

**Byers Gill Solar
EN010139**

6.4.2.11 Environmental Statement

Appendix 2.11 Outline Site Waste Management Plan (SWMP)

Planning Act 2008

APFP Regulation 5(2)(a)

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms
and Procedure) Regulations 2009

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1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose of document

- 1.1.1. This document provides an Outline Site Waste Management Plan (SWMP) for the construction, operation and decommissioning of Byers Gill Solar (the Proposed Development). The SWMP considers the aims of international, national and local policy in regard to commitments to manage resources more efficiently, and to prevent and minimise waste.
- 1.1.2. RWE (the Applicant) has prepared this Outline SWMP as part of an Application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development.
- 1.1.3. An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been undertaken for the Proposed Development and an Environmental Statement (ES) (Volume 6 of the DCO application) has been prepared in accordance with the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations). In accordance with the requirements of the EIA Regulations, the ES contains the assessment of the likely significant effects on the environment that may be caused during construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development and describes proposed mitigation measures.
- 1.1.4. The SWMP will be produced for the Proposed Development following the appointment of a Principal Contractor (PC) prior to the commencement of construction. The SWMP will be prepared in accordance with this outline SWMP, as secured under requirement 9 of the draft DCO (Document Reference 3.1).
- 1.1.5. The purpose of this outline SWMP is to demonstrate that site waste will be managed efficiently and effectively, with opportunities to reduce, reuse and recycle waste materials considered and optimised wherever possible, and to promote best practice and environmental awareness.
- 1.1.6. To ensure the promotion of good practice and sustainable development, when selected, the PC will work with the Applicant / Principal Designer to implement the SWMP throughout the detailed design and construction phases of the Proposed Development. The SWMP will broadly follow the approach outlined in the Site Waste Management Plan Regulations 2008 (the 2008 Regulations), which the outline WMP has been based upon. Whilst the 2008 Regulations have been repealed, the principles of sustainable waste management for construction projects remain best practice. The developer will, therefore, seek to prevent waste generation in the first instance, and where waste does arise will ensure that any/all waste generated in constructing the Proposed Development is minimised or otherwise reused, recycled, recovered or, if necessary, disposed of in accordance with the waste management hierarchy.

1.1.7. The waste management hierarchy was introduced by the revised Waste Framework Directive 2008 (Directive 2008/98/EC), and transposed into the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011, which contain the waste hierarchy as Regulation 12. The waste management hierarchy is also set out in the Waste Management Plan for England (January 2021) (which sits beneath the Resources and Waste Strategy for England 2018), and provides an overview of waste management in England to fulfil the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011. The waste hierarchy is reproduced below, in order of precedence and will be considered and followed (where appropriate) by the developer of the site, having regard to the nature of the waste and any contamination issues.

- Prevention – using less material in design and manufacture. Keeping products for longer; reuse. Using less hazardous materials;
- Preparing for Reuse – checking, cleaning, repairing, refurbishing, whole items or spare parts;
- Recycling – turning waste into a new substance or product. Includes composting if it meets quality protocols;
- Other Recovery – includes anaerobic digestion, incineration with energy recovery, gasification and pyrolysis which produce energy (fuels, heat and power) and materials from waste; some backfilling; and
- Disposal – landfill and incineration without energy recovery.

1.1.8. A number of complementary management plans have also been produced to support the construction of the Proposed Development and these are listed in Table 1-1. This outline SWMP should be read in conjunction with this suite of management plans.

Table 1-1 Construction specific management plans to support the DCO application

Management Plan	Purpose	Document reference
Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)	Sets out how negative environmental impacts will be minimised during construction.	ES Appendix 2.6 (Document Reference 6.4.2.6)
Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP)	Sets out how construction traffic and staff vehicles will be managed during construction.	ES Appendix 2.8 (Document Reference 6.4.2.8)
Outline Pollution and Spillage Response Plan	Sets out methods to manage pollution and spillage incidents on site during construction.	ES Appendix 2.9 (Document Reference 6.4.2.10)
Outline Materials Management Plan (MMP)	Sets out how excavated materials that will be generated in the course of constructing the Proposed Development will be re-used in a manner that is compatible with the Waste Framework Directive and associated regulations.	ES Appendix 2.10 (Document Reference 6.4.2.10)
Outline Site Waste Management Plan (SWMP)	Sets out how the Proposed Development will manage resources efficiently, and measures to prevent and minimise waste.	ES Appendix 2.11 (Document Reference 6.4.2.11)
Outline Soil Resources Management Plan (SRMP)	Sets out the overall approach to managing soil resources affected by the Proposed Development.	ES Appendix 2.12 (Document Reference 6.4.2.12)

Archaeological Management Strategy (AMS)	Sets out the management of archaeological remains, both known and currently unknown, during construction.	ES Appendix 8.5 (Document Reference 6.4.8.5)
Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP)	Sets out the management of the landscape and ecological features of the Proposed Development.	ES Appendix 2.14 (Document Reference 6.4.2.14)
Outline Public Rights of Way (PRoW) Management Plan	Sets out how PRoWs would be managed to ensure they remain safe to use, and disruption to users of the PRoW is minimised.	ES Appendix 2.15 (Document Reference 6.4.2.15)
Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA)	Sets out the protection measures to be implemented during the construction phase, including activity supervision by a suitably qualified arboriculturist where appropriate.	ES Appendix 7.7 (Document Reference 6.4.7.7)

1.2. The Proposed Development

- 1.2.1. The Proposed Development is a renewable energy scheme, covering an area of approximately 490 hectares (ha), and comprising solar photovoltaic (PV) panels, on-site Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), associated infrastructure as well as underground cable connections between Panel Areas and to connect to the existing National Grid Substation at Norton. The Proposed Development will have the capacity to generate over 50 Megawatts (MW) of electricity.
- 1.2.2. A full description of the Proposed Development and a detailed description of the design and environmental mitigation is provided in ES Chapter 2 The Proposed Development (Document Reference 6.2.2).

1.3. Proposed Development Location

- 1.3.1. The majority of the Proposed Development, including the Panel Areas, substation and on-site BESS are located within the administrative area of Darlington Borough Council. The eastern part of the cable routes crosses into the administrative area of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council. The northern extent of the planning boundary (the Order Limits) borders Durham County Council's administrative area.
- 1.3.2. The Order Limits and surroundings are comprised of agricultural fields, interspersed with individual trees, hedgerows, farm access tracks, woodlands and local farm holdings. There are several local villages located within close proximity to the Proposed Development, including Brafferton, Newton Ketton, Great Stainton, Bishopton and Old Stillington.
- 1.3.3. The Order Limits for the Proposed Development are shown in ES Figure 1.1 Location Plan (Document Reference 6.3.1.1).

1.4. Relevant policy and guidance

1.4.1. The detailed SWMP will set out policy and guidance for waste management at the site. These may include those as outlined below (or an updated iteration), but not be limited to:

- Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011
- 25 Year Environment Plan 2018
- Resources and Waste Strategy for England 2018
- Waste Management Plan for England 2021
- Waste Prevention Programme for England 2023

2. Proposed Development Design

2.1. Overview

- 2.1.1. The Proposed Development will have different compounds amenities arrangements throughout construction and decommissioning, due to geographical spread of the site, and thus waste management considerations are likely to alter dependent on construction and maintenance programmes.
- 2.1.2. The detailed design will consider safe and efficient material use, management, waste storage and collection during the construction phase, as well as in the longer term during the operational phase. The Proposed Development will be designed to optimise material use, recycling and reprocessing whilst also meeting high standards for environmental and waste management.
- 2.1.3. Owing to the nature of the Proposed Development, operational waste generation will be low and associated with the maintenance of the site and the staffing arrangements. The Proposed Development will include the necessary infrastructure to store and manage generated waste through good design, to ensure that waste reduction, reuse and recycling is made as easy as possible for workers on the Site during operation.
- 2.1.4. The Proposed Development has been designed to include the provision of sufficient space for bins or waste containers at each site during all three phases (Construction, Operational, Decommissioning), including recycling capacity, and ensure the internal road layout of the Proposed Development is appropriate for refuse vehicles to safely manoeuvre when collecting waste when required.
- 2.1.5. In accordance with national and local policy, the aim of the site design will be to ensure that there is sufficient provision for recycling and that (wherever possible) waste management facilities are integrated into the scheme so that their impact is minimised.
- 2.1.6. Due to the nature of the development, minimal operational waste is anticipated to be generated, and this will be contained during site construction activities, and site decommissioning activities.
- 2.1.7. The Proposed Development will include careful consideration of the following:
- The principles of ‘designing out waste’ to identify waste reduction opportunities;
 - WRAP’s (Waste and Resources Action Programme) ‘Choosing Construction Products’ for guidance on materials recycled content;
 - Selection of robust and durable construction materials, sourced from reputable suppliers;
 - Reduction in waste generation during site clearance, earthworks, site preparation and construction through appropriate design;
 - Materials specifications that encourage the use of reused or recycled products, material from sustainably management sources and materials that are suitable for reuse or recovery without significant environmental impact;

- Use of aggregates that are derived from recovered materials rather than virgin aggregates in line with the Tees Valley Mineral and Waste Core Strategy (wherever feasible);
- Use of appropriate maintenance materials during operational activities that at end of life can be as high up the waste hierarchy as possible
- Reuse of excavated materials onsite (wherever feasible); and
- Techniques to encourage segregation of materials for recycling.

2.2. Site Preparation and Access

2.2.1. Preparation for the construction phase will include the following measures:

- Clearance of existing vegetation;
- Ground-levelling;
- Excavation (required for foundations and cabling, etc.);
- Removal of any fly-tipped waste (to suitable material recycling facilities);
- Fencing and site security (to prevent unauthorised access); and
- Installation of suitable portacabin/welfare facilities (to be erected ready for construction to commence).

2.2.2. Where possible, any excavated material will be reused on the site, rather than removed. Subsoils will be stockpiled ready for reuse in site engineering and earthworks. In the event that there is surplus of subsoil and/or topsoil, the Developer will seek to utilise these in other local construction or land reclamation works through a relevant waste management contractor.

2.2.3. Where wastes require removal from site, suitable access arrangements will be put in place to ensure that contractor vehicles can easily and safely access areas where waste materials are stored and empty containers for onward processing, recycling, or disposal.

2.3. Site Access during Construction, Operation and Decommissioning

2.3.1. Consideration will be given to the access requirements of collection vehicles to ensure that they can easily and safely access areas where waste materials are stored, and empty containers for onward processing, recycling or disposal.

2.3.2. A clearly designated route will be indicated from the public highway to amenities on site, including wastes during all three phases and this will be designed to be viable for the anticipated collection vehicle types.

2.3.3. There will be sufficient space for the anticipated collection vehicles to manoeuvre and the containers will be selected in partnership with the collecting authority and private contractors to ensure that they are compatible and can be unloaded safely and efficiently (where applicable and when wastes are being generated). The containers will

be stored away from parking areas and away from the area(s) where other vehicles will be required to manoeuvre.

- 2.3.4. Suitable collection frequencies will be agreed with the collection contractor/local authority and the storage containers sized appropriately to ensure provision of adequate storage capacity, to optimise the collection frequency and to avoid waste materials being stored onsite for prolonged periods (where applicable) and when wastes are being generated across the solar sites.
- 2.3.5. Should the need arise for additional storage capacity (e.g., if large quantities of materials are consistently produced), the inclusion of provisions for a static waste compactor, baler, crusher or additional suitable storage vessels will be considered.
- 2.3.6. An Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) (ES Appendix 2.8 (Document Reference 6.4.2.8) should be read in conjunction with this document, which further sets out how construction traffic and staff vehicles will be managed during construction.

3. Material Types and Management

3.1.1. This section will set out the likely material types and management of waste generated from the Proposed Development, and local waste facilities available to process this.

3.2. Waste Generation and Types

3.2.1. The wastes generated on site by the Proposed Development are likely to be negligible and are described in further detail for each phase of development, below.

Waste Management Proposals during Construction

3.2.2. It is noted that large-scale earthworks are not anticipated for the Proposed Development. The electrical infrastructure, including PV modules, will be manufactured offsite and delivered for installation when required. Therefore, Site construction phase waste is anticipated to be minimal.

3.2.3. Any materials that are generated during construction are likely to include inert construction materials (such as soil, hardcore, rubble), as well as packaging (e.g. wood, metals, composites and plastic) and materials generated during the installation of solar panels (such as wiring, cables, other assorted metals, electrical composites, plastic wrap and mixed wastes). This is also likely to include wastes from site offices and welfare facilities.

3.2.4. General waste from site offices and welfare facilities is likely to include:

- small quantities of oil / grease wastes from the maintenance of construction vehicles;
- packaging waste from incoming materials; and
- other waste from construction of fencing, access roads and other supporting infrastructure.

3.2.5. Waste materials will be disposed of by the contractor to appropriate recycling facilities or, as a last resort, appropriately licensed landfills.

3.2.6. It is the intention that, where possible, any excavation materials will be reused onsite for landscaping and all other materials will be segregated and stored for onward processing and recycling as a priority.

3.2.7. Contaminated soils that cannot be reused onsite will be disposed of in an appropriate landfill. The appropriate landfill for disposal will depend on the waste classification determined from the chemical analysis or Waste Acceptance Criteria testing as necessary.

3.2.8. The Developer will seek to minimise waste through the supply chain, specifying the use of reusable (or returnable) packaging for materials delivered to Site and programming material delivery wherever possible. This will help to reduce the amount of packaging that can typically be generated during the construction period. All incoming packaging

that requires storage onsite prior to offsite recovery can be segregated and stored under cover in clearly identifiable areas. This may include segregation of card, paper, wood, hard plastics and plastic film.

3.2.9. In addition, ES Appendix 2.3 Assessment of Likely Waste Arisings (Document Reference 6.4.2.3) specifically highlights the following measures to be implemented:

- Agreements with material suppliers to reduce the amount of packaging through a take-back scheme.
- Implementation of just-in-time material delivery system to avoid materials being stockpiled, which increases the risk of their damage and disposal as waste.
- Attention to material quantity requirements to avoid over-ordering and generation of waste materials due to surplus.
- During site clearance and construction re-use of materials wherever feasible e.g. re-use of excavated soil for earthwork embankments and landscaping.
- The materials would be sorted or processed and where necessary, treated. Where materials excavated on-site are initially unable to meet the re-use criteria, they would either be treated to make them suitable for use or, as a last resort, disposed off-site as waste.
- Segregation of waste at source where practical.
- Re-use of materials within construction for example. Re-use of pavement planning in subbase in footpaths.
- Re-use and recycling off-site where re-use on-site is not practical.
- Reuse of excavated material within the site, will be undertaken in accordance with the CL:AIRE Definition of Waste: Development Industry Code of Practice
- All waste to be removed from the Order Limits will be undertaken by fully licensed waste carriers and taken to licensed waste facilities.
- Separate the main waste streams on-site, prior to transport to an approved, licensed third party waste facility for recycling or disposal.

Waste Management Proposals during Operation

3.2.10. Owing to the nature of the Proposed Development, waste generation during the operational phase will be minimal (e.g. augmentation of a small number of units or BESS arrangements, which will be recycled for reuse wherever possible) and will not have a significant impact upon the local and regional waste management infrastructure.

3.2.11. The likely waste to be produced from the operation / maintenance of the Site will be associated with potential equipment / panel replacements and workers carrying out onsite maintenance, which might include packaging, dry recycling, residual waste and potentially food waste.

3.2.12. To manage the solar panel waste that will arise from potential panel replacements during the operational life of the Proposed Development, there will be a regular review of suitable outlets for reuse and recycling of the panels and associated infrastructure at the end of its viable life, to maximise recycling and minimise the need to landfill.

- 3.2.13. There is potential for airborne litter to leave the site, but this will be limited by the provision of suitable litter bins at appropriate locations onsite, with a site induction instructing all site visitors of best waste management practices.

Waste Management Proposals during Decommissioning

- 3.2.14. As the lifespan of the Proposed Development would be 40 years, it is not possible (at this stage) to identify either the waste management routes or specific waste facilities to be utilised during the decommissioning of the Site.
- 3.2.15. An outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) (Document Reference 6.4.6.7) is submitted as part of the DCO application and a detailed DEMP will be prepared and agreed with the authority in accordance with the outline DEMP prior to commencement of decommissioning. Any waste generated from decommissioning at the end of life will be managed in accordance with the site management plans, and ultimately, the requirements of the DEMP.

Local Waste Facilities

- 3.2.16. A brief, non-exhaustive, review of available facilities in the vicinity of the Proposed Development has identified potential receptors for the construction and operational phase materials, as shown in Table 1. All facilities accepted construction and/or commercial and similar wastes in 2022. No landfills, Materials Recycling Facilities or Energy from Waste sites have been identified within the Darlington district, but adjacent capacity for these facility types is available in neighbouring districts for onward treatment and disposal.
- 3.2.17. From Table 3-1, it is clear that within the district there is a wide range and scale of processing/treatment/disposal provision available. Should the capacity at the time required not be suitable, additional processing/disposing capacity can be sought across a wider radius from the Proposed Development regionally (such as in the Tees Valley Combined Authority area, or neighbouring counties).
- 3.2.18. This is also likely to be the case for solar panels and specialist wastes (ie electrical wastes, panel components), which are likely to require onward treatment upon decommissioning via local WEEE waste and metal treatment facilities.

Table 3-1 Local Waste Facilities in Darlington

Site Name	Permit Number	Site Description	Distance from Byers Gill Wood in Kilometres (by Road)	Quantity of Waste in Tonnes Accepted (2022)	Operator	Phase of Use
Teward Recycling Ltd	60017	Non Waste Haz Transfer / Treatment	8.7	38,588	Teward Recycling	Construction / Operation
Stan Robinsons	1204276	Physical Treatment / Inert Screening	9.3	31,102	Tyne Tees Crushing and Screening Ltd	Construction
Drinkfield Waste Transfer Station	100876	Haz Waste Storage / Treatment	10.7	28,878	Stonegrave Aggregates	Construction / Operation
EMR Darlington	101765	Metal / WEEE Recycling	9.2	17,963	European Metal Recycling	Construction / Operation / Decommissioning
Cleveland House	104572	Metal / WEEE Recycling	8.9	14,902	Ward Bros Ltd	Construction / Operation / Decommissioning
Faverdale Recycling Centre	66033	Non-Haz Waste Transfer	13.1	7,233	TM Ward (Darlington) Ltd	Construction / Operation
1st Stop Skip Hire	66207	Non-Haz Waste Transfer	9.2	1,263	1st Stop Skips	Construction / Operation
				139,928		

3.3. SWMP Implementation

3.3.1. The detailed SWMP should include an overview of roles and responsibilities and how they interact with this plan. Key roles and responsibilities expected during the, construction, phase of the Proposed Development in managing environmental impacts will likely include, but are not limited to:

- Site Manager – Overall responsibility for activity onsite and will be based onsite full time.
- Construction Project Manager - Overall responsibility for ensuring all elements in the DCO, relevant management plans and all environmental legal and other requirements are implemented, and appropriately resourced, managed, reviewed and reported.
- Environment Manager - Responsible for the overall management of environmental aspects on site, ensuring environmental legislation and best practices are complied with, and

environmental mitigation and monitoring measures identified are implemented. The Environmental Manager will oversee environmental monitoring on-site 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.

- Environmental Clerk of Works – Oversee the management of, and provide advice about, environmental and ecological risks during construction including for example, management of protected species, surface water management, waste management, pollution, air quality and noise.

- 3.3.2. These roles and responsibilities are indicative and will be confirmed in the SWMP. It is noted that ultimate responsibility for the implementation of the SWMP under the DCO rests with the undertaker.
- 3.3.3. Specifically, it is expected that the Site Manager will have responsibility for reviewing the SWMP, as well as managing and monitoring its implementation. It will be an evolving process and the SWMP will be adapted as required as the development progresses, innovative solutions are considered, and procedures become established. The responsibility for the SWMP and the key methods of implementation will be clearly communicated to all relevant staff and contractors and included with the procurement documentation for all companies engaged to work onsite.
- 3.3.4. The SWMP will be kept under regular review to ensure that best practice is being maintained and that any offsite treatment or recovery facilities are still the best choice for any particular waste stream. Reports summarising the data and outcomes covering site design, preparation and construction stages will ensure the SWMP covers all stages from construction to operation. This may include comparison of forecast and actual performance for waste quantities, data on types and quantities of recycled and recovered materials during construction, waste sent offsite for recovery or recycling and disposal routes.
- 3.3.5. Contractors will ensure that they use sustainable procurement practices to purchase reused and less carbon intensive products where possible. Contractors will also ensure that products purchased and utilised onsite (that could generate waste) are recorded and monitored so that future orders can be informed and adapted, taking in to account the usage over the previous period, and changing requirements. The SWMP will also ensure consideration of the use of secondary and recycled materials during both the construction and operational phases of the Proposed Development.
- 3.3.6. Linked to the procurement of the supply chain is the identification of potential off-takers of waste materials. There is an intention to explore options (both within the Proposed Development and external to the Proposed Development) of passing-on items that are no longer needed, but which might hold value to others, as well as the requirement for onsite recycle segregation. A member of staff or group of staff will be allocated responsibility for the SWMP, which will include the monitoring of waste management and sustainable procurement practices.

- 3.3.7. To aid decisions concerning product purchases and output material destinations, a flow diagram may be implemented ensuring that all staff consider all options in-line with the waste hierarchy as part of a procurement assessment. This may include such questions as:
- Is there an alternative product available that is made from recycled material?
 - Is there an option to refurbish this material for reuse?
 - Would another business benefit from this waste product?
 - Can we arrange for this product to be collected for reprocessing instead of disposal?
- 3.3.8. This diagram should be a dynamic, bespoke document that will evolve to meet the requirements of the Proposed Development and effectively aid the staff with sustainable waste management practices. Options to be considered will range from investigating sourcing construction materials with recycled content through to training vehicle users in more efficient and fuel saving driving techniques.

Training

- 3.3.9. Where appropriate, staff and contractors will be trained in the safe and effective use of the waste and recycling provision and practices both through the initial site induction and through the subsequent site staff training programme. Staff will be encouraged to take responsibility for encouraging contractors and visitors to use the waste infrastructure. Messages in the training programme will be supplemented with written information on notice boards throughout the Site, other signage and labelling of all bins. Staff will be encouraged to take responsibility for the dissemination of the message and the implementation of the procedures, providing ownership and further incentives to deliver and meet any targets set in relation to waste management practices.
- 3.3.10. Due to the layout of the solar sites, it is anticipated that this training will be required during construction and decommissioning as this is when the most waste will be generated, with minimal wastes generated during operations requiring training to be provided only to relevant staff/contractors attending site for maintenance activities.

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