management

2.22. The land will be kept in good agricultural and environmental condition. This will be maintained by the management of the land predominantly by the grazing of sheep. Sheep will be grazed at a grazing intensity that does not result in visual damage to the grass sward from poaching (trampling).

2.23. The density of grazing is not typically specified as different systems of grazing vary considerably. However, the Applicant commits to grazing enough sheep over the whole of the solar park holding to maintain the good agricultural and environmental condition. The Applicant thereby agrees that the grazing density across the site over the year will not fall below an average (calculated on the number of sheep grazing per month across the year) of 833 sheep in total calculated on the fenced areas of the solar park (Work No. 1) and the NFU Guidance of 2/3 sheep per hectare on newly established grassland, unless otherwise agreed in writing by North Kesteven District Council or in the event of the circumstances mentioned in paragraph 2.24 below.

2.24. Certain circumstances may come forward whereby sheep are not grazed on the site; this could include disease, sickness, or economic (un)viability. Whereby sheep are not grazed on the solar park site for a period of more than 12 months, the Applicant will notify the Local Planning Authority and provide a plan or scheme to outline how it proposes to continue agricultural processes at the solar park site.

Security

2.25. There will be regular security risk management threat assessments during the construction, operation, and ultimately decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development. These security risk management threat assessments will be conducted by suitable qualified and experienced persons (SQEP) and will determine security risks.

2.26. The security arrangements will contribute to the overall safety of all who will, or may, enter the Proposed Development. The security arrangements will be reviewed by SQEP at identified points commensurate to the Security Risk rating and will further assess any changes in a Security Risk Management Threat Assessment.

2.27. A perimeter security fence will enclose the operational areas of the Energy Park site. Access gates will be of similar construction and height as the perimeter fencing. The fence is likely to be a metal mesh fence or deer fencing of up to 3m in height. Clearances above ground, or the inclusion of badger gates, will be included to permit the passage of wildlife. Pole mounted



closed circuit television (CCTV) system, which will face towards the Energy Park and away from any land outside of the Energy Park site will also be deployed around the perimeter, and in key locations, around the Energy Park site. These cameras will be mounted on poles of up to 3.5m height located within the perimeter fence, and the CCTV cameras would use night-vision technology. It is anticipated that there could be approximately 620 CCTV cameras installed on the perimeter fence.

- 2.28. The operational access point from the A17 into the Energy Park site will be the same as used during the latter part of the construction phase once the new access is constructed. Once on to the Energy Park site the access track will connect into each solar PV parcel of the development. Access tracks will be retained for the operational life of the Energy Park for maintenance purposes.
- 2.29. Other potential security measures to be included could comprise:
- Detection systems such as beam break, image detection etc. to raise alarm when fence breached;
 - Barriers/locked gates at main site entrances;
 - Suitable doors on substation buildings;
 - Remote monitoring; and
 - Alarm response contract with keyholder/security company.
- 2.30. Weather monitoring equipment in the form of pyranometers will be incorporated within the Proposed Development.

Roles and Responsibilities

- 2.31. Key roles and responsibilities during the operation phase in managing environmental impacts will likely include, but are not limited to:
- Site Manager – Overall responsibility for activity onsite;
 - Environment Manager – Responsible for the overall management of environmental aspects onsite, ensuring environmental legislation and best practices are complied with, and environmental mitigation and monitoring measures identified are implemented. The Environment Manager will oversee environmental monitoring onsite and carry out regular environmental site inspections, reporting and responding to any incidents or non-compliance. The Environment Manager will liaise with relevant environmental bodies and other third parties as appropriate;
 - Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) – Management of the risks to ecological features (including watercourses) on construction sites, advising protecting valued ecological features and providing practical solutions in line with this oOEMP;
 - Flood Warden – There will be a dedicated person with the responsibility to be prepared for, and manage, the response to flood incidents; and



- Health and Safety Manager – Responsible for the monitoring and controlling of health and safety compliance and related rules and regulations onsite.



3. Mitigation and Monitoring

- 3.1. This section of the oOEMP sets out the relevant impacts, and mitigation and management measures to be included as a minimum in the detailed OEMP(s). It also identifies where monitoring is proposed to assess the effectiveness of the mitigation measures.
- 3.2. The measures identified in **Table 3.1 – Table 3.14** below will be reviewed and updated following the consent of the DCO application as part of the preparation of the detailed OEMP(s).
- 3.3. The responsibility for ensuring that the measures set out in **Table 3.1 – Table 3.14** are implemented will lie with the Applicant./ operator of the Site of the Proposed Development. The Applicant./ operator of the Site will also be responsible for appointing and managing personnel responsible for fulfilling particular roles identified in this document such as the Environmental Manager and ECoW.

Table 3.1 Landscape and Visual/ Residential Amenity

Potential Impact	Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Monitoring Requirements
<p>Visibility of operational activities on residential and road receptors</p>	<p>An Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP) (document reference: 7.8) has been prepared and submitted as part of the DCO application. The oLEMP provides a framework for delivering the landscape strategy to mitigate the potential impacts and effects on landscape (and biodiversity) features and control the successful establishment and future management of proposed landscape works associated with the Proposed Development, to enhance the landscape and biodiversity value. Detail on monitoring and maintenance is required in the oLEMP. A LEMP will be prepared in accordance with the principles of the oLEMP and will be submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority.</p> <p>Existing vegetation along the boundary of the Energy Park will be retained and managed where practicable to ensure its continued presence and to aid the screening of low-level views into the Energy Park.</p> <p>Existing and new hedgerow planting to be maintained to a height of at least 3m, and in some Energy Park site boundary areas up to 5m.</p> <p>During operation, no part of the Energy Park will be continuously lit. Control of light is fully detailed in Appendix H: Outline Artificial Lights Emission Plan of the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (document reference 7.7)</p>	<p>The overall responsibility will be with the Applicant/ operator of the Site. The appointed Environmental Manager will be responsible to oversee any monitoring and/or mitigation measures implemented. The LEMP and the OEMP(s) will set out roles and responsibilities for implementation.</p>

Table 3.2 Ecology and Ornithology

Potential Impact	Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Monitoring Requirements
<p>Potential habitat loss and disturbance to wildlife</p>	<p>The Proposed Development has been designed so that impacts upon important habitats (comprising woodlands, grasslands, hedgerows and wetlands) are avoided or reduced, where reasonably practicable, and compensated for where not, through the retention of existing habitat and the creation of replacement habitat. The design of the Proposed Development complies with industry good practice and environmental protection legislation during both construction and operation e.g., prevention of surface and ground water pollution, fugitive dust management, noise prevention or amelioration.</p> <p>Mitigation and management measures are secured in the Outline Landscape Ecological Management Plan (document reference 7.7) to ensure biodiversity benefits are maximised. Primary ecological measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A programme of surveillance and monitoring will be established prior to operation to ensure that biodiversity measures are implemented according to plan with necessary remediation, • Any repair or maintenance work which requires vegetation or ground clearance, or intrusive works will be reviewed by the ECoW to determine whether additional impacts may arise. This assessment may be supported by a localised survey of the areas to be affected, • Vegetation clearance will be undertaken at an appropriate time of year when so as to avoid incidental injuring or killing of reptiles and amphibians, 	<p>The overall responsibility will be with the Applicant / operator of the Site. The appointed Environmental Manager will be responsible to oversee any monitoring and/or mitigation measures implemented. Specific responsibilities will be confirmed in LEMP.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works will avoid the nesting bird period i.e., March to August (inclusive) for any management of vegetated areas. Any management of vegetated areas or works that could cause disturbance to nesting birds within the nesting bird period should be checked for the presence of any nests by a suitably qualified ornithologist, prior to such works in line with legislative requirements. If active nests are found, dependent upon the bird species and status of the nesting attempt, then appropriate buffer zones may need to be required upon advice sought from an appropriately qualified ornithologist and the area monitored until the young birds have fledged, • Subject to the nature of the maintenance activities, reasonable avoidance measures to avoid impacts on badgers and bats will be employed, including buffers of up to 30m around any identified badger setts, 15m buffer around trees with bat roost potential, 15m buffer zone adjacent to Local Wildlife Sites and, woodland and a 10m buffer zone to main watercourses, • The creation and subsequent management of habitats will be determined by the characterisation of the existing baseline. However, management will seek to maximise floristic diversity, which will require low density and short frequency, sheep grazing (conservation grazing) or an appropriate, sensitive mowing regime. Prior to any mowing appropriate surveys/checks for ground nesting birds will be undertaken. • No part of the Proposed Development will be continuously lit. Control of light is fully detailed in Appendix H: Outline Artificial Lights Emission Plan of 	
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	the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (document reference 7.7)	
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Table 3.3 Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage

Potential Impact	Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Monitoring Requirements
<p>The following impacts may occur without adequate mitigation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Impacts on water quality in watercourses from run-off and chemical spillages (including use of fire-fighting water) from new permanent hardstanding and maintenance activities; - Potential for reduced chemical loading of watercourses associated with cessation of nitrate, pesticide, herbicide and insecticide applications on arable fields, or reduction in fine sediment/soil erosion (beneficial effect) - Potential impacts on hydrology as a result of the Proposed Development by changing the way water infiltrates into the 	<p><u>Drainage Strategy</u></p> <p>The drainage design provides for the attenuation of surface water runoff from the operational Order Limits, whilst minimising flood risk to the Proposed Development and surrounding areas. In accordance with National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy (NPS EN-3), runoff from the Order Limits requires attenuation where there is an increase in hardstanding areas to ensure no increase in surface water discharge rates and to provide water quality treatment of runoff water. The Surface Water Drainage Strategy as part of the Flood Risk Assessment (document reference 6.3.9.1) sets out the management of surface water.</p> <p>The Energy Storage Safety Management Plan (document reference 7.11) will detail the containment of firewater runoff (if applicable).</p> <p><u>Energy Park Infrastructure</u></p> <p>The majority of the Energy Park site is within Flood Zone 3, with areas within Flood Zone 2 and Flood Zone 1. Solar PV panel modules are mounted on structures with a ground clearance of 1.5m and an upper height of a maximum of 3.5m in the northeast section of the Energy Park site and 1m ground</p>	<p>The overall responsibility will be with the Applicant / operator of the Site. The appointed Environmental Manager will be responsible to oversee any monitoring and/or mitigation measures implemented. Regular recording of compliance in a log book. The OEMP(s) will detail the frequency.</p>

<p>ground and changing natural flow pathways</p> <p>-Impacts on flood risk from increased runoff from new impervious areas across the Energy Park site</p> <p>-Impacts on hydromorphology within watercourses and waterbodies where new crossings or drainage outfalls are required</p>	<p>clearance and upper height of a maximum of 3m in the south of the Energy Park to ensure flood waters do not touch the leading edge of the panels and withstand a 1 in 1,000 year plus climate change flood event.</p> <p>Building floor levels will be set at an appropriate freeboard above the modelled breach flood level of the Head Dike, with flood sensitive equipment further raised compared to floor levels</p> <p><u>Watercourse Buffers</u></p> <p>Stand-off distances for infrastructure from waterbodies are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board (BSIDB) ditches – 9m • All other drainage ditches and watercourses– 8m <p><u>Pollution Controls</u></p> <p>The design of the Proposed Development has included measures to avoid and minimise the risk of water pollution during its operation. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All hazardous materials including chemicals, cleaning agents and solvent containing products to be properly sealed in sealed containers at the end of each day prior to storage in appropriately protected and bunded storage areas. • Regular inspections and maintenance of all equipment will be undertaken in order to identify any leaks or damage early. Any panels which require maintenance / replacement will be removed before there is any leakage of chemicals from the sealed units. Any leaks 	
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	<p>will be dealt with in a way that is compliant with the prevailing environmental legislation. The detailed OEMP will include a regular schedule for visual inspection of the panels and all other equipment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of an Emergency Spillage Action Plan setting out procedures on the response to a spillage including how it is contained and reported to the Environment Agency if necessary. <p><u>Resilience to Flooding</u></p> <p>Regular inspection and maintenance of the drainage systems, SuDS and culverts will take place throughout the operational phase. This will be undertaken in accordance with good practice guidance. Details are included in the Surface Water Drainage Strategy as part of the Flood Risk Assessment (document reference 6.3.9.1).</p> <p>SuDS features will be utilised to ensure the surface water drainage strategy adequately attenuates and treats runoff from the Proposed Development, whilst minimising flood risk to the Order Limits and surrounding areas. If there is any evidence of excessive erosion or sedimentation associated with new structures further actions will be considered to remedy that impact in as sustainable a way as possible. Any fencing will be designed to prevent minor obstructions occurring allowing the continuation of flow routes (if present) unimpeded through the Energy Park site.</p>	
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Table 3.4 Cultural Heritage

Potential Impact	Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Monitoring Requirements
<p>Impacts on historical setting of sensitive built heritage assets</p>	<p>With regard to built heritage and historic landscape assets, appropriate and sensitive screening has been developed and will be implemented to minimise the visual intrusion of the Proposed Development, while avoiding obscuring or intruding upon views and relationships between heritage assets. Mitigation planting has taken into consideration the surrounding landscape character and focuses on the enhancement of existing vegetation. Where new planting is proposed, hedge planting has been favoured over tree planting where appropriate. Planting as mitigation to screen views is limited to avoid the creation of new impacts; however, it has been used to enhance existing screening and/ or futureproof against the loss of existing planting as appropriate.</p> <p>Details of the vegetation and planting management during operation of the Proposed Development are secured in the Outline Landscape Ecological Management Plan (document reference 7.7) and a final LEMP will be produced prior to operation to ensure suitable management of the vegetation planting to achieve the objectives for which the planting design is intended (i.e., screening of views, landscape enhancement, mitigation for impacts on built heritage, and ecological habitat improvements).</p> <p>Motion detection security lighting will be in key areas (such as the Onsite Substation, ESS area and gate entrance to the Proposed Development) to allow access for personnel before they manually turn the lighting on, to avoid permanent lighting. A sensitive lighting scheme will be developed ensuring inward distribution of light and avoiding light spill on to existing boundary features, as secured in the Outline Artificial Light</p>	<p>The overall responsibility will be with the Applicant/ operator of the Site. The appointed Environmental Manager will be responsible to oversee any monitoring and/or mitigation measures implemented. Specific responsibilities will be confirmed in the OEMP(s) and the LEMP.</p>

	<p>Emissions Plan as an appendix to the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (document reference 7.7).</p> <p>Measures to minimise impacts from operational noise and traffic are provided in Table 3.6 and Table 3.9 that may potentially impact on the setting of heritage assets.</p>	
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Table 3.5 Socio-Economic

Potential Impact	Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Monitoring Requirements
<p>Disruption to local residents, businesses and community facilities</p>	<p>Primary mitigation measures are embedded within the Proposed Development, as set out in the respective chapters, to reduce operational effects (such as noise, air quality, transport, and landscape and visual) which in turn will mitigate the effects on the local community and existing facilities from a socio-economic perspective. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures to mitigate the effects of operational visual impacts are outlined in Table 3.1 • Measures to mitigate the effects of operational noise and vibration are outlined in Table 3.6 • Measures to mitigate the effects of operational traffic are outlined in Table 3.9 • Measures to mitigate the effects of operational dust emissions are outlined in Table 3.10 • Measures to mitigate the effects of operational glint and glare are outlined in Table 3.12 	<p>The overall responsibility will be with the Applicant / operator of the Site. The appointed Environmental Manager will be responsible to oversee any monitoring and/or mitigation measures implemented. Regular recording of compliance in a log book. The OEMP(s) will detail the frequency.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measures to mitigate the effects of operational risk of major accident and disaster are outlined in Table 3.13 <p>An Outline Supply Chain, Employment and Skills Plan (oSESP) (document reference 7.12) has been produced and submitted with this DCO application. The oSESP is applicable to the operation of the Proposed Development, relevant measures to the OEMP(s) are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> intention to use local labour where commercially viable and available, where practically feasible, available and cost competitive, procure goods and services, known as the supply chain, from local contractors, sub-contractors and suppliers to support local employment; and detail recruitment and training opportunities involved in the development. <p>A Health and Safety Plan will be prepared to ensure the safe operation of the Proposed Development.</p>	
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Table 3.6 Noise and Vibration

Potential Impact	Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Monitoring Requirements
Noise and vibration from operational equipment.	A commitment that noise at sensitive receptors will be no higher than the levels presented in Table 12.8 of the Noise and Vibration ES Chapter (document reference 6.1.12).	Suitable qualified practitioner to undertake noise monitoring of equipment (if required, upon a complaint).

	<p>The OEMP(s) will also set out how the site design and operational plant levels have been developed to mitigate and reduce effects to a minimum. This will include consideration of sound output levels of all mechanical and electrical plant, low frequency and/or tonal components of any sound sources, the noise from inverters and cooling fans during lower modes of operation, positioning of plant in relation to sensitive receptors and, if necessary, implementation of mitigation measures and/or acoustic barriers.</p> <p>A suitably qualified practitioner in accordance with the latest version of the BS 4142 will carry out monitoring and maintenance of equipment, where required, if a complaint is made. This will include identifying any changes in sound pitches or volume early and carrying out the relevant maintenance. The OEMP(s) will set out a complaints procedure for members of the public to report noise disturbance at residential properties. A telephone number will be available at accessible locations if a complaint needs to be reported. If noise levels are in excess of these limits, then remedial action would be undertaken. Where such monitoring is required, a log book of the monitoring and remedial actions must be kept and made available for inspection by the relevant planning authority on request.</p>	<p>The Environmental Manager will regularly record compliance in a logbook and coordinate noise monitoring where required. The OEMP(s) will detail the frequency.</p> <p>The overall responsibility will be with the Applicant / operator of the Site. To be confirmed in the detailed OEMP(s).</p>
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Table 3.7 Climate Change

Potential Impact	Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Monitoring Requirements
Greenhouse gas emissions from the operational maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embedded resilience to projected increases in temperature, inverters will have a cooling system installed to control the temperature and continue to operate efficiently in warmer conditions. As the PV 	The overall responsibility will be with the Applicant / operator of the Site. The appointed Environmental Manager will be responsible to

<p>activities required during operation.</p> <p>Increased ambient temperature due to climate change.</p>	<p>modules and transformers have a wide range of acceptable operational temperatures, it has been determined that increasing temperatures will not adversely affect their operation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular planned maintenance of the Proposed Development will be conducted to optimise efficiency. • Increasing recyclability by segregating waste to be re-used and recycled where reasonably practicable. • Operating the Proposed Development in such a way as to minimise the creation of waste and maximise the use of alternative materials with lower embodied carbon such as locally sourced products and materials with a higher recycled content. • Liaising with operational personnel for potential to implement car sharing options and encouraging the use of lower carbon modes of transportation. • Switching off vehicles and plant when not in use and ensuring vehicles conform to current EU emissions standards. • Continuous monitoring of SF6 if used anywhere in the electrical system. Both the internal gas pressure and detection of leaks around the equipment would be monitored, given dual redundant capability to detect loss of SF6 to atmosphere. Any unacceptable loss of gas would result in alarm system activating and corrective action taken. • Ensuring air conditioning/heating is only used when needed and that windows and doors in the site office, 	<p>oversee any monitoring and/or mitigation measures implemented. Specific responsibilities will be confirmed in the OEMP(s).</p>
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	<p>storage and welfare buildings are kept closed while it is in use.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring of weather forecasts to anticipate extreme temperatures and ensure cooling or heating plant are operating effectively. In the event that cooling or heating plant are anticipated to fail then plant will be temporarily shut down until maintenance has taken place. • Monitoring and maintenance of infrastructure to ensure it remains in adequate condition to provide resilience against the increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events associated with climate change. For example, ensuring that mounting structures continue to be capable of withstanding maximum force wind speeds. • The following measures are required to ensure safety of staff from increased flood risk onsite due to climate change: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Health and safety plans will be required to account for potential climate change impacts on workers, such as flooding and heatwaves; ○ Storing materials outside of flood extent as far as reasonably practicable; and ○ Appointing at least one designated Flood Warden who is familiar with the risks and remains vigilant to news reports, Environment Agency flood warnings and water levels of the local waterways. 	
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Table 3.9 Transport and Access

Potential Impact	Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Monitoring Requirements
<p>Vehicle movements during operation.</p>	<p>New operational access (same as construction access) proposed via a new priority junction with the A17 at the Energy Park site's southern frontage.</p> <p>New network of access tracks within the Energy Park site will remain in place, as necessary, throughout the operational phase to allow operational vehicles to access all areas of the Energy Park for maintenance.</p> <p>No significant potential impacts related to transport and access are anticipated during operation, due to the low number of anticipated vehicle movements and nature of the Proposed Development.</p>	<p>The overall responsibility will be with the Applicant / operator of the Site. To be included in the OEMP(s).</p>
<p>Effects on PRoW users during operation</p>	<p>Public Right of Way (PRoW) footpath HECK/15/1 is located along the northern boundary of the Energy Park site. The footpath follows field boundaries along the Head Dike from the B1395 Sidebar Lane in the west towards Maryland Bank in the east. Access onto the Head Dike raised bank is no longer possible with a footbridge crossing across the drainage ditch no longer in existence. The footings for this footbridge sit outside the Order Limits of this Proposed Development.</p> <p>The definitive map for PRoW shows footpath HECK/15/1 running east along Crab Lane and then following a field boundary to enter into the Energy Park site. Site investigation of this footpath has shown that access along the definitive path into the Energy Park site is currently not possible as a bridge over the field ditch has been removed.</p>	<p>The overall responsibility will be with the Applicant / operator of the Site. To be included in the OEMP(s).</p>

	<p>The Applicant has proposed the HECK/15/1 ProW will connect into the onsite Permissive Path through reinstatement of two new footbridges to enable access along the definitive map route within the Energy Park boundary. The locations of the new footbridges can be seen on Figure 4.1f: Proposed Permissive Path (document reference 6.2.4)</p> <p>The detailed OEMP(s) will require that if at any time in the operational phase, the existing PRowS need to be diverted or temporarily closed to facilitate maintenance activities, this will require approval of the relevant local planning authority.</p>	
<p>Management of permissive path</p>	<p>Creation of a new permissive new circular route in the Energy Park site that interconnects with the existing Public Rights of Way (PRow) network. The permissive route will be retained throughout the operational phase.</p> <p>Permissive path will be managed through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Displaying clear signage at the entrance to permissive path. Details of the signage for the path (which should include making clear the path is a permitted path, with usage permitted by the landowner) will be agreed with the RPA. b. Regular maintenance, including annual closure for maintenance, if required. Closures will be discussed and agreed with the RPA beforehand with appropriate signage/warnings. 	<p>The overall responsibility will be with the Applicant / operator of the Site. To be included in the OEMP(s).</p>

	<p>c. The surfacing material and width of the permissive paths will be agreed in advance of operation with the RPA. It is intended that the path will be grassed.</p>	
Management of community orchard	<p>The community orchard will be accessible from the permissive path that interconnects with the existing Public Rights of Way (PRoW) network. The access to the community orchard will be by arrangement. A fence will surround the community orchard and will include gate(s) at appropriate locations. To ensure security a combination lock will be utilised and shared with visitors who are agreed in advance. No car parking is proposed; however, a small area of hardstanding is available and in agreement from the landowner this can be used should vehicles need to visit the community orchard, examples could be working groups tending to the trees, or students from further afield.</p>	<p>The overall responsibility will be with the Applicant / operator of the Site. To be included in the OEMP(s).</p>

Table 3.10 Air Quality

Potential Impact	Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Monitoring Requirements
Dust emissions	<p>Dust emissions during operation will be managed through the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only use cutting, grinding, or sawing equipment fitted or in conjunction with suitable dust suppression techniques such as water sprays or local extraction (e.g., suitable local exhaust ventilation systems). 	<p>The overall responsibility will be with the Applicant / operator of the Site. The appointed Environmental Manager will be responsible to oversee any monitoring and/or mitigation measures implemented. To be included in the OEMP(s).</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring an adequate water supply onsite for effective dust/particulate matter suppression/ mitigation, using non-potable water where possible and appropriate. • Ensuring equipment is readily available onsite to clean any dry spillages and clean up spillages as soon as reasonably practicable after the event using wet cleaning methods. 	
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Table 3.11 Land Use and Agriculture

Potential Impact	Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Monitoring Requirements
Potential for surface soil compaction in some areas.	<p>A final Soil Management Plan (SMP) will be produced prior to operation, in accordance with the Outline Soil Management Plan (oSMP) (document reference 7.15) and will detail how the risk of causing surface compaction can be minimised and how to remove compaction if it has occurred.</p> <p>When travelling across the Order limits all machinery and vehicles should keep to internal access tracks where possible to minimise the risk of soil compaction.</p>	The overall responsibility will be with the Applicant / operator of the Site. The appointed Environmental Manager will be responsible to oversee any monitoring and/or mitigation measures implemented. Responsibilities will be included in the SMP.
Loss and/or degradation of the soil resource.	The SMP, in accordance with the Outline Soil Management Plans (oSMP) for the Energy Park and Cable Route, will include measures specific to the soils present and operational activity, to minimise any loss of soil material or degradation of its functional capacity. This will include activities related to the management of livestock grazing the site as well as vehicle use off the access track network.	Soil assessments and monitoring will be undertaken as detailed in the oSMP.

	<p>Little or no movement of soil material will occur during the operational life of the Energy Park. Soil stockpiles will be maintained and seeded, and topsoil stockpile monitoring will be undertaken by the Environmental Manager.</p> <p>The final OEMP(s) must include the measures set out in the oSMP for managing soils during operation of the Proposed Development.</p>	
<p>Sheep grazing for vegetation management can result in surface compaction if numbers for grazing is too great in wet conditions. Surface compaction can cause run-off.</p>	<p>Sheep will be moved throughout the Energy Park site to manage grass growth. The programme of movement together with how the grazing will be managed and maintained (to be finalised in the detailed LEMP and the final OEMP(s) applicable for the Energy Park Site) should take into account areas of prolonged wetness following rainfall. Mobile feed and water troughs can be relocated to avoid loss of vegetation and build-up of compaction for the surrounding area.</p> <p>Sheep numbers will be controlled in liaison with farmers to ensure that excessive grazing and trampling does not compact/degrade soils. Grazing land will be periodically inspected to check if overgrazing/trampling is occurring and this will be communicated with the farmers.</p> <p>The final LEMP and OEMP (for the Energy Park Site) must include the measures set out in the oLEMP for managing grazing of grassland areas in the Energy Park during operation of the Proposed Development.</p>	<p>The overall responsibility will be with the Applicant / operator of the Site. The appointed Environmental Manager will be responsible to oversee any monitoring and/or mitigation measures implemented. Responsibilities will be included in the LEMP.</p>

Table 3.12 Glint and Glare

Potential Impact	Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Monitoring Requirements
<p>Potential to impact on rail, residential, aviation and road receptors</p>	<p>Hedgerow planting to be allowed to grow to a height of at least 3m, and in some Energy Park site boundary areas up to 5m, and maintained at these levels, as secured in the Outline Landscape Ecological Management Plan (document reference 7.7).</p>	<p>The overall responsibility will be with the Applicant / operator of the Site. The appointed Environmental Manager will be responsible to oversee any monitoring and/or mitigation measures implemented</p> <p>Monitoring and maintenance of hedgerows is secured in the Outline Landscape Ecological Management Plan (document reference 7.7).</p>

Table 3.13 Miscellaneous Issues (Major Accidents and Disasters)

Potential Impact	Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Monitoring Requirements
<p>Potential for Major Accidents and Disasters– the health and safety of workers during the operational phase</p>	<p>All works will be undertaken in accordance with relevant Health and Safety legislation and guidance. Details of fire, police, emergency services and hospitals will be publicised and included in the site induction.</p> <p>An Outline Energy Storage Safety Management Plan (document reference 7.11) has been produced and will be referred to during operation to safely reduce and manage the risk of fire during operation. This will be updated and maintained as a ‘live document’ throughout the operational phase. An Emergency Response Plan will be prepared to</p>	<p>The overall responsibility will be with the Applicant / operator of the Site. Regular recording of compliance in a logbook as part of the Health and Safety Manager’s responsibilities. The OEMP (s) will detail the frequency.</p>

	<p>minimise risks from smoke that may accompany a toxic gas release.</p> <p>An appropriate risk assessment will be produced to minimise the risk of major accidents during operation. Further risks of major accidents and disasters are covered in the following tables: Table 3.3 Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Flood Risk and Drainage, Table 3.9 Transport and Access, Table 3.14 Miscellaneous Issues (Waste).</p>	
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Table 3.14 Miscellaneous Issues (Waste)

Potential Impact	Mitigation/Enhancement Measure	Monitoring Requirements
<p>Impacts of waste to the surrounding environment.</p> <p>Potential to impact on sensitive receptors (humans, wildlife and controlled waters) if not stored and managed appropriately.</p>	<p>Materials requiring removal from the Order Limits during operation would be transported using licensed carriers and records kept, detailing the types and quantities of waste moved and the destinations of this waste, in accordance with the relevant regulations.</p> <p>Infrastructure such as PV panels and energy storage units that need to be replaced during the operational phase, 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.</p> <p>Management and control of site waste and materials is further set out in the Outline Site Waste and Materials Management Plan as an appendix to the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (document reference 7.7). A Site Waste and Materials Management Plan (SWMMP) would be developed prior to the start of commissioning and included as</p>	<p>The overall responsibility will be with the Applicant / operator of the Site.</p> <p>A register of waste loads leaving the Order limits would be maintained by the Environmental Manager to provide a suitable audit trail for compliance purposes and to facilitate monitoring and reporting of waste types, quantities, and management methods.</p>



	<p>an appendix to the oCEMP. The SWMMP would include roles and responsibilities, estimates of waste arisings (types, quantities, and timing), procedures for identification of suitable management facilities and application of the waste hierarchy, and monitoring and reporting requirements. The SWMMP would be a live document that would be updated during the operational lifetime of the project and as required to reflect, for example, the availability of new recycling facilities (as they are developed) and any requirements deriving from new regulations or policies.</p>	
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4. Implementation and Operation

4.1. Each OEMP (s) will set out all roles, responsibilities and actions required in respect of implementation of the measures described in this oOEMP, including:

- a. An organogram showing team roles and responsibilities;
- b. Training requirements for relevant personnel on environmental topics;
- c. Information onsite briefings and toolbox talks that will be used to equip relevant staff with the necessary level of knowledge to follow environmental control procedures;
- d. Measures to advise employees of changing circumstances;
- e. Communication methods;
- f. Document control;
- g. Monitoring, inspections and audits of site operations; and
- h. Environmental emergency procedures.

5. Monitoring and Reporting

Monitoring

- 5.1. Monitoring and reporting will be undertaken by the relevant persons set out in the tables set out in section 3 above, for the duration of the operational phase in order to demonstrate the effectiveness of the measures set out in the OEMP (s) and related construction controls and allow for corrective action to be taken where necessary.
- 5.2. As part of the monitoring process a designated Environmental Manager will observe site activities and report any deviations from the OEMP (s) in a logbook, along with the action taken and general conditions at the time. In addition, the Environmental Manager will conduct regular walkover surveys which will be documented and arrange regular formal inspections to ensure the requirements of the OEMP (s) are being met.
- 5.3. The Environmental Manager would also act as primary contact with relevant local authorities and other regulatory agencies such as the Environment Agency.

Records

- 5.4. The Environmental Manager will retain records of environmental monitoring and implementation of the OEMP(s). This will allow provision of evidence that the OEMP(s) are being implemented effectively. These records will include:
 - Results of routine site inspections by Environmental Manager/ Project Manager;
 - Environmental surveys and investigations;
 - Environmental Action Schedule;
 - Environmental equipment test records;
 - Licences and approvals;
 - Corrective actions taken in response to incidents, breaches of the approved OEMPs or complaints received from a third party.
- 5.5. The OEMP(s) will be updated if it is necessary to add additional control measures, with a full review as required. Existing control measures and mitigation will not be amended without prior agreement with the relevant local planning authorities.



6. In the event of Period of Extended Outage

- 6.1. The Applicant must provide notice to the relevant planning authority once any part of the authorised development stops generating electricity for a continuous period of 12 months for non-maintenance reasons ("Period of Extended Outage"). When giving such notice the Applicant must provide details of the steps it is taking to rectify the issue along with an expected timeframe for when generation is predicted to re-commence operation. The Applicant agrees to keep the relevant planning authorities updated following the Period of Extended Outage until the re-commence of operation.

Cirencester

33 Sheep Street, Cirencester,

Gloucestershire, GL7 1RQ

T 01285 641717

E Cirencester@pegasusgroup.co.uk

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