Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Appendix 2A: Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan

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Future Energy Llanwern Limited

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this document

1.1.1 This document, prepared on behalf of Future Energy Llanwern Limited (hereafter referred to as 'The Applicant'), presents the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) for the the Proposed Development. This document is submitted as an appendix to the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). This document will be updated for the ES, and a detailed CEMP will be produced following the appointment of a contractor, prior to the commencement of construction, which will be required to be in accordance with the oCEMP submitted as part of the DCO Application.

1.1.2 This document sets out the framework for the planned approach to environmental management during the construction phase of the Proposed Development and demonstrates how the mitigation measures and necessary monitoring requirements identified in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process during the construction phase of the Proposed Development will be implemented. This oCEMP has been informed by the potential impacts reported within the PEIR and includes both industry standard and best practice.

1.1.3 The detailed CEMP will be produced in accordance with the oCEMP presented and will be agreed with Newport City Council and Monmouthshire County Council in addition to relevant statutory consultees, prior to the commencement of the construction phase. All personnel and sub-contractors working on the project shall perform their duties in accordance with the requirements of the detailed CEMP. The Site Team shall report regularly to the Project Manager on the status and effectiveness of its implementation.

1.1.4 The practices and principles laid out here are subject to change before submission of the CEMP, and as such, this document should be read as an oCEMP.

1.1.5 The figures presented in **Table 1-1** support this Appendix.

Table 1-1 Figures which inform this Appendix

Figure number / Document reference	Drawing description
Figure 1-1	Site Layout
Figure 1-2	Environmental Constraints
Figure 2-2	PV Array Details
Figure 2-21	Primary and Secondary Points of Access
Figure 2-24	Public Right of Ways

1.1.6 This document does not consider the operational or decommissioning phases. Rather, an Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) (see; **Appendix 2B**) will be submitted alongside this document. An outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP) has been produced to support this PEIR (**Appendix 8J**) and will be updated for the ES. This oCEMP describes the principal construction activities and includes the following key elements:

- An overview of the Proposed Development and associated construction programme;
- Prior assessment of environmental impacts through accompanying PEIR;
- Reduction of potential adverse impacts through design and other mitigation measures identified;
- Monitoring of mitigation measures;
- Corrective action procedure; and
- reference to other complementary plans and procedures.

CEMP: Aims and Objectives

1.1.7 The purpose of the oCEMP is to provide a consistent approach to the control of construction activities for the entire project and mitigate potential effects on people and the environment. The key aims of the CEMP are to:

- Ensure all environmental commitments are met and that all requirements of relevant statutory legislation, standards, and guidance are fulfilled;
- Ensure that disturbance to the physical environment from the Proposed Development is avoided, or where this is not possible, that disturbances are minimised and appropriately mitigated;

- Ensure that impacts on landscape, ecological receptors, surface water, transport, tourism, historic sites, and cultural heritage are avoided, or where this is not possible, that impacts are minimised and appropriately mitigated;
- Ensure compliance with legislation and identify where it will be necessary to obtain authorisation from relevant statutory bodies;
- Ensure that the agreed site restoration is achieved on completion of the construction of the Proposed Development; and
- Ensure effective engagement with key stakeholders is undertaken as appropriate, in the delivery of the required mitigation.

1.1.8 Compliance with the detailed CEMP will be a contractual requirement for all personnel and contractors involved in the construction of the Proposed Development.

1.2 Overview of the Project

Overview

1.2.1 The Proposed Development would comprise the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of a ground mounted solar farm with a generating capacity of over 350 MW for a temporary period of 40 years within the Gwent Levels, defined as the Site.

1.2.2 At the time of writing this oCEMP, the description of the Proposed Development is indicative and a 'design envelope' approach has been adopted so that the environmental assessment can be carried out whilst retaining enough flexibility to accommodate further refinement during detailed design.

1.2.3 At this stage of the EIA, the Proposed Development is still undergoing design development and is the subject of public consultation and ongoing stakeholder engagement. The design of the Proposed Development and therefore the assessment of its effects and mitigation measures presented in the PEIR (**Volume 2**) will continue to evolve in response to consultation, as further baseline information becomes available, and as more detailed assessment is undertaken. The description of the Proposed Development will therefore be refined as the design continues to evolve through the key subsequent stages of the design, consultation and EIA process culminating in the ES that will accompany the DCO Application.

The Site

1.2.4 The Site is located within the vicinity of a number of small villages. Goldcliff and Whiston lie to the west of the Site, whilst the PEIR Assessment Boundary extends to the south of Redwick, between the village and coastline. The Site area has been positioned to avoid any direct abutment with residential properties in these settlements. The total area of the PEIR Assessment Boundary is 547.69 hectares (ha).

1.2.5 The total area of the PEIR Assessment Boundary is 547.69 hectares (ha). The PEIR Assessment Boundary is shown in, **Figure 1-1**.

1.2.6 There are multiple statutory designated sites within and around the PEIR Assessment Boundary – see **Section 1.4** of **Chapter 1: Introduction** for further information).

Elements of the Proposed Development

1.2.7 The elements of the Proposed Development that are situated within the PEIR Assessment Boundary comprises the following:

- A solar farm area of 149.05 ha which includes:
  - Photovoltaic (PV) Arrays;
  - PV Module Details;
  - Inverter units;
  - Transformers and Coupler Stations;
- Proposed Grid Connection Corridor;
- Grid Connection Infrastructure (Options 1 to 4 defined in **paragraph1.2.8**);
- Proposed access points;
- Proposed internal access roads;
- Temporary construction compounds
- Fencing and Gate Elevations;
- Fencing locations;
- Security requirements and CCTV Locations;
- Onsite cabling (including high and low voltage);
- Drainage proposals;

- Horizontal Directional Drilling Locations;
- Proposed crossing locations;
- Culvert details; and
- Cable Bridge crossings;
- Environmental mitigation and enhancement areas.

1.2.8 ‘Options’ as stated above are intentionally included within the PEIR Assessment Boundary to allow for further design refinement. The intention is, where possible, to refine the options to a single design for the ES and DCO Application. The Proposed Development's connection to the grid will likely consist of electrical infrastructure such as transformers, switchgear and safety equipment. The dimensions of the proposed Options are highly dependent on the findings of further work and will be refined through the iterative design process. See **Chapter 2: Description of the Proposed Development** for more information and a precise break down of the options considered.

2.0 Environmental Policies, Emergency Procedures and Corporate Responsibilities

2.1.1 The overall responsibility for implementation of this oCEMP lies with the Applicant and its appointed Principal Contractor (PC) for the construction works: the successful implementation of the detailed CEMP will ensure that all relevant environmental commitments and responsibilities are adhered to. The Applicant is also responsible for auditing the implementation of environmental mitigation measures on site and ensuring an audit plan is developed prior to construction commencing.

2.1.2 These documents, together with adherence to key legislation and good practice guidance, represent the environmental requirements and standards which all personnel must comply with when working on behalf of the Applicant. This oCEMP fully accords with all legislative requirements.

2.2 Principal Contractor

2.2.1 The PC for the construction of the Proposed Development (working on behalf of the Applicant) will be responsible for:

- Implementing the requirements of the CEMP in compliance with standard and site-specific Environmental Management Systems (EMS) best practice.
- Managing the environmental performance of all sub-contractors on site, including weekly monitoring to ensure that all sub-contractors comply with the requirements of the CEMP and EMS;
- Weekly monitoring of the environmental aspects of site works, ensuring compliance with the CEMP and EMS, including regular inspections, audits, and appropriate procedures for addressing urgent matters; and
- Training of site staff, including all sub-contractors, in general environmental awareness on specific environmental protection issues.

2.2.2 The PC will also be responsible for ensuring, through the incorporation of the provisions outlined in this document, that all relevant planning consent conditions, licences, and mitigation commitments that apply to site work are satisfactorily discharged. This will ensure that the environmental impact of construction activities

is kept to a practicable minimum.

2.3 Overall Responsibilities for the Site Management Team

2.3.1 Overall day to day responsibility for ensuring that all standard and site-specific environmental actions are adhered to rests with the PC's Site Management Team and the Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW).

2.3.2 The Site Management Team will undertake regular meetings and site inspections to ensure that all site-based personnel are aware of the environmental commitments as referenced or detailed in this document.

2.3.3 Under the direction of the PC all personnel and any sub-contractors working on this project must take all necessary precautions and undertake all measures within their control to ensure that all legal requirements are complied with and that no unnecessary damage, disturbance, or pollution results from undertaking the proposed construction works.

2.3.4 To ensure that the CEMP remains relevant and up to date, the contractor(s) will commit to undertake regular reviews of the CEMP.

2.3.5 To be confirmed in the CEMP, key responsibilities for the contractor(s) include:

- Ensure that the CEMP and associated documents and control methods are effectively implemented on-site on a day-to-day basis;
- Implement and maintain environmental controls on-site;
- Ensure that environmentally orientated briefings and toolbox talks are being delivered to the site workforce on a regular basis;
- Conduct and document weekly environmental inspections and communicate findings and any agreed actions with the site team;
- Report any activity that has potential to have an environmental effect immediately to the senior site manager;
- Ensure action is taken on any spills/incidents that occur on-site; and
- Fully investigate and act on any environmental incidents, including holding discussions around lessons learnt, and report the findings and agreed outcomes to the senior site manager

2.4 Incident Response

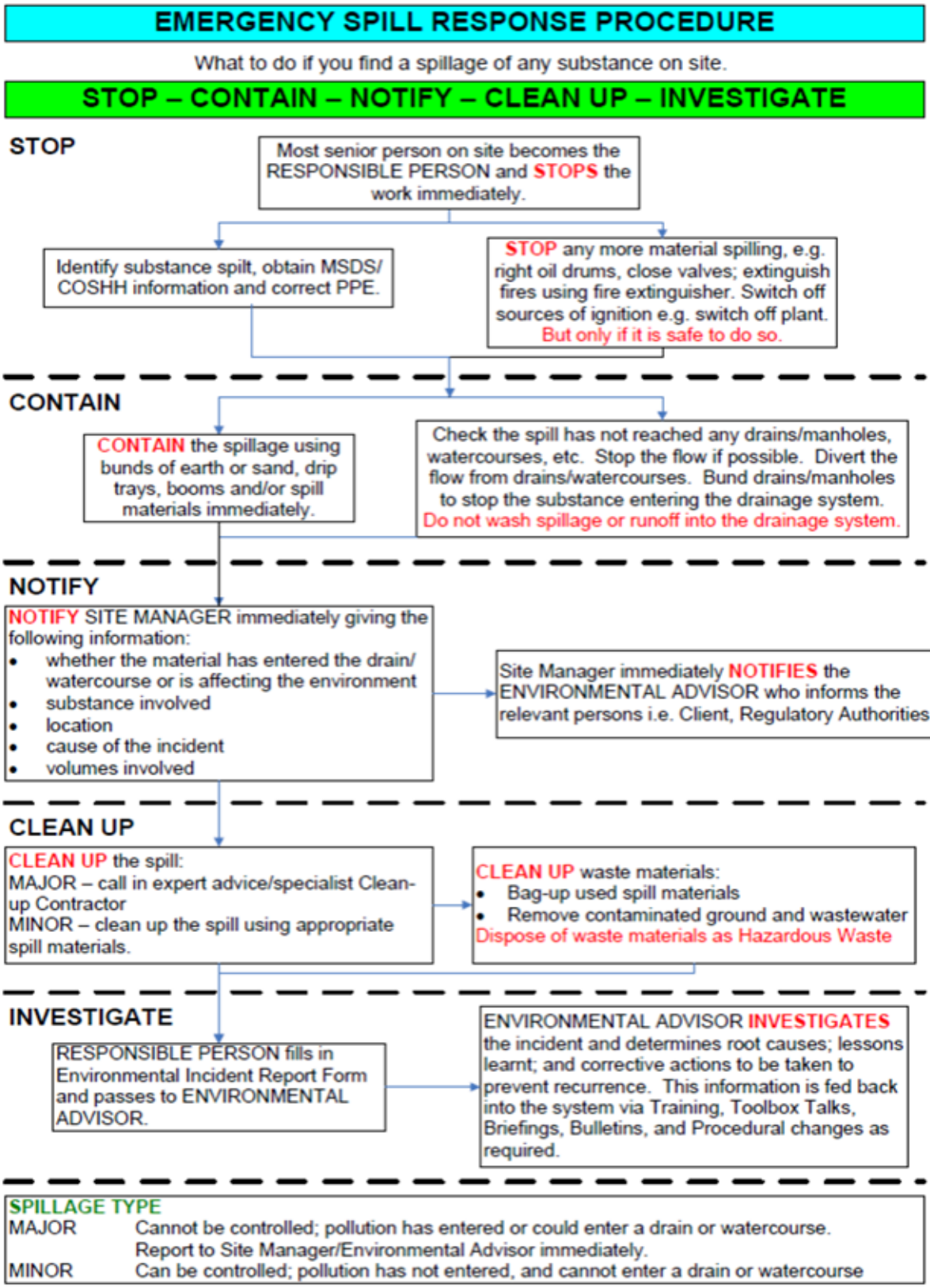
2.4.1 A Pollution Prevention Plan will be developed by the PC as part of the CEMP to highlight the potential pollution receptors specific to each works area and the activities taking place there. The document will be in place prior to construction activities commencing and will be available for viewing and be briefed to the workforce onsite.

2.4.2 The Pollution Prevention Plan will be reviewed and if necessary, updated, at least every six months. The key components of each Incident Response Plan be:

- A brief scope of works taking place onsite;
- Types of environmental incident that have the potential to occur (however low the risk);
- Types of hazardous material likely to be present onsite;
- A list of pollution receptors and maps showing their location relation to the Site;
- The procedure for responding to environmental incidents, reporting them and investigation (including spill or leak events);
- Key contact numbers for reporting of environmental incidents; and
- Recommendations to help reduce the likelihood of environmental incidents.

2.4.3 In the event of a spill or leak, the following process shown in **Plate 2-1** will be followed. This will be included in the Pollution Prevention Plan, and this will be briefed to the workforce and displayed onsite notice boards.

Plate 2-1 Spill Response Procedure



2.5 Emergency Procedures

2.5.1 All environmental incidents must be reported to the Site Management Team who will decide whether the incident is reportable to Natural Resources Wales (NRW) or other Regulators.

2.5.2 NRW should be contacted by the Site Management Team within 2 hours where an incident results in direct pollution of a watercourse. This should allow for inspecting the incident, taking immediate actions to control/mitigate impacts and enable NRW to inform third parties and to take further mitigation steps if required.

2.5.3 In addition to notification of any environmental incident via the National Pollution Hotline number (0800 807060), the local NRW Office must be contacted and informed; enquiries@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk

2.5.4 All emergency response arrangements will be included in the construction site induction.

Flood Emergency Response

2.5.5 If there are flood alerts in the vicinity of the construction site, the PC site manager will:

- CONTACT NRW flood warning line on 0345 988 1188;
- OBTAIN as much information as possible from NRW i.e., what timescales are involved and what level of flooding is expected;
- If flooding is IMMINENT ensure that fuel, oil, and other potential contaminants are moved out of danger or stored as securely as possible; and
- If the extent of the flooding becomes serious and an EVACUATION of the site is deemed necessary, a decision to evacuate will be made by a senior manager on site.

Other Environmental Incidents

2.5.6 Should any other type of environmental incident not identified above occur on-site, all works in the area should cease immediately and the incident reported to the Site Management Team. Examples of other types of environmental incidents These may include:

- Complaints from third parties e.g., noise, dust, light pollution;
- Discovery of suspected contaminated land;
- Discovery of protected animals, birds, or reptiles;
- Damage to trees and hedgerows;
- Discovery of archaeological or historic remains; and
- Near misses – where events could have led to a minor or major incident.

2.5.7 In the event of any other type of environmental incident, the PC's Site Management Team should be notified immediately.

3.0 Construction Environmental Issues

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 This section of the oCEMP identifies key environmental issues which may require to be addressed during the construction process, together with appropriate environmental management actions.

3.2 Timing of Works and Contingency Plans

3.2.1 The timing of the construction works will be very important. Where possible, the works will be planned to avoid periods of high rainfall throughout the year due to the associated additional challenges with managing run off and storm events. Further guidance on management of surface water flows during the construction phase of the Proposed Development are included in **Section 5.4** of this oCEMP.

3.2.2 Hours of working will be limited to take place between 07:00 to 19:00 hours on weekdays and 07:00 to 13:00 on Saturdays, with no working taking place on Sundays or bank holidays. Specifically, pilling activities will be restricted to 09:00 to 17:00 hours Monday to Friday Quiet on-site working activities such as electrical commissioning have been assumed to extend outside the core working times, where required. Working hours may be reduced at times due to seasonal or weather restrictions or in certain locations where required as mitigation (for example during the breeding bird season should a stand-off from an active nest be required). There may be a requirement for certain activities to take place outside of these hours (for example, concrete pours). Such activities would be subject to prior approval from Newport City Council and Monmouthshire County Council.

3.2.3 There are various contingency plans in place in this oCEMP and appendices covering emergency procedures for various aspects including pollution prevention, flooding, waste management etc. These various measures are all considered to amount to suitable and appropriate contingency plans for the construction of the Proposed Development.

3.3 Site Environmental Monitoring Processes

Monitoring Schedule

3.3.1 Where required on the project, environmental monitoring will be carried out in accordance with the PC's relevant HSSE Procedures and Guidance Notes. These would be detailed in the site-specific CEMP produced by PC.

3.3.2 The following monitoring presented in **Table 3-1** will be carried out throughout the duration of the construction:

Table 3-1 Monitoring Schedule

Item	Details	Staff Responsible
Daily Monitoring	Local access tracks onto the nearby public highway and hardstanding areas for mud/debris needing to be cleaned.	Site Manager
	Aggregate and sand delivery vehicles to be appropriately sheeted	Site Manager
	Access tracks inspected for dust arisings and dampened down	Site Manager
	Site inspected for litter	All site staff
	Clearance of litter	All site staff
Weekly Monitoring	Storage containers and bunds in temporary compound checked for leaks / damage	Site Manager
	Waste removed from storage areas	Site Manager
	Construction drainage systems checked for blockages and for damage	Site Manager
	Fences around sensitive environmental areas checked for correct position and for damage	ECoW (for ecological areas) Site Manager
	Signage and fences/gates around rights of way checked to ensure they are readable, in the correct position and not damaged	Site Manager
Monthly Monitoring	Position and direction of lighting	Site Manager
	Condition of access tracks, including adjacent verges and drainage channels	Site Manager
	Operation of wheel wash and condition of drainage serving.	Site Manager
As required	Servicing of vehicles and machinery	Site Manager

3.4 Site Waste Management

3.4.1 All the electrical infrastructure is expected to be delivered to the Site ready for installation and therefore construction and assembly waste is expected to be minimal. Significant material is not expected to be removed from the Site during the construction phase owing to the lack of demolition, minimal requirement for levelling and relatively little waste associated with Solar Farms, except for general waste associated with office/administrative activities. If material extraction is required, then the good site waste management practices in the subsequent sections will be implemented by the contractors for the construction works. These measures will be included within the detailed CEMP which will set out how excavated materials will be managed.

Ordering

- Do not over order materials;
- Prioritise ordering the correct sizes of materials as opposed to ordering standard lengths as this will increase potential for waste;
- Any excess materials will be returned to central storage within an offsite yard; and
- Plan delivery times to ensure that materials of appropriate quantities are on site at the right time and to limit congestion of delivery vehicles.

Storage – Good Housekeeping

- Incorrect storage could lead to damage or contamination - replacement items are then required;
- Check shelf life and storage instructions on packaging;
- Segregate waste types – inactive, active, special, and then material types – metals, wood, concrete, plastic etc.;
- Recycle and reuse materials wherever possible e.g., timber, plastics, cardboard, tyres etc.;
- Waste must not be kept in a corroded or worn container. The minimal waste from offcuts of materials will be stored within closed waste skips;
- Ensure that any container is secure, where necessary, so as to prevent accidental spillage, leakage etc;
- Waste must be kept in a manner that prevents it from falling from containers while in storage or in transit;

- Waste must be protected in an appropriate manner to prevent scavenging from animals; and
- Do not allow waste storage containers to overflow.

Delivery and Handling

- Avoid damage during unloading;
- Unload in designated areas, where possible, to minimise double handling;
- Do not accept incorrect deliveries; and
- Be aware that repetitive handling leads to damage.

Waste Sorting, Storage and Recycling

3.4.2 All waste materials would be stored on Site in segregated areas. The PC would provide method statements for the collection, storage and transportation of materials / waste. Where appropriate, materials / waste would be segregated on the Site in skips or bunded tanks and transported to appropriate sites or recycling facilities.

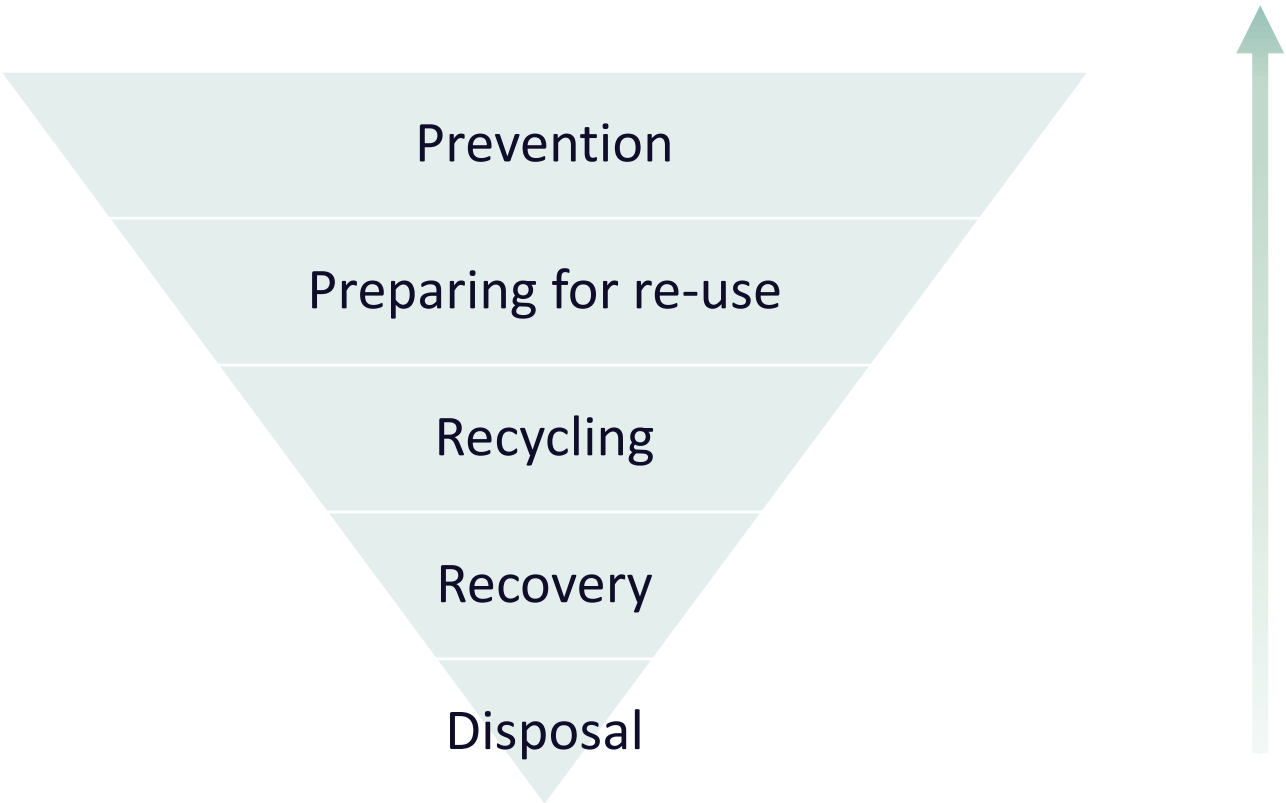
3.4.3 No materials will be burned on the Site. Hazardous waste will be held in a separate skip (or suitable bunded facility) and disposed of at a suitably licensed site.

3.4.4 All records ensuring the Duty of Care for waste will be kept within the contractor's site office during the construction of the Proposed Development. No waste would leave the Site until the appropriate waste carriers' license and management certificates for the disposal site or transfer station have been inspected and authenticated by the relevant parties. All waste leaving the Site will be accompanied with a Waste Transfer Note (WTN) (for non-hazardous material) or Hazardous Waste Consignment Note (HWCN).

Waste Hierarchy

3.4.5 Further to the above, the PC will be required to undertake waste management in accordance with the waste hierarchy to help ensure that the amount of waste generated is minimised, and where possible, recycled. Error! Reference source not found. below sets out the waste hierarchy which will be used during the construction process.

Plate 3-1 Waste Hierarchy (Source: Corporate cover and copyright page for consultations (gov.wales))



Importing and Disposal of Waste

3.4.6 Should any waste need to be imported to Site during the construction works, such as packaging for materials delivered to Site, they would be stored and used only in accordance with either a waste management licence or exemption under The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 (Ref 2A-22). Similarly, any waste from within Site offices or welfare facilities will be disposed of within closed skips, located within the temporary construction compound and removed on a regular basis. Any waste removed from Site would be disposed of at suitably licensed or exempt waste management facilities in accordance with these regulations.

Control of Hazardous Materials

3.4.7 The use of hazardous materials will be avoided where possible in the construction of the Proposed Development with priority being given to non-hazardous materials over those which require special precautions under the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health regulations.

3.4.8 Where hazardous materials and substances are needed on site these will be stored

in a secure lockable container located within the temporary construction compound in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

3.4.9 Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (CoSHH) assessments would be completed by all contractors for activities using hazardous substances.

3.4.10 Any on-site facilities for the storage, transportation or refuelling of chemicals, oils or fuels shall be sited on suitable impervious bunds. No discharge of hazardous materials to any watercourse, land or underground strata would be permitted.

Sewage Treatment

3.4.11 All sewage will be captured in an enclosed self-contained septic tank, which will be emptied by a certified waste carrier. These assets will be routinely emptied and inspected.

3.5 Details of Track Maintenance, Oil Storage and Lighting Columns

3.5.1 Detailed Construction Method Statements will be prepared by the appointed site contractor team for each element of the works prior to commencement, however, the following sections provide an overview of the working methodologies which will be employed on the Site during the construction period for these details.

Track Maintenance

3.5.2 A regular maintenance regime will be established to prevent water ponding and excessive build up on the track surface. This will generally be carried out by:

- Regular grading of the tracks to remove any slurry;
- Topping the track with graded stone to ensure minimal ponding; and
- Using an observational technique which will highlight areas that require additional maintenance.

3.5.3 Reinstatement of the sides of the access tracks will be undertaken where possible as the construction progresses. This will be dependent on a number of factors such as weather conditions, the programme, permanent cable location and the site track layout.

3.5.4 On completion of the access tracks, it is envisaged that any further disturbed ground would be reinstated.

3.5.5 A further reinstatement period will also be required at the end of the project to complete works to the site compound areas. Typically, turves and topsoil removed in the original excavation will be re-used in the restoration to ensure natural regeneration.

Oil Storage

3.5.6 The following general requirements will be followed on-site:

- Spill Stations will be located at each work area where refuelling is carried out or any risk of spillage is identified. Positions will be reviewed continually and relocated to suit ongoing/programmed works;
- Spill Response Instructions will be kept on prominent display at fuel storage areas, spill stations and in the site office;
- Oil and fuel storage tanks will be self-bunded (with 110% of volume storage) and will be physically protected by spill trays. All valves and tank couplings will be located within the tank bund, and a spill kit will be held beside the bulk storage tank;
- Mobile plant and vehicles will be refuelled beside relevant tanks. Filler handles will be auto-shut-off trigger-spring type, i.e., as per garage pumps. They will be stored within the bund at all times. Static plant will be refuelled at their operational location using a mobile bunded fuel bowser or jerry cans (all static plant to have spill tray/plant nappy);
- All fuel and oil containers will be locked in a secure store to prevent theft and vandalism;
- Where fuel is to be transported in small quantities, only fuel-type marked ‘jerry cans’ 5/10/20 litre will be used. All bunds and settlement areas will be checked daily for evidence of pollutants. Adequate oil absorbent and containment materials must be held in signposted ‘spill stations’ and staff briefed on how to use spill equipment effectively; and
- Oil contaminated water from bunded areas, drip trays or plant nappies will be removed using oil-absorbent pads. Contaminated water or other materials will be disposed to an appropriate disposal site with the necessary paperwork in place in accordance with Site Waste Management arrangements.

Lighting Columns

3.5.7 Works are to be undertaken under normal daylight and night working will be avoided.

3.5.8 Where artificial illumination is required, such as task lighting or compound lighting, such lighting would be positioned at low level on posts / tripods and directed at the most frequently used areas of work.

3.5.9 Cowled lighting would be used to minimise light spill beyond site compounds which would only be in place during the construction period. Should there be a need to provide temporary illumination of working areas in the mornings and evenings and also if any night-work is required so as to ensure safe working, then this will be achieved through the use of mobile lighting units. Although the Site is generally remote from residential properties, temporary lighting will be positioned in such a manner that light 'spillage' is avoided. No permanent lighting columns would be installed on Site.

3.5.10 Efforts will be made to ensure that any onsite lighting will be directed away from any of the identified site habitats. Including:

- Temporary lighting during the construction phase would avoid lighting reens, ditches, ponds and hedges.
- Motion sensors would be used, minimising the use of light; spill limited so only the task area is lit using accessories (e.g. hoods) to shield or direct light to where it is required.
- Lighting would use narrow spectrum light sources emitting minimal ultraviolet light peaking higher than 550nm, white lighting should be of a warm /neutral colour temperature.
- Cowled lighting would be used to minimise light spill beyond site compounds which would only be in place during the construction period.
- Inward facing security lighting would be provided at temporary construction compounds on a 24-hour basis.
- Where artificial illumination is required, such as task lighting or compound lighting, such lighting would be positioned at low level on posts / tripods and directed at the most frequently used areas of work.

3.6 Water Abstraction

3.6.1 There will be no abstraction from watercourses. In the event that there is not enough mains water available on-site for plant washing and dust suppression, water may be

tankered to the Site. Any potential effects on Private Water Supplies will be assessed within the ES and any potential mitigation measures required will be set out in this oCEMP.

3.7 Public Safety and Access

3.7.1 Appropriate signage and fencing as necessary will be put in place on site during the construction works to ensure that public safety is maintained. Should there be any need to restrict access during the construction works, then this will be kept to a minimum and will only be for areas where there are active works taking place.

3.7.2 An information board will be kept adjacent to the Site compound and Site access which will provide information on the timing of construction works and contact details for the appointed site manager in the event of any queries.

3.7.3 There is a Public Right of Way (PRoW) network within and surrounding the Proposed Development (**Figure 2-24**). During the construction of the Proposed Development, infrastructure would intersect existing PRoWs. Access to all PRoWs will be maintained during the construction and operation of the Proposed Development. Access during construction will be maintained via banksmen. All alternative routes will be agreed with Newport City Council and Monmouthshire County Council before implementation.

3.7.4 Two PRoWs, within the PEIR Assessment Boundary, are to be permanently re-routed as depicted in **Figure 2-24**:

- A section of Footpath 404/3/1, approximately 1.2 km in length, will be diverted at X:339500, Y:183654 to adjoin Green Lane 392/GL5/1 (Mead Lane).; and
- a section of Footpath 404/5/1, approximately 400m in length, will be diverted between X:341060, Y:183591 and X:341152 and Y:183916.

3.7.5 Subject to the construction phasing and methodology there may be a requirement to temporarily divert or close other PRoW for a period during the construction phase.

3.7.6 Signage will be required where a PRoW crosses the Site access to advise users of the construction works taking place. Occasional temporary, short restrictions may be required when abnormal loads or high traffic loads are expected. Such temporary

restrictions will be managed by Site staff (banksman) at the access point.

3.8 Construction Traffic and Site Access

3.8.1 The Proposed Development would be primarily accessed via the M4 and the A4810 down Broad Street Common (ST 38552 85031) through to North Row (ST 41236 84602), which lies 403m north-east of the PEIR Boundary. The following access points depicted on **Figure 2-21** are proposed as main site entrances:

- Site Entrance 1: the substation area would be accessed from Broad Street Common which runs through the PEIR Assessment Boundary between the Site and the National Grid National Grid Substation (ST 38552 85031);
- Site Entrance 2: Access off the junction at North Row and Broad Street Common (ST 39852 85634);
- Site Entrance 3: Access off Sea Street Lane (ST 41300 84044):

3.8.2 A number of secondary points of access to the Site will be required across the Proposed Development owing to the extent of individual land parcels that comprise the PEIR Assessment Boundary. Further details relating to the secondary points of access will be confirmed once the general arrangement and layout of the Proposed Development is further developed, however it is anticipated that the main point of entrances identified will be predominantly used and the secondary access points used when required. The following secondary access points are depicted on **Figure 2-21** and are currently under consideration:

- Site Entrance 4: at Half Acre Corner;
- Site Entrance 5: South Row (ST 41985 84457);
- Site Entrance 6: Access off Pill Street (ST 42611 85064);
- Site Entrance 7: Access off the unnamed road at the junction at Pill Street and Whitewall (ST 43337 85358);
- Site Entrance 8: Access off the Causeway (ST 41318 83847); and
- Site Entrance 8: Access off Clifton Common (ST 37759 83557).

3.8.3 The vehicle movements anticipated for the entire four-year construction period have been summarised in Error! Reference source not found. below.

Table 3-2 Construction Vehicle Movements

Purpose	Type of Vehicle	Two Way Movements
Delivery of Solar Panels & PV Mounting Structures	16.5m Articulated Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV)	**1810**
Inverters	10m Rigid HGV	**156**
DNO Cabinet	12m Rigid HGV	**22**
Customer Switchgear	10m Rigid HGV	**22**
Access Tracks – Temporary Ground Re-Enforcement Works	10m Rigid HGV /Tipper Truck	**1050**
Storage Compound	10m Rigid HGV	**22**
Other (Cabling, Construction Material, Waste)	12m Rigid HGV	**714**
General Front End JCB by low loader	Low Loader HGV	**22**
Erection of the Substation	16.5m Articulated HGV	**68**
Construction Crane	Crane	**1**
16 Circuit Breaker Units	**Low Loaders HGV**	**16**

3.8.4 Relevant noise levels associated with the machinery described in Error! Reference source not found.are provided in **Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration**.

3.8.5 **Chapter 14: Transport and Access** presents further details relating to construction traffic movement.

3.8.6 During the construction phase, the appointed contractor will ensure that the impacts from construction traffic on the local communities are mitigated, where reasonably practicable.

3.8.7 An outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) will be developed for the ES which will guide the delivery of materials and staff onto the Proposed Development during the construction phase. A detailed CTMP will be developed by the appointed contractor and approved by the Newport City Council and Monmouthshire County Council and will be secured as a Requirement of the DCO.

3.8.8 Additionally, a draft Travel Plan (**Appendix 15A**) has been prepared to support the PEIR which will be updated for the ES. The Travel Plan will encourage construction staff to utilise sustainable modes of transport for journeys to and from the Site where possible.

3.9 Construction Compounds

3.9.1 During the construction phase, a primary construction compound is expected to be located onsite with temporary secondary construction compounds provided at different locations throughout the Site as demonstrated on **Figure 2-21**. These temporary construction compounds will be located in key areas as the construction phases progress compounds would be reinstated as new compounds are developed.

3.9.2 The construction compounds, which will be utilised in a sequential process, constitute temporary works and will remain for the duration of the construction period. The compounds will include provisions for storage of materials, office and welfare spaces, etc.

3.9.3 The compound areas will be positioned and built in a way that ensures minimal disruption to its surroundings in terms of noise to surroundings and any impact to nearby watercourses, reens, ditches, etc. The construction compound will be offset at a distance of 12.5m from the top of bank of any main river or reen and 7m from the top of bank of any other ditch.

Storage of Construction Plant and Materials

3.9.4 No long-term onsite storage of materials is required during the construction phase. Materials will be delivered via HGVs at regular intervals to the construction compounds and transported directly to where it is required within the Site using smaller Large Goods Vehicle (LGVs).

3.9.5 Short term storage of materials and plant can be accommodated within the construction compound until it is required.

3.9.6 Topsoil, spoil and other construction materials will be stored outside of the 1 in 100 year floodplain extent and only moved to the temporary works area immediately prior to use.

Storage of materials and disposal of surplus material

3.9.7 Materials will be delivered to the temporary construction compounds. Delivery vehicles are to unload within the compound and the load is to then be distributed around the Site as per the needs of the construction activities and programme.

3.9.8 All delivery vehicles will be able to enter the Site, unload within the compound areas, and exit the Site. In the case of road construction, stone materials will be directly deposited to areas of construction to minimise double handling, reduce traffic movements and avoid excess dust. The Site will operate with a JIT (just in time) delivery protocol, which signifies only accepting a delivery of material soon before said material is to be used in the construction, meaning only a small storage area will be required within the temporary construction compounds.

3.9.9 In alignment with the position of the construction compounds, materials shall not be stored within the following proximity of the watercourses, reens or ditches:

- Minimum of 12.5m away from the top of the banks of main rivers; and
- 7m from the top of reen or ditch banks.

3.9.10 Fuels are to be stored in double-skinned, locked and bunded fuel bowsers, as far away from watercourses as possible, and away from the regular passage of construction traffic. Spill kits shall be located next to the fuel bowsers. Any other potentially hazardous material will also be stored within a designated, impermeable, bunded area, in keeping with The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (Ref 2A-1) and Safety Data Sheet requirements.

3.9.11 Materials, plants, spill kits and fuel storage areas will be protected from vandalism and inspected regularly for signs of damage. Keys will be removed from unattended vehicles/plant.

3.9.12 Usable Surplus materials shall be returned to compound to either be returned to supplier or stored.

3.9.13 All materials would be stored outside of the site-wide buffer zones of 12.5m from the top of bank of any main river or Internal Drainage Board reen to the Construction Zone (fence line of the development) and 7m from the top of bank of any other reen or ditch.

Site Reinstatement and Habitat Creation

3.9.14 A number of temporary working areas will need to be created during the construction works. Upon completion of the construction phase, the land used for temporary working will be returned to soft landscape elements to maximise biodiversity and appropriate to the overall land use for the area.

3.9.15 The temporary construction compounds and all other temporary works shall be dismantled and the top soil reinstated to its original state, where areas are not being panelled. Following construction, the areas between panel rows will be power harrowed, re-seeded with vegetation, as per the Requirements of the DCO. All developed areas of the Site will include vegetation cover, appropriately managed, to promote low erosive sheet flow during the operational lifetime of the Development.

3.9.16 In areas of the Site with minimal disturbance, the grassland may be allowed to re-colonise naturally. Where more significant disturbance has occurred, bare ground will be restored to permanent grassland using an appropriate with an appropriate late-flowering seed mix which would be used for the areas within the PEIR Assessment Boundary where the sward has been damaged and cultivation and seeding are required.

3.9.17 These objectives will align with the measures set out in the oLEMP to be provided at ES which will set out the principles for how the land will be managed throughout the operational phase, following the completion of construction.

Spoil Management

3.9.18 The Proposed Development is anticipated to generate spoil[1] from cable trenches, temporary construction compounds, internal roads and substation compounds. Whilst it is not anticipated that the Proposed Development will generate excess spoil that will require removal from the Site, specific areas within construction compounds will be designated for stockpiling and the temporary storage and management of spoil material. Should more locations be required, other areas may be identified in accordance with the Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) and will take into account

[1] 'Spoil' is excess materials, such as soil, rock, and debris, etc.

the following conditions:

- Avoid flood-prone areas and buffer at least 12.5 m from watercourses, drainage ditches, and hedgerows.
- Stay clear of retained vegetation, protected habitats, and archaeological features.

3.9.19 Any spoil material generated will be used throughout the construction phase and utilised across the Site. Examples include the backfilling of cable trenches and reinstatement of temporary construction compounds. An Outline Soil Management Plan will be included in the outline oCEMP will be submitted to support the ES.

4.0 Construction Activities

4.1 Overview of Construction Activities

4.1.1 Further details relating to construction activities are provided in **Chapter 2: Description of the Proposed Development.**

4.1.2 The following enabling works would involve the preparation of the Site and carrying out the following activities:

- Site inductions & toolbox talks;
- Coppicing / removal of hedgerows (where required);
- Delivery of construction materials, plant and equipment to the Site;
- Establishing of the perimeter fencing;
- Establishment of primary and secondary temporary construction compounds;
- Upgrade of existing track and the construction of new and/or temporary site accesses, as required; and
- Upgrade of construction of crossing points over drainage ditches and below ground utility infrastructure.

4.1.3 The following construction activities would be required to support the installation of the Solar Farm:

- Delivery and transport of solar infrastructure to Site;
- Piling (through the utilisation of a piling rig) and erection of PV Mounting Structures, which includes foundations to a maximum depth of 3m (see **Figure 2-2**);
- Piling and erection of string inverters, which includes foundations to a maximum depth of 3m, on the back of the Solar Panels (see **Figure 2-2**);
- Mounting of Solar Panels on PV Modules;
- Installation of ancillary electrical equipment such as control systems, monitoring and communication;
- Construction of cable routes and National Grid Substation Connection;
- Construction of cable tray crossings;
- Installation of cabling and horizontal directional drilling (HDD) where high voltage cables intersect obstacles including reens, roads, farm tracks and pedestrian pathways.;

- Installation of security fencing around the perimeter of the Site; and
- Installation of temporary and permanent access roads.

Testing and Commissioning

4.1.4 Commissioning of the Proposed Development will include testing of the electrical transmission from the Proposed Development, this will include inspections of cables, switchgear and transformers and testing system integration prior to energising. Commissioning of the solar infrastructure will involve mechanical and visual inspection, electrical and equipment testing, and commencement of electricity supply into the grid.

4.2 Construction Programme

4.2.1 The construction of the Proposed Development is anticipated to take four years spread across three phases as depicted in **Figure 2-30**; however, the final programme will be dependent on the detailed layout design and consideration of potential environmental constraints on the timing of construction activities. As such, the ES will present further details relating to the construction activities, as well as their anticipated duration. These issues will be addressed in the ES.

4.3 Construction Hours and Staff

4.3.1 During the peak of construction, an average of 265 staff per day will be required to work across the Proposed Development. This number will be lower during other periods of the construction phase.

4.3.2 Indicative hours for the construction work and any construction-related traffic movements to or from the Proposed Development are as follows:

- 07:00 to 19:00 hours Monday to Friday; and
- 08:00 to 13:00 hours on Saturday.

4.3.3 Specifically, piling activities will be restricted to 09:00 to 17:00 hours Monday to Friday.

4.3.4 No activity outside of these indicative hours, including Sundays, public holidays or bank holidays will take place unless otherwise agreed in writing with Newport City Council and Monmouthshire County Council.

5.0 Topic Specific Management Plans

5.1 Dust Management

5.1.1 The main activities involved in this project which may cause dust emissions include the following:

- Construction vehicle movements;
- Cutting and grinding of concrete and blocks;
- Earthworks (including borrow pit activities); and
- Stockpiles.

General Requirements

5.1.2 Particular care would be required to maintain dust emissions at a practicable minimum when working in the vicinity of residential properties and environmentally sensitive areas. Good practice mitigation would be required during dry conditions. The use of Best Practicable Means (as defined in Part III of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (REF 2A-2) would be employed. The PC will be responsible for undertaking and recording daily checks to manage dust emissions. The environmental measures to be implemented to control dust emissions during construction and decommissioning are:

- Check the local weather forecast at start of working day to identify likely daily weather conditions;
- The use of dust suppression facilities on-site. This would include the provision of water bowsers with sufficient capacity and range to dampen down all areas which may lead to dust escape on-site;
- Any storage on-site of aggregate or fine material would be properly enclosed and screened so that dust escape is avoided. Adequate sheeting would also be provided for the finer materials which are prone to ‘wind whipping’;
- Wheel wash facilities would be installed for vehicles entering and exiting the PEIR Assessment Boundary where required. This facility would be able to automatically clean the lower parts of the HGVs by removing mud, clay etc. from the wheels and chassis in one drive through operation;
- HGVs entering and exiting the Site would be fitted with adequate sheeting to totally cover any load carried which has the potential to be ‘wind whipped’ from the vehicle;

- Good housekeeping or ‘clean up’ arrangements would be employed so that the Site is kept as clean as reasonably practicable. There will be daily inspections of the working areas and immediate surrounding areas to ensure that any dust accumulation or spillages are removed/cleaned up as soon as reasonably practicable;
- A contact person will be appointed, to whom complaints/ queries about construction dust can be directed. Any complaints shall be investigated, and action will be taken where appropriate;
- Undertake regular visual checks throughout the day to ensure dust at the above locations is being suppressed;
- Avoid the use of open skips wherever possible;
- In the event that dust is being blown off-site, cease dust generating activities until wind conditions improve or dust is suitably managed;
- Actively monitor dust management and where dust pollution is likely to affect neighbours, cease all activities until suitable management procedures can be implemented;
- A record will be kept on site of all dust related complaints and remedial actions taken;
- Complaints will be reported to the PC’s Environmental Management Team and where required, a review of the dust management procedures will be undertaken; and
- Staff will be briefed on changes required to working practices to ensure the incident is not repeated.

5.1.3 In addition to the above daily checks, the following dust management procedures will be followed on site:

- All staff will be trained in the importance of dust management procedures;
- Activities on site will be planned to ensure risk of pollution from wind-blown dust is reduced to a minimum;
- Only appropriate plant will be used, and all equipment will be regularly maintained; and
- Burning of materials is not permitted in any working area

5.2 Landscape Management

5.2.1 There would be environmental monitoring and reporting to ensure the removal, reinstatement, and clear up of the temporary construction compound / laydown areas and any related construction arisings / redundant material.

5.2.2 An outline Landscape Environmental Management Plan has been prepared to support this PEIR. The oLEMP will be updated as ES stage as the design for the Proposed Development progresses. The key elements will include the reinstatement of the construction compound, laydown areas and any other temporary construction areas. Site tracks would be 'softened' with shoulders graded with excavated subsoil and completed with the original topsoil and turfs where available.

5.2.3 On completion of Site construction, the Site entrance and access tracks would be cleared of any construction signage and left in a tidy and co-ordinated condition with verges restored and field boundary fencing neatly tied into new gates / access details.

5.3 Noise Management

5.3.1 An assessment of the potential likely significant noise and vibration effects resulting from the construction and operation of the Proposed Development has been undertaken and is set out in **Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration**.

5.3.2 The works to construct the Proposed Development will be undertaken in accordance with best practice measures. Measures to control and reduce construction noise emissions may include:

- Priority will be given to equipment that generates less noise where appropriate;
- All construction activities undertaken in accordance with good practice as set out in BS5228-1:2009+A1:2014 (Ref 2A-3).
- All employees on the construction site will receive appropriate environmental training in relation to construction noise at the beginning of the contract and throughout the construction.
- All employees on the construction site will be advised of quieter methods of operating plant and tools. Noise control measures (silencers, mufflers, any noise barriers, etc.) are to be subject to regular inspection and maintenance.
- Construction plant capable of generating significant noise and vibration levels will be operated in a manner to minimise noise emissions.
- Deliveries would be programmed to arrive during daytime hours only, with care being taken to minimise noise when unloading vehicles.

- Delivery vehicles would be prohibited from waiting within the Site temporary construction compound with their engines running.
- Access to the Site would be along agreed access routes only.
- Access tracks would be kept in good order with any large deviations, e.g. pot holes, filled to retain an even surface.
- There shall be compliance with agreed working hours, e.g. construction activities audible beyond the PEIR Assessment Boundary would only be undertaken during the daytime between 07:00 to 19:00 hours Monday to Friday and 07:00 to 13:00 hours on Saturdays, Specifically, piling activities will be restricted to 09:00 to 17:00 hours Monday to Friday.
- or as agreed with the Newport City Council and Monmouthshire County Council Environmental Health Officers.
- Effective liaison with the local community shall be established and maintained throughout the construction period. This would include forewarning the occupants of receptors within 300m of the noisy/vibratory stages of work and explaining the measures being implemented prior to the commencement of works. Liaison with the local community will also include general provision of information on the on-going activities and provision of contact telephone numbers for the Site to obtain information during operational hours. A representative will also be identified with appropriate authority to resolve any problems and a log of complaints and actions taken to remedy these being maintained.

5.4 Water Environment

5.4.1 No works are to be undertaken within 12.5m or 7m of a watercourse, with the exception of watercourse crossings, which have been minimised as far as possible. Throughout the construction phase of the development, Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) will be provided. This will help to ensure that contaminated surface water runoff, arising from earthworks, roads, drainage, compounds and any other associated infrastructure, do not pollute any watercourses.

5.4.2 Where access necessitates watercourse crossings, construction features will limit the buffers as far as possible, for example, minimising access tracks running parallel to watercourses and avoiding track junctions being constructed in these zones.

5.4.3 Increases in surface water runoff from new completely impermeable surfaces would be limited to foundations for transformers. Other new infrastructure such as access tracks, Solar Panels and ancillary infrastructure would permit some infiltration

through semi-permeable unbounded aggregates. Rock, if used, will be engineered to meet 6f2, Class 1C and Class 2C specifications, comprising of crushed granular material and coarse stone. These materials would be compacted, but would still allow some infiltration from direct rainfall. To service both impermeable and semi-permeable surfaces, the surface water drainage system would be installed following SuDS principles.

Pollution Prevention

5.4.4 Key measures identified to reduce potential for pollution include:

- Areas of construction compounds that are used for fuel storage, plant maintenance and refuelling will be surfaced with fully impermeable materials to prevent any infiltration of contaminated runoff.
- An effective accident response protocol will be developed to ensure any spillages or potential pollution incidents are dealt with appropriately including the provision of containment for spills of contaminated liquids.
- Plant and machinery will be maintained to minimise the risks of oil leaks or similar. Any tanks containing oils, fuels and chemicals will be double skinned.
- Fuel storage will be in accordance with Pollution Prevention (PPGs). All stores of fuel will be located at least 20m from any watercourses and away from areas at risk of flooding.
- Secure oil and chemical storage in over-ground bunded areas, limited to the minimum volume required to serve immediate needs with specified delivery and refuelling areas.
- Emergency spill kits retained onsite with regular briefings and training for site operatives on emergency response arrangements;
- Any temporary onsite storage of excavated materials suspected or confirmed to be contaminated will be placed on impermeable sheeting, covered over and with adequate leachate/ runoff drainage to prevent migration of contaminants from the stockpile.
- A surface water quality monitoring programme is recommended, to commence prior to construction and continue into the early operational period. During construction, this would include an adaptive monitoring system enabling early investigation of parameters outwith expected ranges, with prompt alerts to the construction team to amend any work activities causing an adverse effect.
- PWS monitoring at selected abstractions within the vicinity of the Proposed Development would also be undertaken prior to, during and after

construction. The monitoring strategy would be agreed with Newport City Council and Monmouthshire County Council.

Surface Water Drainage Strategy

5.4.5 A Surface Water Drainage Strategy (SWDS) will be produced and provided to support the ES. The SWDS provides specific information in relation to the management of surface water drainage on the Site during the operational phase of the Proposed Development. The SWDS has evaluated the drainage disposal route and determined that surface water runoff will be discharged into the local watercourse network. Multiple SuDS features will be incorporated to provide flow attenuation, maintain adequate water quality, and deliver biodiversity and amenity benefits.

Soil Storage and Management

5.4.6 Soil stripped from any areas on site will be stored in temporary mounds alongside each area, for re-spreading, following completion of infrastructure installation in accordance with the approved reinstatement plan.

5.4.7 The following measures will be employed on site to minimise loss and compaction of soils and peat:

- An access plan following the consented access track routes will be developed and physically demarcated on the ground prior to construction. The plan and demarcated route will provide a controlled route and a permissible corridor within which service vehicles and plant can operate prior to soil stripping. The purpose of this is to protect soils in areas that will otherwise not be affected by the Development layout and prevent unnecessary damage.
- Further measures could include the use of construction traffic exclusion zones, signage and additional demarcation through particularly sensitive areas.
- If ground conditions require it, a temporary trackway of either metal, wood, or plastic, would be used for vehicles to access the working areas. It is expected the use of temporary surfaces would be a short duration, and only used until a dedicated access route is constructed.
- The temporary construction and permanent drainage systems servicing the Proposed Development will follow the principles of sustainable drainage, and will aim to mimic the existing surface water hydrology and

will include the use of cross drains. Drainage systems will be design and installed with reference to the prevailing soil conditions with specific measures implemented where soil conditions are wet

- Soil stripping, storage and handling of soil and peat soil will be informed by the Defra (2009) Construction Code of Practice for the sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites (Ref 2A-4) to avoid damage to soil structure and help to minimise soil compaction.
- Elements of the Proposed Development which require removal of topsoil during construction and where topsoil cannot be reinstated will be kept to the minimum footprint required for the Proposed Development.
- Permanently displaced soil will be reused within the Proposed Development Site.
- Appropriate monitoring of construction activities and reinstatement to ensure compliance with the Soil Management Plan (SMP) including in the oCEMP presented at ES.

5.4.8 The exploration of further opportunities for minimising disturbance through embedded design and micrositing would be undertaken following the completion of detailed design post-consent, and would be provided in a later revision of the SMP.

Peat Management

5.4.9 Whilst the Proposed Development is likely to avoid peat defined as deep peat (see soils descriptions from **paragraph** Error! Reference source not found. of **PEIR Chapter 16: Ground Conditions**). Some peat is likely to be present locally at depth, as layers within alluvial deposits. Given the recorded depths and limited extent across the site, this peat is generally unlikely to be disturbed by the Proposed Development, with the exception that Solar Panel and inverter piles may extend locally into subsurface peat, as these can go to 3m deep.

Topsoil and Sub Soil Storage

5.4.10 During topsoil stripping, machinery with low ground pressure will be used to minimise soil compaction, including during construction of the access tracks, the tracks will then be available for heavier vehicles to use to avoid impacts on other areas.

5.4.11 If ground conditions require it, a temporary trackway of either metal, wood, or plastic, would be used for vehicles to access the working areas. This would be removed once construction is complete.

5.4.12 If unexpected contamination or suspected contamination is detected, additional testing and risk assessment will be required to determine appropriate measures. Materials will be segregated, where possible, to prevent cross-contamination occurring and will only be reused if confirmed to be suitable for use.

5.4.13 Elements of the Proposed Development which require removal of topsoil during construction and where topsoil cannot be reinstated will be kept to the minimum footprint required for the Proposed Development.

5.4.14 Topsoil and subsoil of different types and from different fields will be stored separately, as will soil from hedgerow banks or woodland strips, to reduce the potential for crop contamination during reinstatement. Sufficient space will be left between stores of different soil types to ensure segregation.

5.4.15 Topsoil can be stored on either topsoil (of the same type) or on subsoil. Subsoil can only be stored on subsoil, therefore the topsoil will be stripped from any subsoil storage areas prior to subsoil stripping or placement.

5.4.16 Stripped topsoil will be stored to the side/s of the working width in a manner that provides sufficient separation from subsoil and vehicles. Soil will be stored in an area of the site where it can be left undisturbed and will not interfere with site operations. Ground to be used for storing the topsoil will be cleared of vegetation. Topsoil will first be stripped from any land to be used for storing subsoil.

5.4.17 Topsoil will be stored in bunds no more than 2m in height, and subsoil will be stored in bunds no more than 3-5m in height in order to minimise compaction and the impact of storage on biological processes.

5.4.18 Excavated material would be transported immediately to the location of use to reduce the need to stockpile materials, however, where required, stockpiles will be labelled with appropriate signage, a unique identifier and recorded on a plan. The processing of aggregates may require temporary stockpiling of aggregates within the borrow pit areas, however the duration of storage shall be kept to a minimum.

5.4.19 Effective programming will ensure soil is stored for the minimum time possible. Where soil is to be stored for over 6 months it will be covered to minimise erosion or sown over the top and sides with an agreed seed mix to minimise soil run-off.

5.4.20 Temporary storage of soils will be carried out in accordance with the Soils Management Plan (SPMP). This document will outline where excavated non-waste materials will be stored and reused in line with the CL:AIRE Definition of Waste Code of Practice (DoWCoP) (Ref 2A-6). The SPMP will include a declaration by a Qualified Person that the SPMP has been completed in accordance with the DoWCoP and that best practice is being followed; and

5.4.21 Permanently displaced soil will be reused within the Proposed Development application boundary where practicable in accordance with the SPMP.

Sub Soil Handling During Replacement

5.4.22 Where possible, and for much of the sub soil activity at the site, the subsoil will be placed directly onto restored ground. This reduces the potential for soil degradation.

5.4.23 Before replacement of any topsoil, the subsoil layer will be lightly graded and levelled to provide a suitable bed for topsoil replacement.

Topsoil Handling During Replacement

5.4.24 Plant and machinery engaged in topsoil replacement operations shall only travel across previously replaced subsoil via clearly marked access routes to avoid damage to any areas where topsoil has been restored.

5.4.25 The soil shall be replaced as a single unit by 'loose tipping' methods to ensure that a uniform restored, and uncompacted soil profile is achieved.

5.4.26 Following completion of the respreading of an area restored to topsoil, the surface will be lightly graded and levelled.

5.5 Ecological Management

Ecological Clerk of Works

5.5.1 An Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) will be appointed prior to commencement of construction works on-site. The ECoW will carry out pre-construction surveys and will advise on ecological and environmental matters during the construction of the Proposed Development. The pre-construction surveys will check that conditions at the Site have not changed, and that no additional ecological receptors require

consideration. A method statement would be prepared under which:

- Vehicle movement outside of daylight hours would be restricted, vehicle speeds controlled, and operatives warned of the presence of certain species in order to reduce the risk of collisions;
- All excavations would have sloped sides or have a means of escape for entrapped animals. Excavations to be checked each morning by operatives prior to work within the excavation;
- Construction activities would be restricted to normal working hours (so largely avoiding the hours of darkness, particularly in the summer when species are most active); and
- Site lighting will be controlled to prevent incidental spillage on to features that may be used by nocturnal species.

5.5.2 The method statement would be focused on potential impacts to birds, dormice, hedgehog, other mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and non-native invasive plant species. Where necessary, Tool Box Talks (TBT) will be undertaken by the ECoW with the PC for the construction works and any sub-contractors, in order to ensure that there are no adverse impacts on any habitats or protected species.

5.5.3 The main ecological impacts that could arise from the Proposed Development are:

- Habitat loss/damage at work locations;
- Disturbance/killing/injury to species; and
- Contamination from accidental spillages.

Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan

5.5.4 An oLEMP has been produced (**Appendix 8J**) and includes the location and approach to implementing ecological and other enhancements and mitigation where applicable. The oLEMP will updated as the design of the Proposed Development progresses and provided for the ES.

General Ecology Mitigation

5.5.5 Compliance with Planning Policy Wales (PPW) 2024 (Ref 2A-5) shall be ensured along with following both the 'Step-wise' approach[2] and the Diversity, Extent,

Condition, Connectivity and other Aspect of ecosystem resilience (DECCA)[3] framework (Ref 2A-7).

5.5.6 A number of general mitigation measures for ecology and ornithology are required on site and include the following:

- Measures to prevent impacts on breeding birds include steps such as:
  - Clearance of construction and other working areas outside of the breeding bird season;
  - The use of dedicated working areas and construction access routes;
  - Where works cannot be completed outside of the breeding bird season the construction methodology will include employment of Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) to carry out pre-works checks and monitoring of construction areas to identify potential bird nests;
  - Additional measures such as the employment of “no-disturbance buffers” around nest sites or the use of sound buffers would be considered; and
  - Any active bird nests in or immediately adjacent to working areas would be identified and suitable “no working” buffers established around nest sites.
- All construction activity will be limited to clearly-defined working areas, vegetation clearance will be kept to a minimum;
- Habitats which would be subject to temporary loss, will be re-vegetated and reinstated as soon as possible after construction;
- Storage of materials will be confined to areas of hard standing and appropriately located away from sensitive features, such as those areas of known value to protected species and watercourses;
- Construction areas, including access tracks, site compounds and storage areas will be marked with signage/barriers or taped off at all times during construction activities. No access beyond these delineated boundaries is permitted without prior authorisation from the PC’s site manager;
- The Proposed Development has been designed to ensure a minimum 7m stand-off will be maintained between the PV Array and reens;
- Suitable hibernacula for reptiles and amphibians will be avoided in the first instance. Where this is not possible, no hibernacula dismantling will take

[3] DECCA is the NRW framework for evaluating ecosystem resilience, based on five attributes and properties specified in the Environment (Wales) Act (REF 2A-7).

place during hibernation season (November to February). During the appropriate season, suitable hibernacula that need to be removed will be identified and dismantled by hand under the supervision of the ECoW;

- Periodic ecological inspections and supervision of any sensitive works or receptors will be carried out by the ECoW; and
- All Site staff will be briefed on procedures to be implemented if any protected species are found within the working area. In the event that a protected species is encountered during the course of the works, all works will be stopped, and the siting will be reported to the site management team, who will liaise with the ECoW.

5.6 Cultural Heritage

Site Specific Constraints

5.6.1 There is one Scheduled Monument and no listed buildings within the PEIR Assessment Boundary.

5.6.2 The Site comprises seven HLCAs and 47 non-designated historic assets are located within the PEIR Assessment Boundary. The Site also lies within The Levels Archaeologically Sensitive Area (ASA).

General Cultural Heritage Requirements

5.6.3 The following other general archaeology requirements should be followed:

- An archaeological watching brief may be undertaken on assets which will have direct physical impacts. This measure will enable recording of the assets and facilitate preservation by record;
- The Site Management Team and all site-based staff (including subcontractors) must take all reasonable actions to protect recognised cultural heritage assets. Staff must also be vigilant for potential archaeological discoveries; and
- If suspected archaeological finds are made, these will be protected by fencing off the area until a suitably qualified archaeologist is contacted. If any human remains or treasure is found, then the following guidance should be followed.

Human Remains

5.6.4 In the event of human remains being observed, work will cease, and the area made secure. A suitably qualified archaeologist will attend site to confirm that the remains

are archaeological in nature and not related to a criminal offence. Once this has been established, the County Coroner will be informed and the relevant permissions will be obtained from the Ministry of Justice (if required under the 1857 Burials Act (Ref 2A-8)) prior to any removal of human remains. All excavation of human remains in England and Wales, whether cremated or inhumed, require a 'Licence for the Removal of Human Remains' from the Ministry of Justice under Section 25 of the Burial Act.

Treasure

5.6.5 The Treasure Act 1996 (Ref 2A-9) sets out a legal requirement that archaeological material which meets the statutory definition of treasure must be reported to the local coroner within 14 days. The definition of treasure as set out by the Act and modified by the Treasure (Designation) Order 2002 (Ref 2A-10) is:

- Any metallic object, other than a coin, provided that at least 10 per cent by weight of metal is precious metal (that is, gold or silver) and that it is at least 300 years old when found. If the object is of prehistoric date it will be treasure provided any part of it is precious metal;
- Any group of two or more metallic objects of any composition of prehistoric date that come from the same find (see below);
- All coins from the same find provided they are at least 300 years old when found (but if the coins contain at least 10 per cent of gold or silver there must be at least ten of them);
- Only the following groups of coins will normally be regarded as coming from the same find:(a) hoards that have been deliberately hidden, (b) smaller groups of coins, such as the contents of purses, that may have been dropped or lost, and (c) votive or ritual deposits;
- Any object, whatever it is made of, that is found in the same place as, or had previously been together with, another object that is treasure[4]; and
- Any object that would previously have been treasure trove but does not fall within the specific categories given above. Only objects that are less than 300 years old, that are made substantially of gold or silver, that have been deliberately hidden with the intention of recovery and whose owners or heirs are unknown will come into this category.

[4] An object or coin is part of the 'same find' if it is found in the same place as, or had previously been together with, the other object. Finds may have become scattered since they were originally deposited in the ground.

Additional Mitigation Measures

5.6.6 It is considered that it will be possible to mitigate the impacts of the Proposed Development upon the buried archaeological resource through a staged programme of archaeological investigation and recording, the purpose of which will be to ensure that surviving remains within the footprint of areas of notable ground disturbance are recorded prior to their destruction by construction activities. This scope, extent and timing of the programme of investigation will be subject to further consultation with Heneb but may include (within those areas to be subject to notable ground disturbance) the completion of archaeological evaluation, to further assess the potential for previously unrecorded archaeological remains to be located. This could be followed by archaeological monitoring and recording during the construction phase, where required (in areas of notable archaeological potential), or areas of archaeological excavation to mitigate any impacts on unrecorded remains.

5.6.7 Further enhancement measures may seek to limit the harm to non-designated above-ground historic assets such as additional screening, buffering, and reduction of proposed light in sensitive locations. This will be reviewed and set out within the ES.

5.6.8 The detailed CEMP will include a provision to notify all parties working on the project on the measures to take, in accordance with The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023 (Ref 2A-11), Planning Policy Wales 2024 (Ref 2A-5), the Newport City Council Local Development Plan (2015) (Ref 2A-12) and Monmouthshire County Council Local Development Plan (2014) (Ref 2A-13), if any unexpected archaeological remains are encountered during construction. All work should be completed in line with a Project Design, also known as a Written Scheme of Investigation, to be agreed with Heneb and, if required, CADW.

6.0 Consultation

6.1.1 An EIA Scoping Report (**Appendix 1C**) for the Proposed Development and a request for an EIA Scoping Opinion from the Planning Inspectorate was submitted in December 2024**.**

6.1.2 **Table 6-1** below presents a summary of comments relevant to this document provided by the Planning Inspectorate and consultees (**Appendix 1D**) as part of the scoping process.

Table 6-1 Consultee Comments Relevant to this oCEMP

Consultee	Main Matter Raised	How has the concern been addressed	Location of response in this chapter
Planning Inspectorate	The Inspectorate agrees that the impact of dust emissions can be scoped out of the ES due to the inclusion of appropriate mitigation measures in line with best practice and Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) guidance in the commitments register and oCEMP.	Noted, best practice and institute of IAQM guidance will be presented in the commitments register and oCEMP.	**Section 5.1** – Dust Management.
MCC Environmental Health	CEMP should be submitted which identified steps and procedures that will be implemented to minimise the creation and impact of noise vibration, dust from the site preparation, groundwork and construction phases of the development	**Steps and** and procedures that will be implemented to minimise the creation and impact of noise vibration, dust from the site preparation, groundwork and construction phases of the development	**Section 5.1 – Dust Management. Section 5.3– Noise Management**
Powys County	The LPA concurs with the methodology and your approach	N/A	N/A

Council	and agree to the scope of the CEMP.		
Natural Resources Wales	NRW note that an outline CEMP will be provided within the ES to detail the avoidance of potential impacts to water environment and flood risk.	Water Environment to feed into oCEMP	**Section 5.4– Water Environment**

7.0 Management and Mitigation Plan

7.1.1 This Section describes the mitigation, management or enhancement measures that have been identified to date to be included in the forthcoming detailed CEMP.

7.1.2 The Commitments Register presented in **Appendix 19A** provides a complete list of commitments that relate to the Proposed Development. The mitigation measures presented in **Appendix 19A** should be considered a preliminary list of mitigation measures that are subject to change as the design of Proposed Development progresses. The Commitments Register will be updated to include the monitoring requirements and relevant responsibilities which will be provided in the later version of the oCEMP accompanying the ES.

8.0 Complementary Plans and Procedures

8.1 Overview

8.1.1 A number of complementary environmental plans and procedures for the construction phase will be developed alongside the detailed CEMP, including a Construction Risk Management Plan (CRMP). These plans and procedures will build on the principals and procedures set out in this oCEMP and described in the supporting PEIR and subsequent ES. These supporting and supplementary plans will be clearly outlined in the detailed CEMP.

8.2 Implementation

8.2.1 The detailed CEMP will set out all roles, responsibilities and actions required with regards to the implementation of the measures described in this oCEMP, including:

- Organogram of team showing team roles, names and responsibilities;
- Training requirements for relevant personnel on environmental topics;
- Information on-site briefings and toolbox talks that will be used to inform relevant staff with the necessary level of knowledge to follow environmental control procedures;
- Measures to advise staff of changing circumstances as work progresses;
- Communication methods
- Document control; and
- Environmental emergency procedures.
- Environmental roles and responsibilities;
- Contact details for site environmental lead;
- Environmental objectives and commitments;
- Links to EIA findings and mitigation measures;
- Reference to other plans (e.g. Health & Safety, Traffic Management);
- Welfare facilities;
- Fencing and security;
- Construction equipment and operating heights;
- Phasing and sequencing of works;
- Final, agreed upon working hours;

- Method statements for key activities;
- Complaints procedure; and
- Communication methods.

8.3 Complimentary Plans

8.3.1 The CEMP, once developed, sits amongst a suite of other plans and procedures designed to prevent and limit environmental harm. The CEMP should be understood in conjunction with these documents, rather than as just a stand-alone document. An example of one of these plans is the CTMP (to be provided at ES).

8.4 Monitoring

8.4.1 Monitoring takes two forms;

- Monitoring requirements outlined in Error! Reference source not found.; and
- Environmental inspections and audits detailed below.

8.5 Environmental Inspections

8.5.1 Environmental inspections will be carried out on a regular basis and the results recorded on form MS-HSSE-1201-4 (see **Annex A**). These inspections will consider the environmental aspects and potential construction impacts detailed above in **Section 4**. Such audits will be undertaken in order to ensure compliance with the approved planning conditions and all other legal requirements.

8.5.2 Records of all training carried out at the Proposed Development (including inductions) will be retained and made available for viewing during environmental audits if required. Records of all inspections undertaken will be kept for the same purpose.

8.5.3 If a complete failure or absence of a required CEMP element is discovered during site audits, a major non-conformance will be raised. The project will have a limited time (yet to be agreed) from the date of issue of the audit report to recover the situation and put measures in place to prevent its re-occurrence.

8.5.4 If an area of weakness is identified when an element of the system is not being carried out correctly, then a non-conformity will be raised, and the project will be

given a limited time (yet to be agreed) from the date of issue of the report to rectify the situation.

8.6 Environmental Audits

8.6.1 A planned programme of compliance audits will verify the integrity and effectiveness of the environmental management system used throughout this project and may include site visits. The purpose of any visit includes:

- Ensuring that this oCEMP and all other environmental commitments are being adhered to and that the relevant documentation is being completed;
- Ensuring that progress towards environmental objectives and targets is being monitored;
- Ensuring that legislation and all other requirements are being complied with;
- The audit report shall make recommendations for improvement and identify the appropriate personnel and timescales for completing these actions; and
- Following the audit, if deemed necessary an investigation shall be instigated and corrective actions taken.

9.0 Document Control and Environmental Nuisance Complaints

9.1 CEMP Control Document

9.1.1 This oCEMP is a working document. **Annex B** contains a CEMP Revision Control Register which will be maintained by the PC's Environmental Management Team. The register will show any revision numbers, revision details and dates for the main CEMP and all annexes.

9.2 Register for Environmental Nuisance Complaints

9.2.1 Should any complaints be received which are of an environmental nature, then these would be recorded on the complaint register (see **Annex C**). This register will be maintained within the environmental file on site and made available during environmental audits if required. All environmental complaints will be discussed as part of regular environmental progress meetings.

10.0 Re-instatement Measures

10.1.1 Any post construction requirements (for example re-instatement works) are to be confirmed with the PC for the construction works and agreed with Local Council/landowner/statutory bodies as appropriate. Any such requirements would be documented in **Table 10-1** below:

Table 10-1 Example Project Completion Requirements

Post Construction Requirements	Action	Responsibility

10.1.2 Whilst, as noted above, re-instatement measures will be confirmed with the PC in due course, reinstatement will occur as soon as the Proposed Development construction is finished to minimise topsoil storage time and potential for erosion. In addition, and set out below are some general re-instatement measures for the PC to follow:

- As each area of the Proposed Development is completed, that part of the Site will be reinstated using selected excavated materials arising from the track, crane hardstanding and transformer foundation excavations;
- As far as practicable, and subject to environmental and hydrological considerations, such materials will be reused throughout the Site for reinstatement and landscaping to minimise the requirement for importing/exporting material;
- Site reinstatement of all peripheral areas of the Site disturbed during the construction phase will be restored, as far as is practicable, to their condition prior to commencement of the development using stripped and stored topsoil/subsoil;
- All temporary works and fences will be removed. Where necessary, stored topsoil will be spread, rolled and re-seeded and the area put back into agricultural use;
- Transformer foundations will be backfilled and reinstated, subject to relevant drainage considerations, using stored excavated subsoil and topsoil and the surrounding land returned to agricultural use;
- The Site tracks and any hardstanding's will be graded following completion of construction works;

- The Site compounds will be restored at the end of the construction period. Reinstatement will involve removing the imported material and underlying geotextile if installed. Stored subsoil and topsoil will be spread, rolled and re-seeded and the area put back into agricultural use; and
- Upon completion, all construction plant will be removed from the Site.

10.1.3 An audit will be undertaken to ensure that any project completion requirements have been satisfactorily completed and will be documented in **Table 10-2** below.

Table 10-2 Example Audit Record

Audit	Date Undertaken	Summary of Findings	Responsibility

11.0 References

Ref 2A-1 Health and Safety Executive (2002) *The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002*. London: HMSO. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2002/2677/contents/made [Accessed: November 2025].

Ref 2A-2 UK Government (1990) *Environmental Protection Act 1990.* Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/43/contents [Accessed: November 2025].

Ref 2A-3 British Standards Institution (2014) *BS 5228-1:2009+A1:2014 Code of practice for noise and vibration control on construction and open sites – Part 1: Noise*. London: BSI Standards Limited

Ref 2A-4 Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2009**)** *Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites*. London: Defra. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/code-of-practice-for-the-sustainable-use-of-soils-on-construction-sites [Accessed: November 2025].

Ref 2A-5 Welsh Government (2024) *Planning Policy Wales: Edition 12*. Cardiff: Welsh Government. Available at: https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2024-07/planning-policy-wales-edition-12.pdf [Accessed: November 2025].

Ref 2A-6 CL:AIR (N.D.) *CL:AIR Definition of Waste Code of Practice.* Available at: https://claire.co.uk/projects-and-initiatives/dow-cop.html. [Accessed: November 2025].

Ref 2A-7 Welsh Government (2016) *Environment (Wales) Act 2016*. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2016/3/contents [Accessed: November 2025].

Ref 2A-8 UK Government (1857) *Burial Act 1857.* Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Vict/20-21/81/contents [Accessed: November 2025].

Ref 2A-9 UK Government (1996) *The Treasure Act 1996.* Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/24/contents [Accessed: November 2025].

Ref 2A-10 UK Government (2002) *The Treasure (Designation) Order 2002.* Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/cy/uksi/2002/2666/contents/made [Accessed: November 2025].

Ref 2A-11 Welsh Government (2023) *Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023, asc 3.* Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asc/2023/3/contents [Accessed: November 2025].

Ref 2A-12 Newport City Council (2015) *Newport Local Development Plan 2011–2026: Adopted Plan*. Newport: Newport City Council. Available at: https://www.newport.gov.uk/documents/Planning-Documents/LDP-2011-2026/LDP-Adopted-Plan-January-2015.pdf [Accessed: November 2025].

Ref 2A-13 Monmouthshire County Council (2014) *Monmouthshire Local Development Plan 2011–2021: Adopted Plan*. Usk: Monmouthshire County Council. Available at: https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/app/uploads/2017/05/Adopted-Local-Development-Plan-with-PDF-tags.pdf [Accessed: November 2025].

Ref 2A-14 UK Government (2015) *The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015*. Available at: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2015/51/contents/made [Accessed: November 2025].

Ref 2A-15 Institute of Air Quality Management (2016) *Guidance on the assessment of dust from demolition and construction*. London: IAQM. Available at: https://iaqm.co.uk/guidance [Accessed: November 2025].

Ref 2A-16 European Commission (2000) *Directive 2000/14/EC - Noise – Equipment for Use Outdoors.* Available at: https://osha.europa.eu/en/legislation/directives/directive-2000-14-ec. [Accessed: November 2025].

Ref 2A-17 Health and Safety Executive (1974) *Health and Safety at Work Act (1974).* Available at: https://www.hse.gov.uk/legislation/hswa.htm. [Accessed: November 2025].

Ref 2A-18 British Standards Institution (2020) *BS 5930:2015+A1:2020 Code of practice for ground investigations*. London: BSI Standards Limited

Ref 2A-19 Environment Agency (2006) *Piling in Layered Ground: Risks to Groundwater and Archaeology.* Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/piling-in-layered-ground-risks-to-groundwater-and-archaeology. [Accessed: November 2025].

Ref 2A-20 Building Research Establishment (2005). *Concrete in Aggressive Ground.* Available at: https://bregroup.com/store/bookshop/concrete-in-aggressive-ground-sd-1.

[Accessed: November 2025].

Ref 2A-21 Building Research Establishment (2016). *Soakaway Design.* Available at: Soakaway design (DG 365 - 2016) DOWNLOAD. [Accessed: November 2025].

Ref 2A-22 Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011, No. 988. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/988/part/1/made [Accessed: November 2025].

Annex A Form MS-HSSE-1201-4

Contract Name	Contract Number	
Date:	**Time:**	**Area:**

	Yes	No	N/A
Waste			
Are Skips/Containers in good condition?			
Are skips overfull?			
Are they clearly labelled with the contents?			
Are the waste streams (general, hazardous, and recyclable waste) segregated correctly?			
Drums, Cans etc.			
Are drums stored in safe area when not in use?			
Are they sealed to prevent leaks?			
Are funnels, drip trays used during filling of plant?			
Bunds / Bowsers / Containment			
Are bunds in good condition and free from excess oil / water / debris?			
Are Drains covered near operations?			
Are Bowsers Securely locked while			
Plant			
Is plant in good condition?			
Are any spills evident			
Are drip trays being used when refuelling?			
Are drip trays located beneath mobile plant?			
Are adequate spill kits available and labelled?			
Is unused mobile plant sited in plant compound?			
Are signs and warnings visible?			
Is the mobile hand pump in good condition?			
Nuisance			
Are machines switched off when not used			
Any excessive noise			
Is there adequate lighting			
Is there any silt / particulates / oil / grease or colour in any of the watercourses?			
Are stockpiles / mounds etc not located close to any sensitive receptors such as watercourses?			
Is there any excessive dust? Are control measures being adhered to?			

Contract Name	**Contract Number**	
Date:	**Time:**	**Area:**

	Yes	No	N/A
Is there any evidence of contamination on public roads (mud, etc)			
Is there any evidence of interference with vegetation?			
Is there any evidence of damage to wildlife?			

Annex B CEMP Revision Control Register

Date	Revision	Author

Annex C Complaint Register

Complaint No.	Date	Complainant	Description of complaint	Actions taken	By whom	Accepted yes/no	Completion date
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							