High Grove Solar

Draft Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan

April 2025

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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the report

1.1.1.1 This document provides the draft outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) for the Decommissioning of High Grove Solar (the Proposed Development). RWE Renewables UK Solar and Storage Ltd (the Applicant) has prepared this document as part of the statutory consultation process in relation to an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. It demonstrates how the mitigation measures and monitoring requirements identified in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process will be implemented during decommissioning and has been prepared with the objective of compliance with the relevant legislation.

1.1.1.2 An EIA has been undertaken for the Proposed Development and a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) has been prepared in accordance with the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 [1](the EIA Regulations). In accordance with the requirements of the EIA Regulations, the PEIR contains the assessment of the likely significant effects on the environment that may be caused during Decommissioning of the Proposed Development and describes proposed mitigation measures.

1.1.1.3 As outlined in the PEIR Chapter 2 The Proposed Development, the operational life of the Proposed Development is 40 years. Once the Proposed Development ceases to operate, it will be decommissioned. Prior to commencing decommissioning, a DEMP will be produced by the Applicant for the Proposed Development. The DEMP will be prepared in accordance with this oDEMP under a Requirement of the DCO and any relevant engagement undertaken with stakeholders.

1.1.1.4 This oDEMP provides the likely structure of the DEMP and mitigation and other controls which may be included within the DEMP as a minimum to deliver the decommissioning phase of the Proposed Development. This oDEMP also sets out the monitoring activities designed to ensure that such mitigation measures are carried out, and that they are effective.

1.1.1.5 A number of complementary management plans have also been produced which will form part of the DEMP in future to support the decommissioning of the Proposed Development and these are listed in Table 1. This document does not address operational or decommissioning activities, which are subject to separate environmental management plans and procedures as outlined in Table 1. A full list of all the management plans can be found in Volume 1, Chapter 4 Section 8 Other Supporting Studies and Management Plans.

Table 1 Decommissioning management plans to support the DCO application

Management Plan	Purpose
Outline Soil Resources Management Plan (oSRMP)	Sets out the overall approach to managing soil resources affected by the Proposed Development.
Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan (oPRoWMP)	Sets out how PRoWs would be managed to ensure they remain safe to use, and disruption to users of the PRoW is minimised.
Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP)	Sets out the management of the landscape and ecological features of the Proposed Development.

1.2 Structure of the oDEMP

1.2.1.1 The oDEMP is structured as follows:

- Introduction: this section provides an introduction and overview to this document;
- The Proposed Development: this section provides a summary of the Proposed Development, including likely decommissioning activities, programme and standard management measures;
- Project team roles and responsibilities: this section defines the roles which the Applicant will identify within the DEMP to deliver the environmental commitments and stakeholders to be engaged;
- Management and mitigation measures: this section identifies the environmental mitigation and management measures required to address the environmental effects of the works during decommissioning and how these will feed into the DEMP; and
- Maintenance and monitoring activities: this section provides procedures for monitoring and reviewing compliance with the DEMP and procedures for rectification of breaching or failings of DEMP measures.

2 The Proposed Development

2.1 Description of the Proposed Development

2.1.1.1 The Proposed Development is a renewable energy scheme, comprising five distinct Panel Areas covering an area of approximately 1,700 hectares (ha), including solar photovoltaic (PV) panels, on-site Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), underground cabling and associated infrastructure including substations and environmental mitigation and enhancement areas. The Proposed Development will also include underground Cable Corridors, which are still being refined, connecting the Panel Areas to one another and to the point of connection. The Proposed Development will have the capacity to generate over 50 Megawatts (MW) of alternating current (AC) electricity. The Proposed Development is located between Narborough and Dereham in the county of Norfolk in the East of England.

2.1.1.2 A full description of the Proposed Development and a detailed description of the design and environmental mitigation is provided in PEIR Chapter 2 The Proposed Development.

2.2 Control of Decommissioning Activities

2.2.1.1 The design life of the Proposed Development is 40 years. Decommissioning is expected to take 12-24 months and could be undertaken in phases.

2.2.1.2 The process of decommissioning would involve the removal of all solar PV modules, and the majority of on-site supporting equipment from the draft Order Limits, which would be recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and processes applicable at that time.

2.2.1.3 The 33kV and 132kV underground cables would remain in situ post decommissioning and are therefore not considered as part of the decommissioning works for the Proposed Development.

2.2.1.4 There is potential for the 132kV substations to be left on-site following decommissioning of the Proposed Development and handed over to the Distribution Network Operator. Each aspect chapter considers the worst case scenario (e.g. agricultural land and landscape assume they remain, traffic and waste assume they are decommissioned). Should this assumption change when drafting the ES, this will be assessed appropriately for the operational and decommissioning stages.

2.2.1.5 Any requirements to leave certain elements of other infrastructure, for example access tracks, would be discussed and agreed with landowners as part of the decommissioning process. As this is not confirmed at this stage, the assessment will consider these assets removed during decommissioning; if they remain, they will be considered as permanent infrastructure in the assessment reported in the ES.

2.2.1.6 Land within the Order Limits would be returned to its original use as far as practicable. Areas of established mitigation will be left in situ for the lifetime of the Proposed Development or other agreed management commitments. Ongoing negotiation with the relevant landowners would identify whether this would be removed by the Applicant during decommissioning or remain in situ, once agreed this will be considered under decommissioning works or as permanent as appropriate in the assessment.

2.2.1.7 In addition, up to 99% of materials in a solar PV module are recyclable, with organisations around the UK specialising in solar panel recycling in line with the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2013 (the WEEE Regulations).

2.2.1.8 The effects of decommissioning are similar to, or often of a lesser magnitude, than construction effects. These are considered in the relevant sections of the PEIR. However, there can be a high degree of uncertainty regarding decommissioning as engineering approaches and technologies are likely to change over the operational life of the Proposed Development. More details on the decommissioning activities and methods will be provided within the DEMP in line with relevant standards at the time, and consultation with the local planning authorities, prior to decommissioning commencing.

2.2.2 Decommissioning programme

2.2.2.1 The Proposed Development has a 40-year operational lifespan which will be secured as a Requirement of the draft DCO in which it is stated that decommissioning is to commence no later than 40 years following the date of final commissioning of the first phase of works. As such, the Proposed Development will be decommissioned after 40 years of operation.

2.2.2.2 Decommissioning is expected to take between of 12 to 24 months and could be undertaken in phases.

2.2.2.3 More details on the decommissioning phasing will be provided within the DEMP, prior to decommissioning commencing.

2.2.3 Decommissioning Hours

2.2.3.1 Decommissioning activities would take place between:

- 07.00 – 19.00 Monday to Friday,
- 07.00 – 13.00 Saturday

2.2.3.2 The following controls will also apply to the decommissioning activities:

- No works, including site deliveries and collections, will take place outside of these hours, or on Sundays or Bank/Public Holidays unless necessary and agreed with Breckland Council; and
- Employees would travel to and from site an hour on either side of these times (exceptions may be required for abnormal loads and emergency purposes).

2.2.4 Traffic management

2.2.4.1 During decommissioning, the Applicant will ensure that the impacts from decommissioning traffic on the local community (including local residents and businesses and users of the surrounding transport network) are minimised, where reasonably practicable. Requirements will be agreed with the local authority at the time of decommissioning.

2.2.5 Control of noise

2.2.5.1 Applications for Section 61 consents, variations and dispensations under the Control of Pollution Act 1974 (COPA), or equivalent process at the time if this process has been superseded, will be submitted to the relevant local planning authority for decommissioning activities.

2.2.6 Control of light

2.2.6.1 Temporary site lighting, in the form of mobile lighting towers will be required in areas where natural lighting is unable to reach (sheltered/confined areas) and during core working hours within winter months. Artificial lighting would be provided to maintain sufficient security and health and safety for the decommissioning areas, whilst adopting mitigation principles to avoid excessive glare and minimise spill of light to nearby receptors (including ecology and residential properties).

2.2.6.2 All decommissioning lighting will be deployed in accordance with the following recommendations to prevent or reduce the impact on human and ecological receptors:

- Lighting will conform to best practice guidelines with respect to minimising light spill into adjacent habitats and prevent disturbance to bats and other species during decommissioning;
- The use of lighting will be minimised to that required for safe site operations. Infrared, movement sensor security lighting would be used at night. Lighting would be available for emergencies;
- 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° from horizontal); and
- Lighting will be directed towards the middle of the decommissioning area rather than towards the boundaries.

2.2.7 Control of dust

2.2.7.1 Decommissioning impacts from dust generating activities will be minimised through the use of best practice measures, as detailed in this document and the Construction Dust Assessment to be submitted with the DCO Application. This will include following the medium-risk mitigation measures outlined in IAQM guidance 'Guidance on the assessment of dust from demolition of decommissioning' 2023.

2.2.8 Waste management

2.2.8.1 Waste from the decommissioning of the Proposed Development would be disposed of responsibly in line with the principles outlined in the Definition of Waste: Code of Practice (DoW CoP) [2]. This includes the sustainable reuse of soils, the management of extractive wastes within the Mining Waste Directive and ensuring that materials are not used in a manner that could harm human health or pollute the environment. and undertaken in alignment with the future principles of recycling available at that time.
Prior to the decommissioning works commencing requirements for the management of waste will be agreed with the relevant local planning authority.

2.2.8.2 All waste to be removed from the draft Order Limits will be undertaken by fully licensed waste carriers and taken to licensed waste facilities for recycling or disposal.

2.2.9 Site security

2.2.9.1 Site security during decommissioning will be managed by the Applicant. The site security fencing and closed circuit television (CCTV) will remain in place throughout the duration of the decommissioning period and will be the last feature to be removed from the Proposed Development. Any storage of materials would be kept secure to prevent theft of vandalism. A safe system for accessing the materials storage areas would be implemented by the Applicant.

2.2.10 Emergency preparedness

2.2.10.1 Emergency planning will be developed in consultation with the relevant local authority emergency planning officer, emergency services including the local fire service, as well as the Environment Agency in relation to responding to flood warnings and events.

2.2.10.2 The DEMP will detail the procedures for responding to incidents and emergencies on site, and any reporting.

2.2.11 Best practice measures

2.2.11.1 The Considerate Constructors Scheme (CCS) [3], or equivalent process at the time if this process has been superseded, 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 Project roles and responsibilities

3.1 Site roles and responsibilities

3.1.1.1 Key roles and responsibilities during the decommissioning phase in managing environmental impacts will likely include, but are not limited to:

- Site Manager – overall responsibility for activity onsite and will be based on-site full-time;
- Decommissioning Project Manager - overall responsibility for ensuring all elements in the DCO, DEMP and all environmental legal and other Requirements are implemented, and appropriately resourced, managed, reviewed and reported;
- Environmental 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 Environment Manager will oversee environmental monitoring on-site and carry out regular environmental site inspections, reporting and responding to any incidents or non-compliance. The Environmental 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 risks during decommissioning including for example, management of protected species, surface water management, pollution, air quality and noise;
- Ecological Clerk of Works - management of the risks to biodiversity on decommissioning sites, advising protecting valued biodiversity features and providing practical solutions;
- Flood Warden – there will be a dedicated responsibility to be prepared for, and manage, the response to flood incidents;
- Health and Safety Manager – responsible for the monitoring and controlling of health and safety compliance and related rules and regulations on-site; and
- Community Liaison Officer –A Community Liaison Officer will be appointed to lead discussions with local communities and also act as the primary point of contact should there be any queries or complaints.

3.1.1.2 These roles and responsibilities are indicative and will be confirmed in the DEMP.

3.2 Stakeholders

3.2.1.1 There are several key stakeholders who will be engaged prior to and during decommissioning of the Proposed Development. These include the following organisations (or their equivalent at the time of decommissioning):

- Norfolk County Council;
- Breckland Council;
- Environment Agency;
- National Highways;
- Historic England; and
- Natural England.

4 Management and mitigation measures

4.1.1.1 The outline mitigation and management measures to be included as a minimum within the DEMP are set out within the following tables using information presented in the PEIR and recommended as good practice environmental management for each topic included in the EIA. The measures will be secured via the DCO and will be integrated into the DEMP prior to decommissioning by the Applicant.

Table 2 Summary of mitigation and management measures for decommissioning - Agricultural land and soils

Potential impact being managed / mitigated	ID	Mitigation and/or management measure to be implemented	Source reference	Requirement for monitoring	Responsibility
Impacts upon agricultural land and soil resources	AL1 - DEMP	oSRMP to be implemented.	PEIR Chapter 5	Regularly record compliance via an appropriate method to be determined in the DEMP. The DEMP will detail the frequency.	The overall responsibility will be with the Applicant. Specific responsibilities will be confirmed in the DEMP, expected to include the Environmental Manager, Community Liaison Officer, Site Manager and Decommissioning Project Manager.
	AL2 - DEMP	Adopting and implementing good practice measures for the decommissioning stage of the Proposed Development to minimise damage to soils that remain in place and those that are stripped, stockpiled and reinstated; minimise soil carbon losses; maintain water infiltration; and enhance soil biodiversity.	PEIR Chapter 5		

Table 3 Summary of mitigation and management measure for decommissioning - Biodiversity

Potential impact being managed / mitigated	ID	Mitigation and/or management measure to be implemented	Source reference	Requirement for monitoring	Responsibility
Direct and indirect impacts upon ecological features, including disturbance and damage / loss	BD1 - DEMP	Ecological Clerk of Works to be appointed to advise on protecting valued biodiversity features and provide practical, site-specific and proportionate advice on how to achieve compliance with environmental legislation.	PEIR Chapter 6	Appropriate survey/s undertaken, and compliance with measures regularly recorded via an appropriate method to be determined in the DEMP. The DEMP will detail the frequency.	The overall responsibility will be with the Applicant. Specific responsibilities will be confirmed in the DEMP, expected to include the Ecological Clerk of Works, Environmental Manager, Site Manager and Decommissioning Project Manager.
	BD2 - DEMP	Ecological Clerk of Works to complete a pre-decommissioning survey in advance of decommissioning to reconfirm the ecological baseline conditions to identify any new ecological risk. The walkover will be completed sufficiently in advance of the decommissioning works to allow for the completion of any additional seasonal surveys (e.g., surveys in support of protected species licences) and implementation of mitigation measures.	PEIR Chapter 6		
	BD3 - DEMP	A Species Protection Plan (SPP) to be to be implemented during decommissioning of the Proposed Development with full details outlined in the DEMP. The SPP will be a live document subject to review and updating and will assist	PEIR Chapter 6		

Potential impact being managed / mitigated	ID	Mitigation and/or management measure to be implemented	Source reference	Requirement for monitoring	Responsibility
		site personnel in the protection of species during decommissioning, under the guidance of an ecological clerk of works.			
	BD4-DEMP	Decommissioning vehicles will be subject to a 10mph speed restriction.	PEIR Chapter 6		
	BD5 - DEMP	Best practice measures to be implemented to control noise, light, vibration, and airborne and waterborne pollutants, as set out in their relevant topics.	PEIR Chapter 6		
Spread of invasive non-native plant species	BD6 - DEMP	Pre-decommissioning surveys will be undertaken to provide an update on the presence and location of any invasive species.	PEIR Chapter 6		
	BD7 - DEMP	An Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) method statement will be produced if INNS are identified as present during pre-decommissioning surveys to inform the management of invasive plant species found within the draft Order Limits.	PEIR Chapter 6		
Impact upon breeding birds	BD8 - DEMP	Clearance of vegetation of potential value to nesting birds will be completed outside of the bird-breeding season (considered to be between mid-February and	PEIR Chapter 6		

Potential impact being managed / mitigated	ID	Mitigation and/or management measure to be implemented	Source reference	Requirement for monitoring	Responsibility
		August inclusive). However, should it not be possible to avoid this season, vegetation will be inspected/surveyed by the ECoW immediately before clearance (i.e., within 24 hours of clearance works). An active nest will be given an appropriate disturbance buffer for that species with work only allowed to take place within this buffer once the project ecologist has confirmed any young have fully fledged and left the nest.			
Impact upon bats	BD9 - DEMP	Protection of trees with potential roost features (PRF), which will be protected during decommissioning, development, in line with British Standard BS 5837: Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction by establishing a decommissioning Exclusion Zone (DEZ) around their Root Protection Areas (RPA).	PEIR Chapter 6		
	BD10-DEMP	There will be limited nighttime decommissioning activity. Decommissioning activities would take place between 07.00-19.00 Monday to Friday, 07.00 – 13.00	PEIR Chapter 6		

Potential impact being managed / mitigated	ID	Mitigation and/or management measure to be implemented	Source reference	Requirement for monitoring	Responsibility
		Saturday (unless necessary and agreed with Breckland Council), this will reduce impacts to foraging/commuting bats which will not be subject to lighting impacts other than for a short period potentially during spring/autumn when bat activity at dusk may overlap with end of day and start of day activities.			
Impact upon hedgerows and trees	BD11 - DEMP	Hedgerows, tree lines, ditches and trees including the tree RPA are to be protected during decommissioning through the use of suitable buffers and fencing.	PEIR Chapter 6		
	BD12 - DEMP	Any new or additional access tracks will be located to pass through existing gates and gaps in hedgerows where feasible.	PEIR Chapter 6		
Impact upon reptiles	BD13 - DEMP	Should ground clearance of habitat suitable for reptiles/amphibians be required then this should be undertaken at the right time of year to avoid the hibernation period - i.e. avoid the period: October to March. The ECoW would supervise works and relocate any	PEIR Chapter 6		

Potential impact being managed / mitigated	ID	Mitigation and/or management measure to be implemented	Source reference	Requirement for monitoring	Responsibility
		reptiles/amphibians found. If clearance of hibernacula features is necessary, then this should be done in the summer months to avoid disturbing hibernating reptiles (April to September).			
Impact upon badger, and other mobile species	BD14 - DEMP	For mobile species such as badger, pre-decommissioning surveys will be required to check the status of the setts identified and to locate any new active setts that would need to be protected. Mitigation will be design at the appropriate time using survey data and professional judgement.	PEIR Chapter 6		
	BD15 - DEMP	Any setts recorded are to be protected from direct impacts by maintaining a suitable standoff distance measured from professional judgement from existing setts and micro siting equipment if required.	PEIR Chapter 6		
	BD16 - DEMP	Any exposed trenches or holes are to be covered up when contractors are off site (i.e. at nighttime) or a slope provided to allow any trapped badgers a safe exit.	PEIR Chapter 6		
	BD17 – DEMP	Perimeter security fencing will be maintained until the end of	PEIR Chapter 6		

Potential impact being managed / mitigated	ID	Mitigation and/or management measure to be implemented	Source reference	Requirement for monitoring	Responsibility
		decommissioning. The fence design will be around individual Panel Areas, to allow the movement of large mammals such as deer through the landscape along retained hedgerow margins.			

Table 4 Summary of mitigation and management measure for decommissioning - Climate change

Potential impact being managed / mitigated	ID	Mitigation and/or management measure to be implemented	Source reference	Requirement for monitoring	Responsibility
Release of GHG emissions during decommissioning	CC1 - DEMP	Increasing recyclability by segregating decommissioning waste to be re-used and recycled where reasonably practicable.	PEIR Chapter 7	Regularly record compliance via an appropriate method to be determined in the DEMP. The DEMP will detail the frequency.	The overall responsibility will be with the Applicant. Specific responsibilities will be confirmed in the DEMP, expected to include the Environmental Manager, Flood Warden, Site Manager and Decommissioning Project Manager.
	CC2 - DEMP	Adopting the Considerate Constructors Scheme (CCS) to assist in reducing pollution, including GHGs, from the Proposed Development by employing good industry practice measures.	PEIR Chapter 7		
	CC3 - DEMP	Decommissioning the Proposed Development in such a way as to minimise the creation of waste.	PEIR Chapter 7		
	CC4 - DEMP	Reusing suitable infrastructure and resources already available in the draft Order Limits where possible to minimise the use of natural resources and unnecessary materials (e.g. reusing excavated soil for fill requirements).	PEIR Chapter 7		
	CC5 - DEMP	Encourage the use of lower carbon modes of transport, to be set out in the worker travel plan.	PEIR Chapter 7		
	CC6 - DEMP	Liaising with decommissioning personnel for the potential to implement	PEIR Chapter 7		

Potential impact being managed / mitigated	ID	Mitigation and/or management measure to be implemented	Source reference	Requirement for monitoring	Responsibility
		staff minibuses and car sharing options.			
	CC7 - DEMP	Implementing a Travel Plan to reduce the volume of decommissioning staff and employee trips to the Proposed Development	PEIR Chapter 7		
	CC8 - DEMP	Switching vehicles and plant off when not in use and ensuring decommissioning vehicles conform to current EU emissions standards.	PEIR Chapter 7		
Impact of climate change on decommissioning works	CC10 - DEMP	The Applicant will monitor weather forecasts and plan works accordingly, protecting workers and resources from any extreme weather conditions.	PEIR Chapter 7		
	CC11 - DEMP	Using equipment's cooling systems where necessary/adapting working practices and equipment used based on current weather conditions.	PEIR Chapter 7		
	CC12 - DEMP	Monitoring weather forecasts and the news for Environment Agency flood warnings, relevant weather warnings, and water levels of the local waterways.	PEIR Chapter 7		
	CC13 - DEMP	Protecting workers and resources from extreme weather conditions.	PEIR Chapter 7		

Table 5 Summary of mitigation and management measure for decommissioning - Cultural heritage and archaeology

Potential impact being managed / mitigated	ID	Mitigation and/or management measure to be implemented	Source reference	Requirement for monitoring	Responsibility
Impact on archaeological sensitivity	CH1 - DEMP	Removal of panels and infrastructure in areas of archaeological sensitivity should not result in additional impact.	PEIR Chapter 8	Regularly record compliance via an appropriate method to be determined in the DEMP. The DEMP will detail the frequency.	The overall responsibility will be with the PC. Specific responsibilities will be confirmed in the DEMP
Impact upon known and unknown archaeological remains	CH2 - DEMP	Toolbox talks to inform site contractors of these measures and the procedure to follow in case of archaeological remains being exposed will also be produced and distributed.	PEIR Chapter 8		

Table 6 Summary of mitigation and management measures for decommissioning – Glint and Glare

Potential impact being managed / mitigated	ID	Mitigation and/or management measure to be implemented	Source reference	Requirement for monitoring	Responsibility
Glint and glare effects from decommissioning	GG1 - DEMP	Remove panels and frames in small sections to avoid leaving exposed metal to cause glint and glare impacts by reflection of light.	PEIR Chapter 9	Regularly record compliance via an appropriate method to be determined in the DEMP. The DEMP will detail the frequency.	The overall responsibility will be with the PC. Specific responsibilities will be confirmed in the DEMP

Table 7 Summary of mitigation and management measure for decommissioning - Landscape and visual

Potential impact being managed / mitigated	ID	Mitigation and/or management measure to be implemented	Source reference	Requirement for monitoring	Responsibility
Visual disruption caused by decommissioning activities.	LV1 - DEMP	Minimising the duration and footprint of decommissioning activity where reasonably practicable.	PEIR Chapter 10	Appropriate survey/s undertaken, and compliance with measures regularly recorded via an appropriate method to be determined in the DEMP. The DEMP will detail the frequency.	The overall responsibility will be with the Applicant. Specific responsibilities will be confirmed in the DEMP, expected to include the Ecological Clerk of Works, Environmental Manager, Site Manager and Decommissioning Project Manager.
	LV2 - DEMP	Maintaining well-managed and tidy decommissioning working areas and site compounds to reduce their visual impact and appearance in the landscape.	PEIR Chapter 10		
	LV3 - DEMP	Keeping decommissioning lighting to the minimum luminosity necessary for safe working within decommissioning compounds and working areas and where possible, fitting it with motion sensors to reduce the duration of potential light spill in night-time views.	PEIR Chapter 10		

Table 8 Summary of mitigation and management measure for decommissioning - Noise and vibration

Potential impact being managed / mitigated	ID	Mitigation and/or management measure to be implemented	Source reference	Requirement for monitoring	Responsibility
Decommissioning traffic noise and vibration	NV1 - DEMP	Routing for HGVs through local villages will be minimised as reasonably practicable.	PEIR Chapter 11	If a decommissioning noise monitoring scheme is determined to be required, it would be developed and agreed with appropriate stakeholders and set out in the DEMP. Compliance with all measures regularly recorded via an appropriate method to be determined in the DEMP. The DEMP will detail the frequency.	The overall responsibility will be with the PC. Specific responsibilities will be confirmed in the DEMP, expected to include the Environmental Manager, Health and safety Manager, Community Liaison Office, Site Manager and Decommissioning Project Manager.
Noise and vibration from decommissioning site activities	NV2 - DEMP	An appropriate buffer of at least 10m will be maintained between properties and decommissioning works which have the potential to generate vibration [and lighting].	PEIR Chapter 11		
	NV3 - DEMP	Measures to control noise as defined in Annex B of BS 5228:2009+A1:2014 'Code of practice for noise and vibration control on construction and open sites - Part 1: Noise' [4] and measures to control vibration as defined in Section 8 of BS 5228:2009+A1:2014 'Part 2: Vibration' [5] will be adopted where reasonably practicable. These measures represent 'BPM' (as defined by section 72 of the Control of Pollution Act 1974 [6]) to manage noise and vibration emissions from construction activities and are considered relevant to decommissioning.	PEIR Chapter 11		

Potential impact being managed / mitigated	ID	Mitigation and/or management measure to be implemented	Source reference	Requirement for monitoring	Responsibility
	NV4 - DEMP	The Applicant will organise and undertake decommissioning activities on site in a manner which demonstrates that BPM to control noise and vibration during activities is being adopted at all times. In particular the Applicant is expected to meet the requirements of BS5288, 'Code of practice for noise and vibration control on construction and open sites.' Notwithstanding this general requirement and the other provisions set out in this report, the Applicant will specifically be required to: • Maintain all equipment in good working condition and take care that all mufflers or other noise dampening features are correctly fitted and maintained. • Staff will be trained in the correct use of equipment to ensure, inter alia, that it is only used for the purpose for which it has been designed. • Assessments will be made at the decommissioning Site boundary to ascertain impact of noise / vibration on local	PEIR Chapter 11		

Potential impact being managed / mitigated	ID	Mitigation and/or management measure to be implemented	Source reference	Requirement for monitoring	Responsibility
		residents during these periods of work; if deemed above acceptable levels, liaison with the Applicant and adjoining properties will be undertaken to agree any further mitigation measures.			

Table 9 Summary of mitigation and management measure for decommissioning - Socio-economics

Potential impact being managed / mitigated	ID	Mitigation and/or management measure to be implemented	Source reference	Requirement for monitoring	Responsibility
Impacts to local residents, businesses and community facilities	SE1 - DEMP	Explore employment and supply chain opportunities throughout the decommissioning period.	PEIR Chapter 12	Regularly record compliance via an appropriate method to be determined in the DEMP. The DEMP will detail the frequency.	The overall responsibility will be with the PC. Specific responsibilities will be confirmed in the DEMP, expected to include the Environmental Manager, Community Liaison Officer, Site Manager and Decommissioning Project Manager.
	SE2 - DEMP	An updated PRoW Management Plan will be prepared and agreed with the relevant LPA prior to the decommissioning phase to maintain provision of diverted PRoW routes.	PEIR Chapter 12		

Table 10 Summary of mitigation and management measures for decommissioning – Traffic and Transport

Potential impact being managed / mitigated	ID	Mitigation and/or management measure to be implemented	Source reference	Requirement for monitoring	Responsibility
Impacts from decommissioning traffic and transport	TT1 - DEMP	Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) will be required to follow prescribed decommissioning	PEIR Chapter 13	Appropriate traffic monitoring requirements to be	The overall responsibility will be with the PC. Specific responsibilities

Potential impact being managed / mitigated	ID	Mitigation and/or management measure to be implemented	Source reference	Requirement for monitoring	Responsibility
		traffic routes between the Strategic Road Network and the Access Points. These routes will be identified based on their suitability to cater for HGVs, avoiding sensitive receptors as far as reasonably practicable.		agreed with relevant stakeholders and set out in the DEMP. Compliance with all measures regularly recorded via an appropriate method to be determined in the DEMP. The DEMP will detail the frequency.	will be confirmed in the DEMP, expected to include the Environmental Manager, Community Liaison Officer, Site Manager and Decommissioning Project Manager.
	TT2 - DEMP	Where required to mitigate potentially significant effects, site management may be required to schedule the arrival and departure times of deliveries to minimise the number of HGVs travelling to the Panel Areas during the net-work peak hours on decommissioning traffic routes.	PEIR Chapter 13		
	TT3 - DEMP	Temporary Traffic Management will be used along decommissioning routes and at access points where required	PEIR Chapter 13		
	TT4 - DEMP	Passing places or localised widening on the highway will be undertaken where required	PEIR Chapter 13		
	TT5 - DEMP	Car sharing/minibuses to minimise trips on the network associated with decommissioning.	PEIR Chapter 13		

Table 11 Summary of mitigation and management measure for decommissioning - Water Resources and Flood Risk

Potential impact being managed / mitigated	ID	Mitigation and/or management measure to be implemented	Source reference	Requirement for monitoring	Responsibility
Impact upon water resources and flood risk	WFR1 – DEMP	Implementation of measures outlined in FRA and Drainage Strategy.	PEIR Chapter 14	Appropriate water quality monitoring requirements to be agreed with relevant stakeholders and set out in the DEMP. Compliance with all measures regularly recorded via an appropriate method to be determined in the DEMP. The DEMP will detail the frequency.	The overall responsibility will be with the PC. Specific responsibilities will be confirmed in the DEMP, expected to include the Environmental Manager, Flood Warden, Site Manager and Decommissioning Project Manager.
Impact upon water quality through erosion	WFR2 – DEMP	Up to date requirements set out in pollution prevention guidance (and any other relevant guidance available at the time of decommissioning) will be provided in the DEMP.	PEIR Chapter 14		
	WFR3 - DEMP	Sediment control measures (silt fences, settlement/attenuation ponds etc.) would be used in the vicinity of watercourses, springs or drains where natural features (e.g. hollows) do not provide adequate protection.	PEIR Chapter 14		
	WFR4 - DEMP	Trenching or excavation activities in open land would cease during periods of intense rainfall and temporary bunding would be provided as required, to reduce the risk of sediment transport to the natural drainage system.	PEIR Chapter 14		
	WFR5 - DEMP	Permanent relocation or longer-term storage of soils would be re-instated with vegetation as soon as practicable.	PEIR Chapter 14		

Potential impact being managed / mitigated	ID	Mitigation and/or management measure to be implemented	Source reference	Requirement for monitoring	Responsibility
	WFR6 - DEMP	The movement of decommissioning traffic would be controlled to minimise soil compaction and disturbance.	PEIR Chapter 14		
	WFR7 - DEMP	Wheel washing would be undertaken in designated areas only and sediment control measures would be used to ensure runoff from these areas would not enter directly into water courses.	PEIR Chapter 14		
	WFR8 – DEMP	No decommissioning activities will take place within the watercourse buffer zone, excluding works to remove any watercourse crossings.	PEIR Chapter 14		
Impact upon water quality through pollution	WFR9 – DEMP	Equipment would be provided to contain and clean up any spills to minimise the risk of pollutants entering the watercourses or surface water features.	PEIR Chapter 14		
	WFR10 – DEMP	Excavation activities in open land would cease during periods of intense rainfall.	PEIR Chapter 14		
	WFR11 – DEMP	Refuelling of vehicles and plant machinery (if required) would be confined to the designated fuelling areas and would be carefully controlled and placed away from areas with high groundwater	PEIR Chapter 14		

Potential impact being managed / mitigated	ID	Mitigation and/or management measure to be implemented	Source reference	Requirement for monitoring	Responsibility
		dependency and outside watercourse buffers.			
	WFR12 – DEMP	Vehicles, plant machinery and equipment would be cleaned at designated washout areas located conveniently and within a controlled area of the Proposed Development.	PEIR Chapter 14		
	WFR13 – DEMP	All fuel and chemicals would be stored within appropriately specified containers and within specifically designed stores / storage areas and would include appropriate measures to avoid spillages in line with the relevant legislation.	PEIR Chapter 14		
	WFR14 – DEMP	Drip trays would be placed under standing machinery. All solid and liquid waste materials would be properly disposed of in controlled landfill sites away from the site.	PEIR Chapter 14		
	WFR15 - DEMP	Routine mechanical maintenance of vehicles would be carried out off-site or in a suitable designated area of the Proposed Development.	PEIR Chapter 14		
	WFR16 - DEMP	There would be no unapproved discharge of foul or contaminated drainage from the draft Order Limits	PEIR Chapter 14		

Potential impact being managed / mitigated	ID	Mitigation and/or management measure to be implemented	Source reference	Requirement for monitoring	Responsibility
		either to groundwater or any surface waters, whether direct or via soakaway.			
	WFR19 - DEMP	Minimum offset of 9m from bank top of all riparian boundaries and watercourses.	PEIR Chapter 14		
	WFR20 - DEMP	Suitable standoff from springs and existing abstractions (standoff will be dependent on decommissioning activities, local conditions and receptors to prevent derogation).	PEIR Chapter 14		
Increased flood risk	WFR22 - DEMP	Temporary land take areas (decommissioning compound with car parking, temporary storage area, temporary laydown areas, welfare facilities etc.) within the draft Order Limits will be fully reinstated following decommissioning to reduce areas of semi-impermeable surfaces. Temporary land take areas will be cleared of hardcore, re-graded with soil to a natural profile and re-vegetated.	PEIR Chapter 14		
	WFR23- DEMP	SuDS will be provided at source, ensuring that surface water run-off is managed consistently with existing site conditions.	PEIR Chapter 14		

5 Implementation

5.1.1.1 The DEMP will set out all roles, responsibilities and actions required in respect of implementation of the measures described in this oDEMP, including:

- An organogram showing team roles, names and responsibilities;
- Training requirements for relevant personnel on environmental topics;
- Information on-site briefings and toolbox talks that will be used to equip relevant staff with the necessary level of knowledge to follow environmental control procedures;
- Measures to advise employees of changing circumstances as work progresses;
- Communication Strategy;
- Procedures for monitoring, inspections and reporting of site operations;
- Document control; and
- Environmental emergency procedures.

6 Maintenance and monitoring activities

6.1 Monitoring

6.1.1.1 To meet the requirement of the DEMP, environmental monitoring of the Proposed Development and its impacts will be undertaken throughout the decommissioning phase.

6.1.1.2 As part of the monitoring process the Applicant will allocate a designated Environmental Manager(s), who will be present throughout the decommissioning phase and when new activities are commencing. The Environmental Manager will observe decommissioning activities and report any deviations from the DEMP, along with the action taken and general conditions at the time.

6.1.1.3 The Applicant will be informed of any deviations from the DEMP as soon as possible following identification of such issues, and if required further follow up will be sought. The Environmental Manager will also act as day-to-day contact with relevant local authorities and other regulatory agencies such as the Environment Agency.

6.1.1.4 During decommissioning, the Environmental Manager will conduct regular walkover surveys to ensure all requirements of the DEMP are being met. Action from these surveys will be documented on an Environmental Action Schedule, discussed with the Site Manager for programming requirements and issued weekly for actioning.

6.1.1.5 The Environmental Manager / Project Manager will arrange regular formal inspections to ensure the requirements of the DEMP are being met. After completion of the works, the Environmental Manager will conduct a final review.

6.2 Records

6.2.1.1 Records will be managed through the Quality and Safety Management Systems (QMS) and the Environmental Management System (EMS) of the Applicant which will be certified in line with the ISO 14001 standards.

6.2.1.2 The system would include methods for monitoring, recording, and implementing environmental management on site, and for responding to any noted areas of non-compliance. This will ensure that a high standard of environmental control is maintained through the lifetime of the Proposed Development through the corrective action system managed by the Applicant.

6.2.1.3 The Applicant will ensure there is a central filing system in place for any checklists, reports and monitoring consistent with the Project QMS and EMS. Records of

compliance with the requirements of the DEMP, derived from audits and other inspection by representatives of any internal or external audit teams.

6.2.1.4 Records will include:

- Results of routine site inspections;
- Environmental surveys and investigations;
- Environmental Action Schedule;
- Environmental equipment test records;
- Licences and approvals; and
- Corrective actions taken in response to incidents, breaches of the approved DEMP or complaints received from a third party.

6.2.1.5 The DEMP 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 planning authority.

References

[1] HM Government, “Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017,” 16 May 2017. [Online]. Available: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/577145/Infrastructure_regs_for_consultation.pdf. [Accessed 08 April 2025].

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[6] UK Public General Acts, “Control of Pollution Act,” 1974. [Online]. Available: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1974/40/section/72. [Accessed December 2024].

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