



# EAST PARK ENERGY

**East Park Energy**

EN010141

## **Preliminary Environmental Information Report Volume 2 – Technical Appendices**

Appendix 2-2: Outline Landscape and Ecological  
Management Plan

**September 2024**

Version 01

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## **Preliminary Environmental Information Report Volume 2 – Technical Appendices**

### **Appendix 2-2: Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan**

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## 1.0 Introduction

### 1.1 Purpose of the Document

- 1.1.1 This draft of the outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP) has been prepared for the Construction, Operational and Decommissioning Phases of the East Park Energy project (hereafter referred to as 'the Scheme').
- 1.1.2 The Scheme is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and therefore BSSL Cambsbed 1 Ltd ('the Applicant') is applying for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to construct, operate and ultimately decommission the Scheme. The Scheme is considered to be 'EIA development' as defined by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the 'EIA Regulations')<sup>1</sup>, requiring an Environmental Impact Assessment ('EIA').
- 1.1.3 The purpose of this oLEMP is to set out the objectives for the existing and proposed landscape elements at the Site, along with management prescriptions to ensure the successful establishment and future maintenance of the Scheme.
- 1.1.4 A description of the Scheme is provided in **PEIR Volume 1 Chapter 2**, with supporting drawings provided in **PEIR Volume 3**. This oLEMP is specifically concerned with **PEIR Volume 3 Figure 2-2** Illustrative Environmental Masterplan which presents an illustrative design of the Scheme based on the Work Plans (**PEIR Volume 3 Figure 2-1**) and design parameters (**PEIR Volume 1 Chapter 2**). The Illustrative Environmental Masterplan shows the likely location and extent of the landscape and ecological proposals.
- 1.1.5 If the DCO is granted, this oLEMP will be developed into a detailed Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) once a contractor is appointed. The LEMP will be in substantial accordance with this oLEMP, and will be a

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requirement of the DCO for submission and approval by the Local Planning Authorities (LPA) prior to construction.

## 1.2 Document Structure

1.2.1 The oLEMP is structured as follows:

- **Introduction** – provides an introduction to the documents and sets out the structure of the oLEMP;
- **Scheme Description** – provides a summary of the Site and Site Context, a description of the Scheme, and sets out a summary of the landscape and ecological features of the Site;
- **Design Approach** – provides a summary of the design approach and the objectives of the Scheme mitigation;
- **Roles and Responsibilities** – sets out the roles and responsibilities that will need to be defined, and identifies stakeholders relevant to the landscape and ecological management of the Scheme;
- **Implementation** – sets out the actions that will be taken to implement the landscape and ecological proposals during the Construction Phase;
- **Management** – sets out objectives for the landscape elements and provides management and maintenance prescriptions for their successful establishment during the Operational Phase;
- **Decommissioning** – sets out the measures which will be undertaken during the Decommissioning Phase; and
- **Monitoring** - sets out the procedures for monitoring and ensuring compliance with the LEMP, as well as requirements for record keeping.

## 1.3 Associated Documents

1.3.1 This document provides specific management prescriptions in relation to the landscape elements and ecological enhancements of the Scheme. General environmental mitigation and management measures can be found in the following associated documents:

- 
- **Construction Phase** – outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP), *PEIR Volume 2 Appendix X-X*;
  - **Operational Phase** – outline Operational Environmental Management Plan (oOEMP), *PEIR Volume 2 Appendix X-X*; and
  - **Decommissioning Phase** – outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP), *PEIR Volume 2 Appendix X-X*.

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## 2.0 Scheme Description

### 2.1 The Scheme

- 2.1.1 The Scheme comprises a new ground-mounted solar photovoltaic energy generating station and an associated on-site BESS on land to the north-west of St Neots. The Scheme also includes the associated infrastructure for connection to the national grid at the Eaton Socon National Grid Substation. The Scheme is located in the East of England.
- 2.1.2 The Scheme would allow for the generation and export of 400 megawatts (MW) of renewable electricity to the National Grid, as well as the storage of up to 100 MW of electricity in the BESS.
- 2.1.3 A more detailed description of the Scheme is provided within ***PEIR Volume 1 Chapter 2***.

### 2.2 The Site

- 2.2.1 The Site is located to the north-west of the town of St Neots, and is across two administrative areas; Bedford Borough Council and Huntingdonshire District Council. The site location is shown on ***PEIR Volume 3 Figure 1-1***.
- 2.2.2 The Site area extends to approximately 769 hectares (ha) and is hereafter referred to as the 'Scheme Boundary'. The Scheme Boundary includes all land for the solar development, battery energy storage system (BESS), landscaping, cabling, access and grid connection.
- 2.2.3 With reference to ***PEIR Volume 3 Figure 1-2***, for ease of reference the Scheme Boundary has been sub-divided into East Park Sites A to D, in which all of the above ground infrastructure proposed as part of the operational Scheme would be located. The Scheme Boundary also covers land outside of East Park Sites A to D which will be required for access, cabling, and the grid connection to the Eaton Socon Substation. East Park Sites A to D can be described as follows:



- **East Park Site A** – covering land west of the B660 between Pertenhall and Swineshead at the western end of the Site. East Park Site A comprises arable fields located to the north, west and east side of a small hill that lies between Pertenhall and Riseley. East Park Site A lies either side of the Pertenhall Brook, with access proposed from the B660 to the east.
- **East Park Site B** – covering land between Pertenhall, Keysoe, and Little Staughton. East Park Site B comprises arable fields located north of an elevated ridgeline which runs between Keysoe and Little Staughton. East Park Site B is crossed by a number of small watercourses, with access proposed from the B660, Great Staughton Road, Little Staughton Road, and an unnamed road between Little Staughton and Great Staughton Road.
- **East Park Site C** – covering land south of Great Staughton. East Park Site C comprises arable fields located south of the River Kym, with access proposed from Moor Road to its south-eastern boundary.
- **East Park Site D** – covering land around Pastures Farm between Great Staughton and Hail Weston. East Park Site D comprises arable fields with access proposed via a new access from the B645.

2.2.4 With reference to **PEIR Volume 3 Figure 1-2**, there are three linear corridors proposed for underground cabling that connect the different parts of the Site and provide a grid connection to the Eaton Socon Substation. These are also shown on Figure 1-2 and identified as:

- **Cable Corridor – Site B to Site C** – which connects Site B to Site C across an unnamed road and arable fields.
- **Cable Corridor – Site C to Site D** – which connects Site C to Site D across Moor Road and arable fields.
- **Cable Corridor – Site D to Eaton Socon Substation** – which connects Site D to the Eaton Socon Substation and crosses open arable fields, the Duloe Brook, and Duloe Road and Bushmead Road.

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## 2.3 Site Context

- 2.3.1 Settlement surrounding the Scheme Boundary comprises a number of villages, including Pertenhall and Great Staughton to the north, Little Staughton and Keysoe to the south, Swineshead to the west, and Hail Weston to the east.
- 2.3.2 Neither the Scheme Boundary nor the immediate surrounding area is covered by any statutory landscape designations, e.g. National Parks or National Landscapes. The closest statutory landscape designation to the Scheme Boundary is the Chilterns National Landscape located approximately 30 km to the south. The Scheme Boundary is also not within any locally designated (non-statutory) landscapes.
- 2.3.3 There are no statutory nature conservation designations within the Scheme Boundary. The closest is the Swineshead Wood Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) located circa 950 m west of the Site. Perry Woods SSSI is located circa 1.8 km north of the Scheme Boundary and Grafham Water SSSI is located circa 2.8 km north. The closest 'European site' (Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area) is over 10 km from the Scheme Boundary, to the north-west.
- 2.3.4 There are currently no statutory designated heritage assets within the Site. However, there are a number of listed buildings located within the vicinity of the Site, in and around the settlements of Pertenhall, Keysoe, Swineshead, Little Staughton and Great Staughton. This includes the Grade I listed Church of St Peter in Pertenhall; the Grade I listed Church of St Mary the Virgin in Keysoe; the Grade I listed Church of All Saints to the east of Little Staughton; and the Grade I listed Church of St Andrew at Great Staughton. There are two Scheduled Monuments adjacent to the southern boundary of East Park Site C (two bowl barrows, 900 m and 1,000 m east of Old Manor Farm). A Roman Site, Rushey Farm Scheduled Monument is located circa 130 m south of the East Park Site C boundary, and 'Old Manor House' Scheduled Monument is located circa 770 m west of the East Park Site C boundary.

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- 2.3.5 Archaeological investigation undertaken as part of the environmental assessment of the Scheme has discovered a probable site of a Roman Town in Site C. This archaeological feature is likely to be of national importance and through engagement with Historic England it has been agreed that the feature will be treated as if it is equivalent to a Scheduled Monument during the EIA process. Recognising the potential significance of the archaeology, and seeking to protect it in the future, the Applicant has made a decision to apply to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (via Historic England) to designate the area as a Scheduled Monument. This application is in process and may or may not be accepted and the heritage asset designated by the time of Statutory Consultation. The proposed Scheduled area is shown on Figure 1-3.
- 2.3.6 The Site is not covered by any conservation areas, with the closest being the Great Staughton Conservation Area, located circa 200 m north of East Park Site C; Swineshead Conservation Area, located circa 750 m west of East Park Site A; and Riseley Conservation Area, located circa 1.2 km south-west of East Park Site A.
- 2.3.7 The Site is located predominantly within Flood Zone 1, with areas of Flood Zone 2 and 3 associated with Pertenhall Brook to the west and with River Kym to east.
- 2.3.8 The Site is crossed by a number of existing utilities including high pressure gas mains and overhead electricity lines, the required easements of which would be excluded from the solar development area. Cabling across these areas would be in accordance with all required standards.

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## 2.4 Landscape Context

### Landscape Designations

2.4.1 The Site is not covered by any landscape designations at a national or local level, and there are therefore no existing management plans for the Site with regards landscape conservation and protection.

### Landscape Character

2.4.2 The Site is covered by the Bedford Borough Landscape Character Assessment 2020<sup>2</sup> and the Huntingdonshire Landscape and Townscape Supplementary Planning Document 2022<sup>3</sup>. These published landscape studies define the following landscape character areas (LCAs) which cover the Site:

- Bedford LCA 1B Riseley Clay Farmland;
- Bedford LCA 1D Thurleigh Clay Farmland; and
- Huntingdonshire – Southern Wolds LCA.

2.4.3 The key characteristics, landscape and visual sensitivities, and landscape/development strategy guidelines for these LCAs have been reviewed and are set out in full in **PEIR Volume 1 Chapter 5** and **PEIR Volume 2 Appendix 5-3** and are not summarised again here.

## 2.5 Green Infrastructure

2.5.1 Green Infrastructure is defined locally as:

*“A strategically planned and managed network of green spaces, access routes, wildlife habitats, landscapes and historic features which meet the needs of existing and new communities by providing:*

- *an essential environmental foundation and support system;*
- *a healthy and diverse environment;*

- *attractive places to live and visit and a good quality of life; and*
- *a sustainable future”*

2.5.2 The local authorities have prepared green infrastructure plans or strategies for their administrative areas that seek to protect and enhance green infrastructure. The following plans have been prepared:

- Bedford Green Infrastructure Plan 2009<sup>4</sup>; and
- Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy 2011<sup>5</sup>.

2.5.3 These plans have been reviewed in so far as they relate to the Site and are summarised in the following sections.

### **Bedford Green Infrastructure Plan 2009**

2.5.4 The Site is not located within or adjacent to any of the Green Infrastructure Opportunity Zones identified in the Bedford Green Infrastructure Plan 2009.

2.5.5 The document does however identify green infrastructure opportunities in relation to the Landscape Character Areas identified at the local (Borough) level. Of most relevance are those which relate to LCA 1B Riseley Clay Farmland in which East Park Site A and B are located. The Scheme Boundary also encompasses part of LCA 1D Thurleigh Clay Farmland, however as only temporary works are proposed in this area there is limited opportunity for the provision or management of green infrastructure as part of the Scheme.

2.5.6 For LCA 1B Riseley Clay Farmland the Bedford Green Infrastructure Plan notes the following:

*Key features include the scattered woodland, good areas of neutral grassland and the Parkland at Melchbourne. GI would provide alternative assets for the growing population at Rushden. This area has been identified as a secondary area of search, but this is an area valued for its rural quality and tranquillity*

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*Green Infrastructure opportunities include:*

- *Woodland management and expansion;*
- *Restoration of pasture e.g. in corridor of River Til; and*
- *Enhancement and linkage of Green Lanes.*

2.5.7 The overall 'Priority Landscape Projects' are then identified as:

- **“Woodland creation** – spinneys, larger woods , linking hedgerows;
- **Wildflower grassland recreation** e.g. to enhance watercourses, field margins and amenity of rights of way;
- **Green and quiet lane complex** – Keysoe - Honeydon – Colmworth; and
- **Farmland habitats:** field margins, ponds, hedgerows and feature trees.”

2.5.8 The Illustrative Environmental Masterplan at PEIR Volume 3 Figure 2-2 demonstrates how the above opportunities have been embedded into the layout and design of the Scheme. Specifically the following design and mitigation measures provide support:

- Retention of existing woodland, hedgerows, individual trees, ditches and watercourses across the Site as far as practicable;
- Proposed hedgerows with trees for landscape integration, visual screening and habitat connectivity. In parts of the Site these have been provided to restore historic field boundaries;
- Creation of 'Green Lanes' through the Site where public rights of way are set within open 20m wide corridors bounded by hedgerows and woodland blocks for visual screening, landscape integration and habitat connectivity purposes;
- Enhancement of waterside meadows along the Pertenhall Brook and a brook through Site B by creating riparian woodland blocks, meadows, hedgerows and intermittent riparian tree groups for ecosystem benefits, habitat connectivity, and to reduce visual impact on public rights of way alongside watercourses; and

- Creation of species-diverse grassland meadows and corridors as buffers to existing landscape elements (such as hedgerows and woodland), as buffers to residential properties, and for ecological mitigation and benefits.

2.5.9 The Bedford Green Infrastructure Plan also identified potential opportunities in relation to the historic environment, biodiversity, and access. None of these opportunities relate specifically to the Site.

### Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy 2011

2.5.10 The Site is not located within any of the ‘Strategic Areas’ for green infrastructure identified in the Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy 2011.

2.5.11 The document is structured around the Strategic Areas, identifying both Target Areas and Projects within each Strategic Area. The closest Strategic Area is *Strategic Area 3: Great Ouse* which covers the Ouse Valley, Ouse Washes and the Old West River. The towns of St Neots and Huntingdon each fall within the Strategic Area.

2.5.12 Whilst the Site is not within the Strategic Area it has the potential to contribute to some of the identified opportunities for the nearby Grafham Water Target Area, including:

- **“Climate Change:** *the Grafham Water area sits on a clay plateau above Huntingdon and Kimbolton with the majority of the land being arable agriculture which drains very quickly causing flooding, particularly in Kimbolton. Increasing the area of woodland will slow the storm water surge that occurs in this area.”*

2.5.13 The Scheme has incorporated wetland meadows and woodlands alongside main watercourses within the Site, whilst establishing broad areas of grassland instead of arable habitats will help manage run-off. Collectively these measures should contribute to slowing any storm water surges.

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2.5.14 There are no other specific green infrastructure opportunities that the Scheme supports within the area.

## 2.6 Ecological Context

### Ecological Designations

2.6.1 The Site is not covered by any statutory designated sites for nature conservation, the closest being Swineshead Wood Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), located approximately 925m north-west of East Park Site A.

2.6.2 The Site is also not covered by any non-statutory designated sites for nature conservation, however there are two County Wildlife Sites (CWS) that are adjacent to the Scheme boundary as follows:

- Kangaroo Meadow CWS – adjacent to the northern boundary of East Park Site B; and
- Huntingdon Wood CWS – adjacent to the Grid Connection between Site D and the Eaton Socon Substation.

2.6.3 The non-statutory designated sites for nature conservation are shown on **PEIR Volume 3 Figure 7-2**.

2.6.4 Kangaroo Meadow CWS is a small triangular area of unimproved neutral grassland which can be inundated in winter.

2.6.5 Huntingdon Wood CWS is a woodland listed in the Cambridgeshire Inventory of Ancient Woodland which retains more than 25% semi-natural cover.

### Ecological Habitats

2.6.6 Priority habitats recorded within the Site through the desk-based review and extended habitat surveys include hedgerows, deciduous woodland and ponds.



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### **East Park Site A**

- 2.6.7 East Park Site A, west of B660 Kimbolton Road and B660 Pertenhall Road, predominantly consists of large arable fields planted with cereal crops at the time of survey. Fields are typically bounded by species-poor hedgerows dominated by hawthorn and blackthorn, but also variously including field maple, ash, oak, dog rose, sycamore, hazel.
- 2.6.8 Within the north of East Park Site A lies the Pertenhall Brook, while more natural at the western extent, the watercourse becomes more open and heavily modified towards the east of East Park Site A, including the straightening and deepening of the channel. At the western extent and along the southern bank in particular are mature tree lines of ash and willow, with unmanaged grassland in more open areas towards the east of the Site.
- 2.6.9 Habitats immediately beyond the East Park Site A boundary include further arable fields, blocks of plantation broadleaved woodland, as well as the existing Manor Farm solar array.

### **East Park Site B**

- 2.6.10 East Park Site B, east of B660 Pertenhall Road, similarly comprises agricultural habitats consisting of cereal crops and non-cereal (legume) crops. Fields typically have modified grassland margins consisting of common species typical of agricultural landscapes.
- 2.6.11 Fields are bounded by hedgerows, typically species-poor and dominated by hawthorn and blackthorn but variously also containing oak, ash, willow, elder and sycamore. Ditches are also present, as well as some small streams that are tributaries of the Pertenhall Brook.
- 2.6.12 A few small areas of broadleaved woodland are located within the Site.
- 2.6.13 Habitats immediately beyond the East Park Site B boundary include further arable fields, with the village of Little Staughton to the South.

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### **East Park Site C**

- 2.6.14 East Park Site C surrounding New Wood consists predominantly of arable fields bounded by ditches and with modified grassland margins.
- 2.6.15 New Wood is located centrally in the parcel, which is an oak dominated woodland with evidence of use for gamebird rearing.
- 2.6.16 The River Kym bounds Site C to the north, a river approximately 5m wide and with banks modified by reprofiling. The river is lined with trees including ash and willow and grassland bank tops.
- 2.6.17 Habitats immediately beyond the East Park Site C boundary include further arable fields, with the village of Staughton Highway to the north.

### **East Park Site D**

- 2.6.18 East Park Site D comprises predominantly arable fields with small blocks of woodland and scrub on the western boundary, as well as recent hedgerow planting. Field boundaries are less well established in this Site.
- 2.6.19 Habitats immediately beyond the East Park Site D boundary include further arable fields.

### **Cable Corridors**

- 2.6.20 Cable routes located between East Park Site B and Site C, between Site C and Site D and between Site D and the Eaton Socon Substation are located predominantly within arable fields bounded by hedgerows. Between East Park Site D and the Eaton Socon Substation, the route crosses the South Brook and Duloe Brook. The Site also encompasses land surrounding the Eaton Socon Substation. Cable routes have not yet been surveyed in detail.
- 2.6.21 Habitats adjacent to the cable route consist predominantly of further arable land, but also includes Huntingdon Wood (ancient woodland).

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## Protected and Notable Species

2.6.22 The Site supports a range of species that have been identified during field surveys. Full detail of the surveys and species identified is set out within **PEIR Volume 1 Chapter 7** and the supporting Appendices in **PEIR Volume 2 Appendix 7-1 to 7-5**.

2.6.23 The following ecological receptors have been identified within the Site:

- **Breeding Birds** – habitats within the Site are suitable to support a range of widespread breeding birds, including ground nesting species within more open arable land and a wide range of species typical of lowland arable landscapes (e.g., passerines, corvids, owls, raptors) within boundary woodlands, hedgerows and trees;
- **Non-Breeding Birds** – habitats within the Site are suitable to support a range of non-breeding bird species, including gulls, waders and other waterbirds, as well as notable species including passerine flocks and raptor. Typically only small numbers were recorded regularly within the Site;
- **Bats** – habitats within the Site such as trees have the potential to support bat roosts, whilst for foraging and commuting bats the linear habitat features within and around the Site such as tree lines, hedgerows, field margins, ditches, woodland edges and watercourses are considered to offer the most favourable habitats, particularly the Pertenhall Brook and the River Kym;
- **Amphibians** – habitats within the Site include three ponds that have the potential to support amphibians, as well as suitable terrestrial habitat particularly along field margins and hedgerow bases;
- **Reptiles** – habitats within the Site are predominantly sub-optimal for reptiles, comprising predominantly arable land, however discrete areas of the Site, including field margins and hedgerow bases, offer more suitable habitat;

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- **Badgers** – habitats within the Site are suitable to support badgers, and several setts have been identified within the Scheme Boundary;
  - **Otters** – habitats within the Site, including the Pertenhall Brook, River Kym, South Brook and Duloe Brook, as well as their smaller tributaries, offer suitable habitats to support foraging and commuting otters;
  - **Water Voles** – habitats within the Site including watercourse and ditches offer suitable habitats for water vole;
  - **Hazel Dormouse** – habitats within the Site including hedgerows and woodland blocks have the potential to support hazel dormouse;
  - **Other Notable Mammals** – habitats within the Site including the hedgerows, woodland, tree lines and grassland field margins provide the greatest opportunities for breeding, foraging and sheltering brown hare and hedgehog, and brown hares were frequently noted within the Site during surveys; and
  - **Notable Flora** – habitats within the Site are typical of lowland agricultural landscapes and are common and widespread both locally and nationally. Arable fields, which dominate the Site, are unlikely to support notable flora and no evidence was found during habitat surveys. Bluebells were identified directly adjacent to the Site during the extended habitat surveys with the species recorded in woodlands neighbouring East Park Sites A, B and C.

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## 3.0 Roles and responsibilities

### 3.1 Site Team

3.1.1 The following are key Site roles that would have responsibility for the implementation, management and maintenance of the proposed green infrastructure, with responsibilities for each role also set out (this list is not definitive and additional roles & responsibilities may be added to the final LEMP).

#### Construction Phase

3.1.2 The following roles would be established during the Construction Phase and are of relevance to the implementation of the LEMP:

- **Principal Contractor** – This is a formal role established in the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015<sup>6</sup> (CDM Regulations 2015). The Principal Contractor will be appointed by BSSL Cambsbed 1 Ltd and have overall responsibility for co-ordinating the Construction Phase of the project.
- **Construction Project Manager** – The Principal Contractor will identify a Construction Project Manager who will have overall responsibility for implementation of the LEMP and all other DCO and legislative requirements.
- **Landscape and Ecological Works Contractor** – The Principal Contractor will appoint a specialist landscape and ecological contractor to implement the proposed landscape elements and ecological enhancements;
- **Environmental Manager** – The Environmental Manager has responsibility for management of environmental matters related to the Construction Phase of the Scheme, including ensuring compliance with legislation, ensuring that mitigation, management and monitoring measures are implemented, and that best practice is applied during works.

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The Environmental Manager will be a point of contact with environmental bodies and other third parties as required to perform their duties.

- **Environmental Clerk of Works** – The Environmental Clerk of Works (ECoW) will be a suitably qualified environmental manager responsible for on-site management and monitoring of environmental impacts including for soil management, pollution control, noise and dust monitoring, and surface water.
- **Ecological Clerk of Works** – The Ecological Clerk of Works (EcoCoW) will be a suitably qualified ecologist responsible for on-site managing and monitoring of the works in relation to habitats, protected species, and other wildlife.
- **Archaeological Clerk of Works** – The Archaeological Clerk of Works (ACoW) will be a suitably qualified archaeologist responsible for on-site management and monitoring of the works in relation to archaeology.
- **Flood Warden** – The Flood Warden will be responsible for preparation, management, and response to flood incidents, inclusive of reacting to flood warning and alerts.
- **Community Liaison Officer** – The Community Liaison Officer will ensure that the Community Liaison Group (CLG) is established and will be the point of contact for the CLG, ensuring that regular updates are issued during the construction of the Scheme.

3.1.3 These roles and responsibilities are indicative and will be confirmed in the final CEMP.

### Operational Phase

3.1.4 The following roles would be established during the Operational Phase and are of relevance to the implementation of the LEMP:

- **Landscape and Ecological Maintenance Contractor** – a specialist landscape and ecological maintenance contractor will be appointed for the operational phase of the Scheme. For the first five years of implementation

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this role is typically taken by the same contractor responsible for implementation during the Construction Phase, in order to ensure accountability for any defects or failure of planting to establish;

- **Landscape Manager** – a suitably qualified landscape manager will be appointed for the Operational Phase to oversee the implementation of the LEMP, review progress against specified objectives, and work with the contractor to administer the landscape maintenance contract. The Landscape Manager will be responsible for reporting progress to Local Planning Authorities and advising on any possible changes to the LEMP in order to ensure successful delivery;
- **Environmental Clerk of Works** – The Environmental Clerk of Works (ECoW) will be a suitably qualified environmental manager responsible for on-site management and monitoring of environmental impacts including for soil management, pollution control, noise monitoring, and surface water run-off;
- **Ecological Clerk of Works** – The Ecological Clerk of Works (EcoCoW) will be a suitably qualified ecologist responsible for on-site monitoring the maintenance works in relation to habitats, protected species, and other wildlife. The EcoCOW will monitor and report on progress against the objectives of the LEMP and advise the Landscape Manager on any possible changes to ensure successful delivery;
- **Community Liaison Officer** – The Community Liaison Officer will remain in place during the Operational Phase to ensure that the CLG has a regular point of contact to communicate any issues.

## Decommissioning Phase

3.1.5 The following roles would be established during the Decommissioning Phase and are of relevance to the implementation of the LEMP:

- **Principal Contractor** – This is a formal role established in the CDM Regulations (2015). The Principal Contractor will be appointed by BSSL

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Camsbed 1 Ltd and have overall responsibility for co-ordinating the Decommissioning Phase of the project.

- **Construction Project Manager** – The Principal Contractor will identify a Construction Project Manager who will have overall responsibility for implementation of the LEMP and all other DCO and legislative requirements.
- **Environmental Manager** – The Environmental Manager has responsibility for management of environmental matters related to the Decommissioning Phase of the Scheme, including ensuring compliance with legislation, ensuring that mitigation, management and monitoring measures are implemented, and that best practice is applied during works. The Environmental Manager will be a point of contact with environmental bodies and other third parties as required to perform their duties.
- **Environmental Clerk of Works** – The Environmental Clerk of Works (ECoW) will be a suitably qualified environmental manager responsible for on-site management and monitoring of environmental impacts including for soil management, pollution control, noise and dust monitoring, and surface water.
- **Ecological Clerk of Works** – The Ecological Clerk of Works (EcoCoW) will be a suitably qualified ecologist responsible for on-site managing and monitoring of the works in relation to habitats, protected species, and other wildlife.
- **Archaeological Clerk of Works** – The Archaeological Clerk of Works (ACoW) will be a suitably qualified archaeologist responsible for on-site management and monitoring of the works in relation to archaeology.
- **Flood Warden** – The Flood Warden will be responsible for preparation, management, and response to flood incidents, inclusive of reacting to flood warning and alerts.
- **Community Liaison Officer** – The Community Liaison Officer will ensure that the Community Liaison Group (CLG) is established and will be the point of contact for the CLG, ensuring that regular updates are issued during the construction of the Scheme.



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## 3.2 Stakeholders

### Community Liaison Group

3.2.1 As set out in the oCEMP, a Community Liaison Group (CLG) will be formed prior to construction and will continue through until ultimate decommissioning of the Scheme.

3.2.2 During all stages of the project lifecycle, the purpose of the CLG will be to allow interested community members and bodies to be updated on progress and activities. The CLG will allow local residents to raise issues with the Community Liaison Officer and to act as a forum to discuss relevant issues for the construction of the Scheme. Membership will be open to the following non-exhaustive list of groups:

- Parish Councils;
- Local Residents;
- Local Businesses; and
- Local Community Groups.

### Stakeholders

3.2.3 The following stakeholders will be engaged prior to and during construction, operation and decommissioning of the Scheme as part of the monitoring and reporting requirements of the LEMP:

- Bedford Borough Council;
- Huntingdonshire District Council;
- Cambridgeshire County Council;
- Environment Agency;
- Natural England; and
- Historic England.

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## 4.0 Implementation

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 This section of the oLEMP sets out the precautionary working methods that will be adopted during the Construction Phase, and provides an overview of the specification and approach to implementation of the proposed landscape elements and ecological enhancements.

### 4.2 Precautionary Working Methods

4.2.1 The following precautionary working methods will be employed during the Construction Phase to minimise potential adverse effects.

#### Protection of Soils

4.2.2 Soils will be protected during the Construction Phase in accordance with a Soil Management Plan (SMP) which will be informed by:

- Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites;
- Good Practice Guide for Handling Soils in Mineral Workings;
- Working with Soil Guidance Note on Benefitting from Soil Management in Development and Construction; and
- A New Perspective on Land and Soil in Environmental Assessment.

4.2.3 The SMP will include best practice measures in relation to:

- Movement of plant and vehicles around the Site, including use of low pressure tyres to distribute weight where possible;
- Management of soil horizons to ensure that topsoils and subsoils are kept separate when excavated, not mixed with other materials, and replaced in a sensitive manner to restore pre-excavation soil horizons and avoid excessive compaction;

- Avoiding multiple handling of soils, which should be moved directly from areas being excavated or stripped to receptor sites, stockpiles, or reinstatement;
- Ensuring soils are only handled in appropriate moisture conditions; and
- Recording of soil handing operations and regular monitoring of soil condition across the Site in accordance with the SMP.

4.2.4 Prior to any planting or seeding, the Landscape and Ecological Contractor will ensure that any extraneous matter such as plastic, large pieces of wood, or metal will be removed from Site to an appropriate registered waste recycling or disposal facility.

4.2.5 It is not expected that there would be any requirement to import topsoil to Site to implement the landscape proposals, however if soil is required then it will accord with BS 3882:2015 British Standard Topsoil.

### Protection of Existing Vegetation

4.2.6 An arboricultural survey in accordance with BS:5837 Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction<sup>7</sup> will be undertaken in advance of submission of the application for development consent, and will inform the requirements of this oLEMP and ultimately the final LEMP.

4.2.7 Apart from where specified for removal, all vegetation will be protected during the Construction Phase in accordance with British Standard (BS) 5837:2012. Hedgerow and trees located in proximity to the working areas will be protected from disruption and if necessary protection fences will be erected to ensure that roots remain undisturbed.

### Protection of Wildlife

4.2.8 The following general and species-specific measures will be implemented throughout construction of the Scheme for the protection of biodiversity:

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## General

- 4.2.9 General pre-construction surveys to be undertaken to update the ecological baseline prior to construction, including for:
- Badger;
  - Bat roosts;
  - Nesting birds (including Wildlife and Countryside Act Schedule 1 species);
  - Otter;
  - Water vole;
  - Great crested newt; and
  - Arable flora.
- 4.2.10 Before starting on Site, site operatives will be informed by a 'tool box' talk of the potential for protected species to occur on-site, what to look out for and what to do in the event that an animal is found.
- 4.2.11 Any excavations will be graded or include an escape route for animals that might enter the trench, especially if left open overnight. Ramps should be no greater than 45 degrees in angle and can include wooden planks or ramped earth. All excavations left open overnight or longer will be checked for animals prior to the continuation of works or infilling, and any excavated material stored overnight will be searched prior to being used as infill.
- 4.2.12 Any lighting used will be task specific and directed away from boundary habitats including hedgerows, watercourses and woodland.
- 4.2.13 All works will follow general best practice pollution prevention methods, and any potential pollutants will be stored in a secure area away from any sensitive ecological receptors.

## Birds

- 4.2.14 Where reasonably practicable vegetation removal will be undertaken outside of the bird breeding season (March-August inclusive).

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- 4.2.15 If vegetation works are necessary during the breeding season, any suitable nesting habitat to be affected by works will be checked by a suitably experienced ecologist such as the EcoCoW prior to works commencing. Works would be permitted to proceed only when the ecologist is satisfied that no offence will occur under statutory legislation. Should an active nest be identified, a suitable buffer zone will be implemented (species dependent) and remain in place until chicks have fledged or the nest is no longer in use).
- 4.2.16 Suitable buffer zones (species specific) around nests of birds listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981<sup>8</sup> will be implemented to prevent disturbance. This will be informed by a pre-construction bird survey prior to commencement in any given area of the Site.

### **Bats**

- 4.2.17 Any temporary lighting required during construction will be implemented in line with Bat Conservation Trust and Institution of Lighting Professionals Guidance: Bats and Artificial Lighting at Night<sup>9</sup>.
- 4.2.18 Should any trees be required to be removed, they will first be subject to an inspection by a suitably qualified ecologist (EcoCoW) to assess their potential to support roosting bats.

### **Amphibians**

- 4.2.19 Vegetation clearance within suitable habitats will be undertaken following a two-stage cut, first taking the vegetation to approximately 150 mm before a visual inspection by a suitably qualified ecologist (EcoCoW). Vegetation can then be taken to ground level.
- 4.2.20 Removal of hedgerows should avoid the period between approximately November and February (inclusive) when amphibians and reptiles are hibernating.

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## **Badgers**

- 4.2.21 Any works within 30 m of a known badger sett will be undertaken under the watching brief of a suitably qualified ecologist (EcoCoW), including a pre-construction survey. Exact measures to be implemented will be dependent on the works type and risk to badgers.
- 4.2.22 Any areas of soil to be stored for any period of time should be fenced to deter use by badgers and/or checked daily by site staff to ensure no attempted creation of new setts by badgers; and
- 4.2.23 If works cannot be undertaken without disturbing badgers or damaging a set, works will only be undertaken following the grant of a licence by Natural England (either development licence A24 or class licence CL35).

## **Otter**

- 4.2.24 A pre-construction otter survey will be undertaken for any construction works within 20m of a watercourse (excluding ditches) to identify any potential otter holts/ resting sites.
- 4.2.25 Should a holt be identified, a suitable buffer zone will be implemented or a Natural England Mitigation licence (A45) obtained prior to works proceeding. Buffer zones will be determined by a suitably qualified ecologist (EcoCoW) dependent on the works type proposed and the sensitivity of the holt.

## **Water Vole**

- 4.2.26 Any works within 2m of a ditch bank will be subject to a pre-construction inspection by a suitably qualified ecologist (EcoCoW).
- 4.2.27 If evidence of water vole is encountered then works must cease until an appropriate course of action has been determined by the EcoCoW. This may include design alterations or to undertake works under a licence issued by Natural England (either mitigation licence A11 or class licence CL31).

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## Protection of Utilities

- 4.2.28 The required offsets to utilities have been factored into the early stages of the design process, and have informed the illustrative design shown on the Illustrative Environmental Masterplans (**PEIR Volume 3 Figure 2-2**). Design offsets to utilities will continue to be reviewed in consultation with the relevant utility company and will be factored into the detailed design of the Scheme.
- 4.2.29 There are several high pressure gas transmission assets which cross the Site. Planting above gas transmission pipelines will be limited to hedgerows, and only where essential to ensure visual screening and landscape integration of the Scheme. In planting zones above gas transmission pipelines only shallow rooting species will be used, and dependent on the depth of the pipeline (and in consultation with National Gas), root guards will be used.
- 4.2.30 In accordance with National Grid's Design Guidelines for Development Near Pylons and High Voltage Overhead Power Lines (2022)<sup>10</sup> guidance, only low growing species of trees and shrubs will be planted within the prescribed clearance areas beneath overhead lines. This will reduce the potential for conflict between planting and any overhead lines that cross the Site. Any planting beneath overhead lines will be subject to annual inspection and maintenance to ensure safety issues do not occur.
- 4.2.31 There is an Anglian Water pipeline asset within East Park Site D. There will be no planting within the easement for this asset.

## 4.3 Proposed Landscape Elements

- 4.3.1 The following section provides an outline specification for the landscape elements proposed as part of the Scheme, which are shown on the Illustrative Environmental Masterplan (**PEIR Volume 3 Figure 2-2**) and listed as follows:
- Proposed Native Species Woodland or Woodland Belt;
  - Proposed Native Species Hedgerow;
  - Proposed Native Species Individual Tree;

- Proposed Grazing Pasture or Neutral Grassland;
- Proposed Species-Diverse Grassland; and
- Proposed Permissive Paths.

### Native Species Woodland or Woodland Belt

4.3.2 Native Species Woodland or Woodland Belt planting is proposed across East Park Sites A to D.

4.3.3 All planting stock supplied shall be healthy and viable and comply with BS 3936 Nursery Stock as relevant, and the National Plant Specification published by the Horticultural Trades Association (HTA) as appropriate. Supplying nurseries will be registered under the HTA Nursery Certification Scheme. All plants will be packed and transported in accordance with the Code and Practice for Plant Handling as produced by the Committee for Plant Supply and Establishment (CPSE).

4.3.4 The proposed woodland planting stock will include a mixture of bare-root transplants along with light-standard trees where appropriate for early initial filtering of views towards the Scheme. Woodland species mixtures will be tailored according to the prevalent conditions of the proposed location, with more riparian mixtures located alongside watercourses, and species better suited to exposed conditions in more elevated parts of the Site. An indicative species list from which mixtures will be developed is as follows:

- *Acer campestre* (Field Maple);
- *Alnus glutinosa* (Alder);
- *Betula pendula* (Silver Birch);
- *Betula pubescens* (Downy Birch);
- *Corylus avellana* (Hazel);
- *Crataegus monogyna* (Hawthorn);
- *Malus sylvestris* (Crab Apple);
- *Prunus spinosa* (Blackthorn);
- *Quercus robur* (Pendunculate Oak);



- *Rosa canina* (Dog Rose);
- *Salix alba* (White Willow);
- *Salix caprea* (Goar Willow);
- *Ulmus glabra* (Wych Elm); and
- *Viburnum opulus* (Guelder Rose).

4.3.5 Bare-root transplants would be specified at heights between 40cm and 100cm heights, and minimum 1+1 transplants. Plants would be notch-planted at 2m centres with slots to be made using a planting spade. Plant notches would be T, L- shaped or straight, using spades of a design suitable for this purpose. The planting notches must be vertical and deep enough for the roots to hang freely, with the transplant being planted so that the root collar is exactly level with the ground surface. The notch must then be closed and the soil will be well firmed round the roots in line with the guidelines as set out in BS 8545.

4.3.6 Light standard trees would have a stem girth of between 6-8cm and a height of between 200cm and 250cm, with a natural form. Trees would be pit-planted with tree pits to be at least 75mm greater in radius than the root ball off any plant. Light standard trees would be interspersed within areas of bare-root transplants where appropriate, at 4m centres. Topsoil and subsoil horizons must be maintained during excavation once soils are replaced in the tree pit, and the sides of a tree pit should be scarified before the tree is planted to encourage root penetration. Tree pits would be excavated with a slightly raised centre to encourage drainage and prevent pooling.

4.3.7 All bare-root planting stock will be kept covered until actually planted in order to minimise water-loss and prevent the roots from drying out. Bare root and rootballed stock will be planted while dormant (between the months of November and February inclusive). Containerised stock will be used where necessary.

4.3.8 All new planting will be adequately and appropriately staked and guarded against damage.

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## Native Species Hedgerow Planting

- 4.3.9 Native Species Hedgerow planting is proposed across East Park Sites A to D.
- 4.3.10 All planting stock supplied shall be healthy and viable and comply with BS 3936 Nursery Stock as relevant, and the National Plant Specification published by the Horticultural Trades Association (HTA) as appropriate. Supplying nurseries will be registered under the HTA Nursery Certification Scheme. All plants will be packed and transported in accordance with the Code and Practice for Plant Handling as produced by the Committee for Plant Supply and Establishment (CPSE).
- 4.3.11 The proposed native species hedgerow planting stock will comprise bare-root transplants. Hedgerow species mixtures will be tailored according to the prevalent conditions of the proposed location, with shallow rooting species selected in proximity to utility easements. An indicative species list from which mixtures will be developed is as follows:
- *Acer campestre* (Field Maple)
  - *Cornus sanguinea* (Dogwood)
  - *Corylus avellana* (Hazel)
  - *Crataegus monogyna* (Hawthorn)
  - *Euonymus europaeus* (Spindle)
  - *Lonicera periclymenum* (Honeysuckle)
  - *Populus nigra* (Black Poplar)
  - *Prunus spinosa* (Blackthorn)
  - *Rosa canina* (Dog Rose)
  - *Sambucus nigra* (Elder).
- 4.3.12 A linear trench will be dug to a minimum of 550mm wide x 300mm depth, the base of which will be broken up before returning a mixture of approved topsoil and tree and shrub planting compost to the trench, at the ratio of one part compost to two parts topsoil. All stock will be planted to the root collar and

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well firmed in place. Hedgerows will be planted in a double staggered row at 5 plants per linear metre with rows set 350mm apart, central to the pre-prepared trench.

- 4.3.13 Bare-root transplants would be specified at heights between 40cm and 100cm heights, and minimum 1+1 transplants. All bare-root planting stock will be kept covered until actually planted in order to minimise water-loss and prevent the roots from drying out. Bare root and rootballed stock will be planted while dormant (between the months of November and February inclusive). Containerised stock will be used where necessary.
- 4.3.14 All new planting will be adequately and appropriately staked and guarded against damage.

### Native Species Individual Tree Planting

- 4.3.15 Native Species Individual Tree Planting is proposed across East Park Sites A to D.
- 4.3.16 All planting stock supplied shall be healthy and viable and comply with BS 3936 Nursery Stock as relevant, and the National Plant Specification published by the Horticultural Trades Association (HTA) as appropriate. Supplying nurseries will be registered under the HTA Nursery Certification Scheme. All plants will be packed and transported in accordance with the Code and Practice for Plant Handling as produced by the Committee for Plant Supply and Establishment (CPSE).
- 4.3.17 The proposed native species individual tree planting will comprise light standard trees. The selection of individual trees will be tailored according to the prevalent conditions of the proposed location. An indicative species list from which trees will be selected is as follows:
- *Acer campestre* (Field Maple);
  - *Alnus glutinosa* (Alder);
  - *Carpinus betulus* (Hornbeam);

- *Quercus robur* (Pendunculate Oak);
- *Populus tremula* (Aspen); and
- *Salix alba* (White Willow).

4.3.18 Trees will be placed into pre-prepared pits that will accommodate the roots comfortably, with minimum 75mm space on all sides outside the extent of the roots.

4.3.19 Light standard trees would have a stem girth of between 6-8cm and a height of between 200cm and 250cm, with a natural form. Trees would be pit-planted with tree pits to be at least 75mm greater in radius than the root ball of any plant.

4.3.20 Topsoil and subsoil horizons must be maintained during excavation once soils are replaced in the tree pit, and the sides of a tree pit should be scarified before the tree is planted to encourage root penetration. Tree pits would be excavated with a slightly raised centre to encourage drainage and prevent pooling.

4.3.21 All new planting will be adequately and appropriately staked and guarded against damage.

### Grazing Pasture or Neutral Grassland

4.3.22 Grazing Pasture or Neutral Grassland will be created within all areas enclosed by fencing for solar panels, as shown on the Illustrative Environmental Masterplan (**PEIR Volume 3 Figure 2-2**).

4.3.23 All seeding shall be carried out in accordance with BS 4428:1989 Code of Practice for general landscape operations (excluding hard surfaces)<sup>11</sup>, or the most up to date and current British Standard and in accordance with seed supplier's technical advice.

4.3.24 Subsequent to the last crop being removed, no fertilizer will be added to the arable land on the site.

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- 4.3.25 It is anticipated that advance seeding will take place between the last crop being harvested and the beginning of the Construction Phase. The purpose of advance seeding the areas will be to allow the grasslands to establish and suitably bind the soils prior to the start of construction.
- 4.3.26 Directly before sowing the ground will be harrowed or raked to produce a medium tilth then rolled. The surface should be friable and lightly firmed, but not over compacted. All extraneous matter such as plastic, wood, metal and stones larger than 50mm in any direction will be removed to ensure the ground is suitable for use with mowers.
- 4.3.27 Seed will be broadcast by machine and then rolled to ensure good contact with the soil. Seed is to be broadcast at a rate of 32.5kg/ha, in 2 passes perpendicular to each other where possible to ensure a good distribution, and to the supplier's recommendations.
- 4.3.28 The precise seed mix will be tailored according to the prevalent conditions of the proposed location. An indicative species list for grazing pasture or neutral grassland is as follows:
- Birdsfoot Trefoil – 4%;
  - Cocksfoot – 5%;
  - Crested Dogstail – 8%;
  - Knapweed – 1%;
  - Meadow Fescue – 8%;
  - Meadow Foxtail – 1.5%;
  - Perennial Ryegrass – 18%;
  - Red Clover – 3%;
  - Ribwort Plantain – 1%;
  - Rough-stalked Meadow-grass – 6%;
  - Sainfoin – 10%;
  - Small Leaved White Clover – 2%;
  - Smaller Cat's-tail – 4%;

- Smooth-stalked Meadow-Grass – 7%;
- Strong-creeping Red-fescue – 8%;
- Tall Fescue – 8%;
- Timothy – 5%; and
- Yarrow – 0.5%.

### Species-Diverse Grassland

- 4.3.29 Species-diverse grassland is proposed across East Park Sites A to D in field boundaries between hedgerows and fencelines, and at field-scale.
- 4.3.30 All seeding shall be carried out in accordance with BS 4428:1989 Code of Practice for general landscape operations (excluding hard surfaces), or the most up to date and current British Standard and in accordance with seed supplier's technical advice.
- 4.3.31 Subsequent to the last crop being removed, no fertilizer will be added to the arable land on the site.
- 4.3.32 It is anticipated that advance seeding will take place between the last crop being harvested and the beginning of the Construction Phase. The purpose of advance seeding the areas will be to allow the grasslands to establish and suitably bind the soils prior to the start of construction.
- 4.3.33 Directly before sowing the ground will be harrowed or raked to produce a medium tilth then rolled. The surface should be friable and lightly firmed, but not over compacted. All extraneous matter such as plastic, wood, metal and stones larger than 50mm in any direction will be removed to ensure the ground is suitable for use with mowers.
- 4.3.34 Seed will be broadcast by machine and then rolled to ensure good contact with the soil. Seed is to be broadcast at a rate of 40kg/ha, in 2 passes perpendicular to each other where possible to ensure a good distribution, and to the supplier's recommendations.

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4.3.35 The precise seed mix will be tailored according to the prevalent conditions of the proposed location, but typically would be sown at a rate of 20% wildflowers to 80% grasses. An indicative species list from which the mix for for species diverse grassland will be created is as follows:

- Betony
- Birdsfoot Trefoil
- Common Bent
- Common Knapweed
- Common Sorrel
- Cowslip
- Crested Dogstail
- Devilsbit Scabious
- Field Scabious
- Lady's Bedstraw
- Meadow Buttercup
- Meadow Vetchling
- Oxeye Daisy
- Ragged Robin
- Ribwort Plantain
- Rough Hawkbit
- Self Heal
- Sheeps Fescue
- Slender Creeping Red Fescue
- Smooth Stalked Meadow Grass
- Strong Creeping Red Fescue
- Tufted Vetch
- Wild Red Clover
- Yarrow
- Yellow Rattle

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## Permissive Paths

- 4.3.36 Permissive paths will be provided at the locations within East Park Site B as identified on the Illustrative Environmental Masterplan (*PEIR Volume 3 Figure 2-2*)
- 4.3.37 Permissive paths would be suitably waymarked. As they are located along field boundaries they would not be surfaced so that they are in keeping with the existing character of public rights of way in the local landscape.

## 4.4 Proposed Ecological Enhancement Elements

- 4.4.1 The following section sets out proposed ecological enhancement elements that will be included across the Site, but the location of such features will be defined at the detailed design stage. The proposed elements are as follows:
- i) Bird Boxes:
    - a. General Purpose Bird Boxes;
    - b. Barn Owl Boxes;
    - c. Raptor Boxes;
  - ii) Bat Boxes:
    - a. Hibernation Boxes;
    - b. Colony Boxes;
  - iii) Reptile / Amphibian Refugia; and
  - iv) Hedgerow Boxes.

### Bird Boxes

#### General Purpose Bird Boxes

- 4.4.2 Additional bird nesting provision will be made through the inclusion of 40 bird boxes erected on existing semi-mature and mature trees located within East Park Sites A to D. Precise locations will be subject to tree condition at that time.



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4.4.3 Bird boxes would be installed in the first autumn (September to November) following the end of the Construction Phase, under advice of the EcoCOW.

4.4.4 Boxes will be erected at an appropriate height of between 1 to 5 metres. Boxes would be angled so that they face away from the prevailing wind or in a semi sheltered environment. Positioning within or close to hedgerows will increase chances of occupation. Bird boxes will be suitable for a variety of farmland bird species.

### **Barn Owl Boxes**

4.4.5 Additional bird nesting provision will be made through the inclusion of 6 barn owl boxes erected on either existing semi-mature and mature trees, or on poles, within East Park Sites A to D. Precise locations will be subject to tree condition at that time and as advised by the EcoCOW.

4.4.6 Barn owl boxes would be installed in the first autumn (September to November) following the end of the Construction Phase, under advice of the EcoCOW.

4.4.7 Boxes will be erected at a minimum height of 3 metres above ground level and away from any artificial light sources. Selected trees should be isolated within hedgerows or on a woodland edge, have a high canopy with few or no low branches, and where there is good visibility towards the box for passing owls. Boxes would be angled so that they face away from the prevailing wind or in a semi sheltered environment.

### **Raptor Boxes**

4.4.8 Additional bird nesting provision will be made through the inclusion of 3 specific raptor boxes erected on either existing semi-mature and mature trees within East Park Sites A to D. Precise locations will be subject to tree condition at that time and as advised by the EcoCOW.

4.4.9 Raptor boxes would be installed in the first autumn (September to November) following the end of the Construction Phase, under advice of the EcoCOW.

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4.4.10 Boxes will be erected at a minimum height of 3 metres above ground level and away from any artificial light sources. Selected trees should be isolated within hedgerows or on a woodland edge, have a high canopy with few or no low branches, and where there is good visibility towards the box for passing owls. Boxes would be angled so that they face away from the prevailing wind or in a semi sheltered environment.

### **Bat Boxes**

4.4.11 The tree, hedgerow and grassland planting will, over time complement the retained existing habitat features and enhance foraging and commuting opportunities.

4.4.12 Additional bat roost provision will be made through the inclusion of a minimum of 60 bat roost boxes on suitable trees within East Park Sites A to D. This will include a minimum of 5 hibernation boxes, and 5 colony boxes. Precise locations will be subject to tree condition at that time.

4.4.13 Bat boxes would be installed in the first winter (December to February) following the end of the Construction Phase, under advice of the EcoCOW.

4.4.14 Boxes will be erected at a minimum height of 4 metres above ground level and away from any artificial light sources. Boxes would be angled so that they face away from the prevailing wind or in a semi sheltered environment, but with exposure to the sun for part of the day. Positioning within or close to hedgerows and watercourses will increase chances of occupation. It is often appropriate to erect multiple boxes on the same tree at slightly different heights and aspects to create a variety of microclimates. Minor pruning may be required to ensure a clear drop zone below newly installed bat boxes, this will be carried out under Arboricultural supervision.

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## Reptile / Amphibian Refugia

4.4.15 Additional habitat for reptiles and amphibians will be provided within East Park Sites A to D. A minimum of 10 refugia will be created under the supervision of the EcoCOW at the end of the Construction Phase by:

- Creating hibernacula by digging a shallow hole up to 1.5m across and 0.4m deep to be filled with logs, branches and rocks and loosely cover the hole with the excavated soils that should then be seeded with the species-diverse grassland mix. Hibernacula will be created in field boundaries in proximity to hedgerows, but avoiding root protection areas of trees or hedgerows; and
- Creating log piles by stacking any logs or hedge cuttings.

4.4.16 The locations of reptile / amphibian refugia would be recorded by the EcoCOW and recorded in an updated LEMP to ensure that future maintenance of grassland and hedgerows does not inadvertently damage or harm any refugia.

## Hedgehog Boxes

4.4.17 A minimum of 10 hedgehog boxes will be provided across East Park Sites A to D, to be located in quiet, shady spots at ground level in close proximity to hedgerows or woodland under the guidance of the EcoCOW. Hedgehog boxes will be elevated and angled slightly to ensure no surface water ingress during periods of heavy rain.

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## 5.0 Landscape and Ecological Management

### 5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 This section sets out the proposed management of the existing and proposed landscape elements identified on the Illustrative Environmental Masterplan (*PEIR Volume 3 Figure 2-2*).

### 5.2 Management Aims

- 5.2.1 The primary aim of the management of proposed landscape elements at East Park is to deliver the mitigation required to avoid or minimise environmental effects identified in the PEIR, and to deliver on the overall objectives for the Scheme.

#### Proposed Native Species Woodland or Woodland Belt

- 5.2.2 The aims for native species woodland or woodland belt are to provide taller visual screening of the Scheme; integrate the Scheme into the landscape pattern; restore historic field boundaries; reduce flood risk; and improve habitat connectivity by providing a diverse landscape framework that complements hedgerows and provides ‘stepping stones’ in the landscape.
- 5.2.3 Woodland management will create optimal woodland structures that attain four distinct layers: namely the canopy, scrub, field, and ground layers, all of which contribute to the habitat mosaic.

#### Proposed Native Species Hedgerow

- 5.2.4 The aims for native species hedgerow are to provide visual screening of the Scheme; integrate the Scheme into the landscape pattern; restore historic field boundaries; and improve habitat connectivity through the creation of wildlife corridors connecting areas of woodland and surrounding habitat.
- 5.2.5 Hedgerow management will create hedgerows that are fruit rich, with a bushy structure that extends to the ground to provide cover for small mammals.

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## Proposed Native Species Individual Tree

- 5.2.6 The aim for native species individual trees is improve landscape structure and integrate the Scheme with the existing landscape character, whilst complementing the proposed hedgerows.

## Proposed Grazing Pasture or Neutral Grassland

- 5.2.7 The aim for grazing pasture is to provide a low cut sward in the spring which will encourage a high population of invertebrates, which in turn will provide a suitable foraging (and potentially breeding) habitat for grassland birds such as skylark
- 5.2.8 Grazing is the preferred management technique used in conservation often because it is the most practical procedure for maintaining a landscape of varied topography at a low nutrient level giving the land a structurally intricate habitat matrix not achieved by other methods.

## Proposed Species-Diverse Grassland

- 5.2.9 The aim for species-diverse grassland is to provide pollen- and nectar-rich wildflower grassland that will improve habitat connectivity by creating wildlife corridors through the Site along field margins, ditches and hedges. These areas of grassland will in turn encourage a high population of invertebrates that will provide suitable foraging habitat for grassland birds such as skylark, and small mammals such as hedgehogs and badgers.
- 5.2.10 Annual cut-and-collect is the preferred management technique used for species-diverse grasslands in order to maintain a low nutrient input.

## 5.3 General Landscape and Ecological Management

- 5.3.1 The Landscape Manager shall undertake a minimum of quarterly site walkovers, or as required to survey and report on the works being undertaken on Site. The walkover shall include for the identification of any issues such as

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the establishment of invasive species, damage or vandalism to planting, or issues with public rights of way and permissive paths.

5.3.2 All fencing is to be inspected at least twice annually to ensure it is stout and fit for purpose and repairs made as soon as possible for the life of the development. At the time of inspection, the mammal gates proposed to each solar development area shall be checked to ensure they are clear and remain suitable for purpose.

5.3.3 Litter picking will be carried out across the Site on a regular basis and would be the responsibility of all site operatives, not just the Landscape and Ecological Contractor.

## 5.4 Management of Existing Landscape Elements

### Existing Trees and Woodland

5.4.1 Existing trees and woodland will be surveyed in Operational Year 1 to identify any hazards. This will be completed by a suitably qualified arboriculturist, and any resultant tree works will be carried out to BS 3998:2010<sup>12</sup> only.

5.4.2 Thereafter existing trees will be surveyed every 5 years to identify any defects or hazards.

### Existing Hedgerows

5.4.3 Existing hedgerows will be brought into a rotational cutting, with 1/3 of the hedgerows cut each year to maintain size and promote density.

5.4.4 Hedgerows will be cut on different sides each year and not all hedgerows will be cut in the same year to allow a varied structure for the benefit of wildlife.

5.4.5 Cuts will be made by tractor with flail between December and February, and maintained to a minimum height of 2.5m.

5.4.6 Hedgerow cutting must not be undertaken in the breeding bird season (1st March to 31st August inclusive).

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- 5.4.7 If of a sufficient amount, cuttings can be collected and used to create small habitat piles / wildlife refuges in field boundary habitats adjacent to hedgerows on Site.

### Existing Ditches and Watercourses

- 5.4.8 The approximate locations of existing ditches are shown on the Illustrative Environmental Masterplan (**PEIR Volume 3 Figure 2-2**) which are to be protected from works throughout the construction period, and as part of the actions proposed in this LEMP.
- 5.4.9 Following establishment, areas of species-diverse grassland, native species hedgerows or native species woodland alongside ditches will be subject to maintenance under the same regime as set out above and below; however, one bank of the ditch must always be left unmanaged during any one operation and managed on rotation as necessary.
- 5.4.10 Prior to undertaking any maintenance works within 10m of a ditch, a pre-construction water vole and otter walkover will be carried out by the Ecological Clerk of Works. If an otter or water vole is found, guidance on maintenance operations should be taken from the Ecological Clerk of Works.
- 5.4.11 No tools, vehicles, or materials will be stored within 10m of watercourses/ditches.

### Public Rights of Way

- 5.4.12 The definitive widths of public rights of way will be maintained during the Operational Phase of the Scheme. Public rights of way within the Scheme Boundary are shown on the Illustrative Environmental Masterplan (**PEIR Volume 3 Figure 2-2**).
- 5.4.13 Where public rights of way are within areas identified as grassland on the Illustrative Environmental Masterplan, a strip of grassland will be cut to a minimum width of 2m, or in accordance with the definitive width of the public

right of way, whichever is wider. These strips will be maintained such that the grasses do not exceed 150mm by regular cutting across the summer months. The purpose of these cuts is to ensure clear wayfinding across the Site and promote usage.

## 5.5 Management of Proposed Landscape Elements

- 5.5.1 Where new planting / seeding is required, the operations set out below shall be carried out in order to allow the new vegetation to establish. It is anticipated that grassland establishment would take approximately one year, and that establishment of new planting would take between three and five years.

### Native Species Woodland and Woodland Belt Planting

#### Establishment Period (Years 1 to 5)

- 5.5.2 During the establishment period (the first five years), all dead, dying or diseased stock will be replaced with stock of similar size and species. If the failure of the plant is due to disease and the disease is considered likely to re-occur, then an alternative native species of local provenance may be used as a replacement. The exact timing of replacement planting is dependent on the ground conditions; however, planting will take place between the months of November and February inclusive.
- 5.5.3 An annual inspection will be undertaken in September to identify stock in need of replacement.
- 5.5.4 The planting areas (1m radius around each stem) will be kept weed-free during the establishment period, manually. If necessary, herbicide treatment would be used for small areas (applications in April, June and August). Where used, herbicides will be sprayed in appropriate weather conditions, to avoid affecting adjacent grassland areas and will not be used within 10m of watercourses, ditches or ponds.



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- 5.5.5 During the establishment period, trees will be inspected during periods of warm weather and drought. If it is considered that the ground conditions are too dry, the planted areas will be watered until weather conditions are considered suitable for watering to cease.
- 5.5.6 All canes, stake guards, spirals or ties will be regularly checked, replaced as required and removed from Site and disposed of once plants have established.
- 5.5.7 Existing and newly planted trees within woodland planting areas will be left to grow naturally and not cut apart from pruning if necessary to maintain the health of the tree or for safety reasons.
- 5.5.8 No cutting or trimming will be undertaken during the breeding bird season (1st March to 31st August inclusive).
- 5.5.9 At the end of each growing season, all light standard trees will receive an application of slow-release fertiliser for the first 5 years after planting.

### **Long-term Management**

- 5.5.10 In Year 5 the woodland areas will be thinned by approximately 15%, choosing weaker growing plants where appropriate, whilst maintaining species diversity. The purpose of woodland thinning will be to encourage natural growth and regeneration of woodland understorey, prevent over densification which can restrict light and airflow, and allow space for trees to establish and grow out without extensive shading.
- 5.5.11 Woodland thinning will thereafter be undertaken every 5 years, thinning the woodland by approximately 15% to promote a mature canopy and healthy understorey, whilst maintaining a diversity of species and maturity.
- 5.5.12 In Year 10, hazel (*Corylus avellana*) will be coppiced by 33%, with hazel poles stacked around coppice stools to prevent grazing of new shoots. Hazel will thereafter be coppiced on rotation, coppicing approximately 33% every three years.

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## Native Species Hedgerow Planting

### Establishment Period (Years 1 to 5)

- 5.5.13 During the establishment period (the first five years), all dead, dying or diseased stock will be replaced with stock of similar size and species. If the failure of the plant is due to disease and the disease is considered likely to re-occur, then an alternative native species of local provenance may be used as a replacement. The exact timing of replacement planting will be dependent on the ground conditions; however, planting will take place between the months of November and February inclusive.
- 5.5.14 The initial cutting of hedgerows will be between December and February in the 3rd year after planting.
- 5.5.15 The hedgerow will then be cut by tractor and flail on rotation between December and February such that 1/3 of the hedgerows are cut every year to maintain size and density, to achieve and maintain a minimum height of 3m above ground level.
- 5.5.16 No cutting or trimming is to be undertaken during the breeding bird season (1st March to 31st August inclusive).
- 5.5.17 Hedgerows will be cut on different sides each year and not all hedgerows will be cut in the same year to allow a varied structure for the benefit of wildlife.
- 5.5.18 If of a sufficient amount, cuttings can be collected and used to create small habitat piles / wildlife refuges in field boundary habitats adjacent to hedgerows on Site.
- 5.5.19 All canes, spirals or guards shall be regularly checked and adjusted or replaced as required. The bases of all hedges are to be kept weed-free manually during the first three years. After the first three years the ground flora is to be allowed to develop naturally in order to contribute to the wildlife value of the hedgerow and managed as an existing hedgerow.

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- 5.5.20 Any litter accumulated around hedgerow bases is to be cleared at the same time as weed control operations.
- 5.5.21 During the establishment period, hedgerows will be inspected during periods of warm weather and drought. If it is considered that the ground conditions are too dry, the planted areas will be watered until weather conditions are considered suitable for watering to cease.
- 5.5.22 An annual inspection will be undertaken in September to identify dead/diseased plants to be replaced at the end of each growing season.

### **Long-term Management**

- 5.5.23 Hedgerows will be managed at a height of 3m, to screen the development and provide ecological benefits. From Year 5 onwards, hedgerows will be cut on rotation, with 1/3 of each hedgerow cut every 3 years. This will ensure that there is always a reliable food source available for wildlife relying on these habitats.

## **Native Species Individual Tree Planting**

### **Establishment Period (Years 1 to 5)**

- 5.5.24 During the establishment period (the first five years), all dead, dying or diseased stock will be replaced with stock of similar size and species. If the failure of the plant is due to disease and the disease is considered likely to re-occur, then an alternative native species of local provenance may be used as a replacement. The exact timing of replacement planting will be dependent on the ground conditions; however, planting will take place between the months of November and February inclusive.
- 5.5.25 An annual inspection will be undertaken in September to identify stock in need of replacement.
- 5.5.26 The planting areas (1m radius around each stem) will be kept weed-free during the establishment period, manually. If necessary, herbicide treatment

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would be used for small areas (applications in April, June and August). Where used, herbicides will be sprayed in appropriate weather conditions, to avoid affecting adjacent grassland areas and will not be used within 10m of watercourses, ditches or ponds.

- 5.5.27 During the establishment period, trees will be inspected during periods of warm weather and drought. If it is considered that the ground conditions are too dry, the planted areas will be watered until weather conditions are considered suitable for watering to cease.
- 5.5.28 All canes, stake guards, spirals or ties will be regularly checked, replaced as required and removed from Site and disposed of once plants have established.
- 5.5.29 Trees will be left to grow naturally and not cut apart from pruning if necessary to maintain the health of the tree or for safety reasons.
- 5.5.30 No cutting or trimming will be undertaken during the breeding bird season (1st March to 31st August inclusive).
- 5.5.31 At the end of each growing season, all standard trees will receive an application of slow-release fertiliser for the first 5 years after planting.

### **Long-term Management**

- 5.5.32 Trees will be left to grow naturally and not cut apart from pruning if necessary to maintain the health of the tree or for safety reasons. No cutting or trimming will be undertaken during the breeding bird season (1st March to 31st August inclusive).

## **Grazing Pasture or Neutral Grassland**

### **Establishment Period (Years 1 to 5)**

- 5.5.33 Following seeding, the grazing pasture will be left to establish for the first 8 to 10 weeks. After 8 to 10 weeks the pasture should have established and light

grazing by sheep can be introduced. In Year 1 the grazing will be by a small number of sheep for light grazing to thicken up the grass sward at the base through tillering. To avoid over-grazing in Year 1, the livestock will be rotated between different parts of the site to produce an even and healthy sward.

- 5.5.34 If required, the grass will be cut after 3 months by mechanical strimmer to a height of minimum 50mm.
- 5.5.35 Thereafter, once the grazing pasture is established with good ground cover and soils are effectively bound by root growth, the livestock numbers will increase as appropriate to continue successful management. The livestock will continue to be rotated around the Site to prevent over-grazing and allow sward recovery. The grazing pasture will be maintained at a height of minimum 50mm across the grazing period.
- 5.5.36 Ideally, it is best to aim for a stocking rate just sufficient to maintain a varied structure, rather than the maximum that the grassland can support. Grazing density (Table 1) is based on medium sized sheep (e.g. 60kg). It is important to constantly monitor the Site to ensure the grassland is not under or over-grazed and stock density and duration altered accordingly. The stocking density would be reduced in wet periods or in conditions when poaching would lead to a break-up of the sward and colonisation by aggressive weed species.

**Table 1: Stocking Density for Neutral Grassland**

<b>Number of grazing weeks per year</b>	<b>Neutral Grassland (sheep per ha)</b>
16	12.5
20	10
24	8
36	5.5
52	4

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- 5.5.37 At times where the ground is very wet or waterlogged then the livestock will be moved appropriately to prevent the ground being churned up by hooves, which could encourage rilling and bare patches of soil, that in turn could cause weed growth.
- 5.5.38 The sward composition of the grazing pasture will be reviewed annually to identify any problem weeds, such as ragwort, thistle, Dock etc, and management of these weeds would be undertaken as appropriate.
- 5.5.39 If it is found on the annual inspection that strips of bare soil are occurring beneath the solar arrays due to rainwater runoff (rilling) then these areas will be scarified, the soil cultivated locally and then reduced to a fine till, and the areas re-seeded with an appropriate hardy water-tolerant grass seed mix.
- 5.5.40 Note that it would be the responsibility of tenant farmers to manage and monitor the sheep grazing, in co-ordination with the Landscape Manager. This includes the provision of all infrastructure required to graze the land.
- 5.5.41 The grass will be cut annually in August by the Landscape and Ecological Contractor using mechanical strimmer to a height of minimum 50mm.

### **Long-term Management**

- 5.5.42 The long-term management of the grazing pasture would continue as per the establishment period, with maintenance through grazing to achieve neutral grassland, and an annual cut in August of each year.

### **Species-Diverse Grassland**

#### **Establishment Period (Years 1 to 5)**

- 5.5.43 Following seeding, the species-diverse grassland areas will be left for the perennial grass and wild flower species to establish. This can take a full year and these meadow areas are not expected to flower in the first year.

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- 5.5.44 A first cut to control weed growth in the first year will be undertaken in late summer, with all arisings removed from Site to avoid mulching and fertilisation of the soils. This cut would be by mechanical strimmer to a height of minimum 75mm. The species-diverse grassland areas would not be grazed.
- 5.5.45 Thereafter, from the second growing season onwards the species-diverse grassland areas would be cut by mechanical strimmer to a height of minimum 150mm in August. If necessary, an additional cut will be undertaken in March of each year to manage any regrowth over the winter period.
- 5.5.46 After cutting, arisings will be left to remain on-site for three to five days following the cut to allow drying and for seeds to disperse, and will then be removed in order to prevent build-up of thatch and nutrients. This will promote the development of a species-diverse sward. Arisings will be either removed to a suitable composting facility or placed to form habitat piles located on the periphery of the Site.
- 5.5.47 No cutting will take place throughout the summer to allow the seeds of the later flowering species to fall prior to the cut.
- 5.5.48 Mowing will only take place during periods of dry weather to ensure that no waterlogged ground is damaged by machinery.
- 5.5.49 Cutting shall adopt a systematic method working outwards towards the boundary features from the centre. This will allow fauna such as invertebrates, amphibians, birds and small mammals to temporarily and safely vacate the area.

### **Long-term Management**

- 5.5.50 The long-term management of the species-diverse grassland would continue as per the establishment period.

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## 5.6 Management of Ecological Enhancement Elements

### Bird Boxes

- 5.6.1 An annual inspection of all bird boxes will be undertaken in late autumn to record usage rates and to ensure that an old nest material and debris is removed prior to the onset of the next breeding season. Inspections will be made under the supervision of the Ecological Clerk of Works.
- 5.6.2 Bird boxes will be replaced as required throughout the Operational Phase if they are damaged. Any replacement will be undertaken outside of the nesting season.

### Bat Boxes

- 5.6.3 An annual inspection of bat boxes will also be carried out under licence in late Autumn under the supervision of the Ecological Clerk of Works to record usage rates across the Site.
- 5.6.4 Bat boxes will be replaced as required throughout the Operational Phase if they are damaged. Any replacement will be undertaken under licence and under supervision of the Ecological Clerk of Works during winter months.

### Reptile / Amphibian Refugia

- 5.6.5 Reptile / amphibian refugia will be replenished as required during the Operational Phase using arisings from management of the on-site habitats.

### Hedgehog Boxes

- 5.6.6 Hedgehog boxes will be cleaned annually in early spring or late autumn, and replaced as required if they are damaged.



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## 6.0 Decommissioning

- 6.1.1 At the end of the Operational Phase the Scheme will be decommissioned and all above ground infrastructure would be removed from the Site. The land forming the Site is to be leased for the Operational Phase, and therefore following Decommissioning the land would be returned to landowners in accordance with their relevant commercial agreements.
- 6.1.2 The following proposed landscape elements would be retained at the Decommissioning Phase and handed back to landowners:
- Proposed Native Species Woodland and Woodland Belt Planting;
  - Proposed Native Species Hedgerow Planting; and
  - Proposed Native Species Individual Tree Planting.
- 6.1.3 By the time of decommissioning these elements would be mature features within the landscape and therefore annual maintenance requirements would be relatively limited and comparable to the ongoing long term management prescriptions.
- 6.1.4 The following elements would be at the discretion of the landowners once the land is handed back, and could either be retained or reverted to existing (arable) use:
- Proposed Grazing Pasture or Neutral Grassland; and
  - Species-Diverse Grassland.
- 6.1.5 The landowners will be able to determine the outcome of these areas based on agricultural or economic factors at the time of Decommissioning, however for the purpose of this oLEMP and PEIR it is assumed that they would be ploughed over and reverted to arable use.
- 6.1.6 The ecological enhancement elements would be retained on Site at decommissioning and will be at the discretion of landowners for their future use.

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## 7.0 Monitoring

### 7.1 General

- 7.1.1 Monitoring will be required during the Operational Phase to ensure that the aims and objectives of the LEMP are being achieved.
- 7.1.2 It is recognised both that landscapes may develop in unexpected ways, and that the demands upon them may change with time, including as a response to climate change. Such changes may require maintenance operations/frequencies to change in order to adapt to new circumstances. The LEMP shall therefore be kept under review and revised as necessary to ensure development of a healthy, safe and ecologically diverse landscape.
- 7.1.3 The Landscape Manager may propose changes to maintenance operations or frequencies, felling or re-planting of trees, shrubs or hedges or any other changes which in their opinion would achieve the aims set out in the LEMP.
- 7.1.4 Reviews shall be held annually during the first five years of the Operational Phase, and subsequently shall be held at a maximum of five-yearly intervals. Reviews shall be carried out by the Landscape Manager with support from the Ecological Clerk of Works and a suitably qualified Arboriculturist.
- 7.1.5 Maintenance and Monitoring Reports will be prepared and made available (if requested) to the Local Planning Authorities at the following periods:
- End of Operational Year 1;
  - End of Operational Year 2;
  - End of Operational Year 3;
  - End of Operational Year 4;
  - End of Operational Year 5;
  - End of Operational Year 10; and
  - At the end of every fifth year thereafter.

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## 7.2 Biodiversity Net Gain

- 7.2.1 Ecological monitoring of created habitats will be undertaken in line with the schedule outlined above for a minimum of 30 years from operational year 1. Monitoring will assess the habitats within the Site against the proposed habitats and conditions within the Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment to be submitted with the application for development consent.
- 7.2.2 Habitats will be assessed following the UKHabitat survey methodology, with habitat condition assessed in line with the relevant condition sheets for each habitat type. Monitoring surveys will be undertaken within the optimum botanical survey period, which is generally between April and September.
- 7.2.3 Following completion of monitoring, a report will be prepared detailing the following:
- If habitats are meeting (or on track to meet) the proposed target habitat type;
  - If habitats are meeting (or on track to meet) the proposed target habitat condition ;
  - Any remedial measures to be implemented (e.g., replanting, overseeding); and
  - Any changes to the management regime that may be required to achieve or maintain habitat type and condition.
- 7.2.4 Details regarding the monitoring criteria and specific methods to be used for each habitat type will be outlined in a Biodiversity Net Gain Habitat Monitoring and Management Plan.

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## 8.0 IMPLEMENTATION OF MANAGEMENT PLAN

8.1.1 The LEMP will define all responsibilities, roles and actions required for implementation of the measures that are set out in this oLEMP. These will include as a minimum:

- The team roles and responsibilities, and the named individuals fulfilling those roles. An organogram and contact directory will also be included;
- The procedures required for monitoring, inspection and reporting;
- Document control systems and procedures;
- Detail of the communication strategy (stakeholders and third party);
- Detail of the required training for key personnel on environmental topics relevant to the Scheme and LEMP. This will include detail on toolbox talks and on-site briefings required to ensure that relevant staff and site operatives are aware of the requirements for environmental control and procedures for the same, and that they have the required level of knowledge to deliver them;
- Detail of measures to ensure that staff and personnel are advised of changes to circumstances as work progresses on the Scheme; and
- Procedures for environmental emergencies.

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## 9.0 References

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- <sup>1</sup> HMSO (2017). Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2017/572> [Last Accessed: 17 September 2024]
- <sup>2</sup> Land Use Consultants (2020). Bedford Borough Landscape Character Assessment. Available at: <https://edrms.bedford.gov.uk/OpenDocument.aspx?id=H1s1ijkK2oPN8wKbNf7JDw%3d%3d&name=Bedford%20LCA%202020.pdf> [Last Accessed: 11 September 2024]
- <sup>3</sup> Huntingdonshire District Council (2022). Huntingdonshire Landscape and Townscape Supplementary Planning Document. Available at: <https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/media/6120/landscape-and-townscape-spd-2022.pdf> [Last Accessed: 11 September 2024]
- <sup>4</sup> Bedford Borough Council, Bedfordshire & Luton Biodiversity Recording & Monitoring Centre, Bedfordshire and Luton Green Infrastructure Consortium (2009). Bedford Green Infrastructure Plan, November 2009. Available at: <https://edrms.bedford.gov.uk/OpenDocument.aspx?id=FQ2b4LGPg3edj1fOTa7V%2fw%3d%3d&name=Bedford%20Green%20Infrastructure%20Plan%202009.pdf> [Last Accessed: 17 September 2024]
- <sup>5</sup> Cambridgeshire County Council (2011). Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy. Available at: <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/media/2557/green-infrastructure-strategy.pdf> [Last Accessed: 17 September 2024]
- <sup>6</sup> HMSO (2015). The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2015/51> [Last Accessed: 17 September 2024]
- <sup>7</sup> BSI Standards Publication (2012). *BS 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction*. BSI
- <sup>8</sup> HMSO (1981). Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69> [Last Accessed: 12 September 2024]
- <sup>9</sup> Bat Conservation Trust and Institution of Lighting Professionals (2023). Guidance Note GN08/23 - Bats and Artificial Lighting at Night. Available at: <https://theilp.org.uk/publication/guidance-note-8-bats-and-artificial-lighting/> [Last Accessed: 17 September 2024]
- <sup>10</sup> National Grid (2022) Design guidelines for development near pylons and high voltage overhead power lines. Available at: <https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/document/130626/download> [Last Accessed: 17 September 2024]
- <sup>11</sup> BSI Standards Publication (1989). *BS 4428:1989 Code of practice for general landscape operations (excluding hard surfaces)*. BSI
- <sup>12</sup> BSI Standards Publication (2010). *BS 3998:2010 Tree work. Recommendations*. BSI