Solar Farm north of Melksham Substation

on behalf of JBM Solar

Construction Environmental Management Plan (Biodiversity)



avian ecology

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CONTENTS

1 INTRODUCTION 1

1.1 Background 1

2 PROPOSED WORKS 2

3 CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT 3

3.2 Developer / Owner 3

3.3 Contractor 3

3.4 Site Manager (Principal or EPC Contractor) 3

3.5 Ecological Clerk of Works 4

3.6 Communication of Construction Ecology Management Plan 4

4 PRELIMINARY SURVEYS 4

5 CONSTRUCTION ECOLOGY MANAGEMENT PLAN 5

5.2 Noise and Vibration (Construction Works) 5

5.3 Air Quality 5

5.4 Water Quality and Drainage 5

5.5 Wildlife and Biodiversity 7

5.6 Materials and Waste 10

6 MONITORING 11

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 This Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) has been prepared to discharge condition 10 of planning permission (Reference: 20/06840/FUL) for the installation of a solar farm and battery storage facility with associated infrastructure including a cable connection (the 'Proposed Development') at land north of Melksham Substation, Wiltshire (the 'Site').

1.1.2 This document provides the management framework required for the planning and implementation of construction activities in accordance with the biodiversity commitments which have been identified at planning.

1.1.3 Condition 10; *No development shall commence on site (including ground works and vegetation clearance) until a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The CEMP shall explain how the construction works will be managed to avoid impacts on biodiversity and how compliance with the Site Layout and Planting Plan (drawing no. P20-0137_09 Rev I) will be achieved on site, and shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following:*

a) Risk assessment of potentially damaging construction activities

b) Identification of 'biodiversity protection zones', including LWS, ancient woodland, trees, hedges, ditches., and provision for protection of all wildlife identified as present or likely to be present within a zone of influence

c) Practical measures (both physical measures and sensitive working practices) to avoid or reduce impacts during construction (may be provided as a set of method statements)

d) The location and timing of sensitive works to avoid harm to biodiversity features

e) Update of surveys as required prior to start of works, especially for badgers

f) No dig construction methods where construction within 15m of ancient woodland is unavoidable.

g) Use of protective fences, exclusion barriers and warning signs

h) Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) for Dormice and Great Crested Newts

i) Identify all timing constraints on works e.g. in relation to breeding birds, hedgerow removal.

j) If construction lighting is required, a strategy must be included in the CEMP which clearly demonstrates no impacts on sensitive, retained habitat features.

k) The role and responsibilities on site of an ecological clerk of works (ECoW) or similarly competent person(s)

l) The times during construction when specialists' ecologists need to be present on site to oversee works

m) Responsible persons and lines of communication

n) Ongoing monitoring, including compliance checks by a competent person(s) during construction and immediately post-completion of construction works.

The approved CEMP shall be adhered to and implemented throughout the construction period strictly in accordance with the approved details.

A report prepared by a competent person(s), certifying that the required mitigation and/or compensation measures identified in the CEMP have been completed to their satisfaction, shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority within 3 months of the date of substantial completion of the development or at the end of the next available planting season, whichever is the sooner.

REASON: To ensure adequate protection, mitigation and compensation for protected species, priority species and priority habitats.

1.1.4 The purpose of this CEMP is to set out suitable measures to avoid the risk of adverse impacts on sensitive ecological receptors, identify biodiversity protection zones and ensure legal compliance in relation to protected habitats and species. It describes the checks and monitoring that will be implemented to ensure works are being undertaken in accordance with these requirements, together with measures to ensure that appropriate corrective actions or mitigation measures are taken where necessary.

1.1.5 The Site Manager (Principal or EPC Contractor) and all site personnel will be responsible for the implementation of the CEMP and will comply with all conditions of the planning permission and the relevant provisions contained in the reports submitted in accordance with those conditions. The CEMP will be monitored regularly throughout the works.

1.1.6 This CEMP is to be read in conjunction with the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP), Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP), Site Layout and Planting Plan Drawing no. P20-0137_09 Rev I (or any plan superseded through other conditions or S96A to the main Decision Notice), Biodiversity Mitigation and Enhancement Plan P20-0137-19 Rev C and Ecological Assessment Report (EAR) for the consented development.

2 PROPOSED WORKS

2.1.1 The Proposed Development requires the use of chemicals, equipment, tools and concrete / hardstanding and also requires washing down of tools, equipment and work surfaces that might contain contaminants. Suitable mitigation and protection measures will be implemented to ensure no impacts are associated with these tasks for construction.

2.1.2 It is anticipated that construction will comprise the creation of:

- Solar array and associated infrastructure;
- Access tracks;
- Foundation inverters and associated equipment;
- Battery storage compound and associated infrastructure; and,
- Temporary compound to include:
    - Portable buildings to be used as offices, welfare and toilet facilities;
    - Containerised storage areas;
    - Parking for construction and worker vehicles;
    - Temporary hardstanding;
    - Temporary gated compound; and,
    - Wheel washing facilities.

3 CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

3.1.1 This section details the responsibilities of the various roles involved in the construction of the Proposed Development. All those involved have responsibility for ensuring compliance with the CEMP.

3.2 Developer / Owner

3.2.1 JBM will appoint an EPC contractor to undertake relevant environmental tasks as detailed within this document prior to, during and upon completion of the construction works.

3.2.2 The Developer / Owner will be responsible for obtaining all necessary consents, licences and permissions for their activities as required by current legislation governing the protection of the environment.

3.3 Contractor

3.3.1 The appointed Contractor will consider all of the mitigation measures and best practice construction methods detailed within this CEMP in their design and in any detailed environmental plans as required by the Contract.

3.4 Site Manager (Principal or EPC Contractor)

3.4.1 The appointed Site Manager (Principal or EPC Contractor) will be responsible for protecting site personnel and the general public during the construction works. Their responsibilities will also include relevant safeguards in relation to wildlife and ecology as set out in this CEMP and accompanying LEMP and BMP.

3.4.2 Appropriate induction training will be given to all persons visiting and working on the Site and the Contractor and any subcontractors will fully comply with the site rules.

3.4.3 The Site Manager (Principal or EPC Contractor) will be responsible for any environmental incident over and above basic spill kits. The Site Manager (Principal or EPC Contractor) will outline to site staff who their professional responder is and ensure their availability 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

3.4.4 All standard safety procedures as laid down in the appropriate guidelines for the type of work will be adhered to at all times. To prevent vandalism and accidental harm to people and wildlife, the Site and associated plant and machinery will be secured during non-working hours. In addition, the Site will have security presence at the entrance to deter any criminal activity. CCTV cameras will be sited on security fencing around the perimeter of the Site.

3.4.5 The Site Manager (Principal or EPC Contractor) will ensure that measures are in place to allow all vehicles to safely enter and exit the Site. All loading and unloading of HGVs will be undertaken within the works/Site boundary. Upon exit, all lorries will be fully sheeted and pass through a wheel washing installation prior to departure.

3.4.6 During construction, phase segregation of waste (wood, metal, general etc) disposal will be via an approved contractor and documents (waste transfer notes) will be employed. Please refer to **Section 5.6** for more details.

3.4.7 On completion of construction works, all plant, surplus materials, rubbish and temporary works will be removed and the Site left in a clean, safe and tidy condition.

3.4.8 All necessary and reasonable measures will be taken to minimise fire risk and comply with the requirements of the local fire authority. Open fires are prohibited at all times and there will be no burning of rubbish on Site.

3.5 Ecological Clerk of Works

3.5.1 A suitably qualified and experienced Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) will be appointed to provide ecological and environmental advice during construction. The ECoW will monitor construction to ensure compliance with the CEMP and help to reduce risks and delays. Any breeches of the CEMP will be reported to the Site Manager (Principal or EPC Contractor) with the authority to stop construction works.

3.6 Communication of Construction Ecology Management Plan

3.6.1 The Site Manager (Principal or EPC Contractor) will manage and co-ordinate on-site environmental activities and act as a point of contact for local residents to ensure that any concerns are resolved quickly and efficiently. The Site Manager (Principal or EPC Contractor) will be responsible for inductions and briefing all staff and visitors; meeting environmental and ecological obligations; resolving, reporting and monitoring any environmental incidents; and ensuring waste management procedures are followed.

3.6.2 The requirements of the CEMP and other environmental responsibilities will be communicated to employees and sub-contractors by:

- Site Induction;
- Risk Assessment & Method Statements for works likely to pose environmental issues;
- Toolbox talks; and,
- Environmental Monitoring and reporting (by site team).

3.6.3 The Site induction will include the basic responses to an environmental spill, and the Site Manager (Principal or EPC Contractor) will ensure that all site offices have an environmental spill kit which are to be easily accessible.

3.6.4 All environmental incidents will be reported and recorded and a full investigation will be completed where appropriate, and corrective action applied. Records will be kept for all environmental occurrences including but not restricted to potential hazards, near misses, incidents and complaints.

4 PRELIMINARY SURVEYS

4.1.1 This section details the surveys that will be conducted prior to the start on construction. These surveys will inform the design of the Proposed Development and any additional required mitigation to be implemented during construction.

4.1.2 The pre-construction surveys to be undertaken include:

- A badger survey to check for active or any newly constructed setts (between the initial baseline survey and the construction start date) within at least 30m of construction areas within the Site;
- A check for dormouse of any hedgerow removal as part of works under a Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) Method Statement;

- Pre-construction survey for water vole and otter, if any works are required within 5m of a ditch; and,
- A nesting bird check of any vegetation to be removed (if within the breeding bird season March-August inclusive).

5 CONSTRUCTION ECOLOGY MANAGEMENT PLAN

5.1.1 This section details the required measures to ensure adequate protection, mitigation and compensation for protected species, priority species and priority habitats.

5.2 Noise and Vibration (Construction Works)

5.2.1 During construction activities, noise and vibration will be minimised wherever possible. Manufacturers' recommendations with regards to vibration levels from machinery shall be adhered to. All plant will be properly maintained and contractors will comply with the terms laid down in the approved Code of Practice Order 2015 and BS 5228: Part 1: *Noise Control on Construction and Open Sites*.

5.2.2 All plant and machinery in use shall be properly silenced and maintained in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions.

5.2.3 The following actions will be implemented to manage noise levels:

- Noise rating of equipment will inform equipment selection (where it is necessary to use equipment with high noise levels, mitigation measures will be adopted, e.g. limited times of operations);
- All plant and equipment will be suitably sited, operated and serviced in order to minimise noise and vibration; and,
- All plant will be turned off when not in use.

5.3 Air Quality

5.3.1 With the exception of vehicular movements on Site and associated construction machinery, there are no construction processes that have emissions to air. However, during ground works there is potential for dust to be generated (at a local level) due to small scale excavation and storage of soils, laying of gravel for the temporary construction compound and movement of vehicles and plant around the Site.

5.3.2 Wheel washing facilities will be provided; the dry wheel washing comprises of a track that vehicles cross for the debris to be collected and will be located close to the Site access. All operatives exiting the Site in vehicles will be required to use the wheel cleaning facilities to remove dirt and mud that has accumulated on the vehicle by cleaning the wheels and underside of the vehicle. Signage will be provided directing vehicle operatives to use the facilities and appropriate methods (such as silt traps and cut off drains) will be used as necessary ensure that any contaminants do not enter the environment or overflow back into the Site or onto neighbouring land, in particular neighbouring designated sites as identified within the EAR.

5.4 Water Quality and Drainage

5.4.1 During construction, the Contractors will implement working methods to protect surface water and groundwater resources (and associated habitats and species) from pollution, in line with current guidance and good practice.

5.4.2 Waste storage and concrete washout areas will be designated to minimise areas prone to contamination. Where there is increased risk of contained spillage additional precautions will be taken. Fuels, lubricants and chemicals will be stored in accordance with the appropriate Environment Agency Environmental Management Guidance with an impermeable base and suitable bunding to prevent discharge.

5.4.3 All works will be undertaken in a manner to ensure that existing watercourses and drainage are not polluted, dirtied or obstructed during the construction period.

5.4.4 If any pollution occurs, then the Site Manager (Principal or EPC Contractor) shall advise the Environment Agency and the Local Planning Authority immediately and take prompt action to minimise the impact and prevent re-occurrence. A common cause of pollution from sites is through vandalism. Therefore, the Contractor shall ensure that Site is adequately protected by the provision of secure fences, locked accesses and security where possible.

5.4.5 The measures adopted during the proposed works will include (but not limited to):

- Waste storage and concrete washout areas to be designated to minimise areas prone to contamination;
- Fuels, lubricants and chemicals will be stored in a place containing an impermeable base and suitable bunding in accordance with current legislation;
- The construction of the drainage system will be phased;
- Spill kits will be available on Site to ensure that any accidental spillage can be promptly dealt with;
- The Site will be secured at all times and staff will be trained and made aware of the actions to take in the event of a spillage of potential contaminants. Emergency procedures to be implemented in the event of a spillage or leakage of any polluting material such as fuel, oil or silt-laden drainage will be in place on Site;
- Public roads and accesses will be regularly maintained and cleaned so they are kept free from deposits in order to prevent silt, oil or other materials entering any drain or watercourse;
- Any lorry wheel cleaning facilities shall be securely constructed; overflow and effluent will be contained for proper treatment and disposal;
- Dewatering activities will discharge to settlement tanks prior to discharge to a surface water sewer to minimise risk of sedimentation to downstream watercourses; and,
- The groundwater inflow into any deep excavation will be managed to minimise the volume of inflow (and therefore the volume of water requiring removal).

5.4.6 The Proposed Development once constructed will contain impermeable surfaces and structures (inverter substations, battery storage containers and batter auxiliary equipment container). The implementation of surface water drainage systems will incorporate pollution control measures.

5.4.7 Surface water runoff and drainage management measures form part of the embedded design with measures to prevent silt-laden or polluted runoff during construction or operation of the solar farm. These measures are described separately but in summary include:

- Seeding and vegetation establishment to prevent soil runoff, prior to start on Site;
- Phasing of construction to minimise compaction of the soil during the works;
- Installation of permeable tracks;
- Constructed using low ground pressure equipment off the tracks, and establishing access rules to minimising repeat trafficking of routes; and,

- Daily monitoring of watercourses to identify any issues relating to runoff and silt to allow immediate contingency control measures to be set in place.

5.4.8 It is noted that current agricultural practices across the Site present their own risk to adjacent watercourses and other habitats in relation to soils and surface water runoff, with regular ploughing, use of heavy agricultural machinery and periods when soils are exposed and devoid of vegetation cover. Construction disturbance relating to the solar farm will be temporary and not dissimilar to existing levels resulting from agricultural practices. Once complete, the Site will maintain permanent grassland cover and will no longer be subject to regular soil disturbance or compaction from machinery and hence there will be no significant effects on adjacent habitats or the species they support.

5.4.9 Foul water from the development including that from cleaning and wash down will be discharged to an onsite foul water sewer system and the relevant consents sought from Wessex Water.

5.5 Wildlife and Biodiversity

5.5.1 The EAR, BMP and LEMP shall be followed to protect wildlife and biodiversity to ensure that construction activities do not harm protected species or their habitats and to ensure compliance with the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 and the 'Habitat Regulations' (Conservation of Habitat and Species Regulation 2017 (as amended) and Conservation of Habitats and Species [Amendment][EU Exit] Regulations 2019, see section 1.3 of the EAR).

Good Practice to be Employed

5.5.2 Site staff will be briefed at induction on the requirements regarding the environmental good practice on Site including the protection of retained vegetation. Briefings and training will be repeated as required for new starters on Site and/or refreshed through Toolbox Talks or similar when Site conditions or special measures are changed or updated.

5.5.3 Standard measures to ensure runoff control and pollution prevention will be implemented; these measures will safeguard the nearby watercourses and wetland features and associated habitats and species.

Designated Sites and Habitats

5.5.4 Habitats of ecological value such as field boundaries, hedgerows, trees, woodlands, scrub watercourses and ponds will be largely retained and protected during works.

5.5.5 Daniel's Wood Local Wildlife Site (LWS) and Inwood, Lacock LWS lie directly adjacent to the Site boundaries. A minimum 15m buffer will be installed and maintained between the LWS's and the Site. Habitats and species associated with these LWS's will be protected by perimeter security fencing which will be erected first to prevent the encroachment of construction works beyond the proposed working areas.

5.5.6 During construction of the solar farm and associated infrastructure, ecologically sensitive 'biodiversity protection zones' such as LWS's, ditches and hedgerows, outside the construction areas will be fenced to exclude vehicles and plant and to protect the habitats and species potentially present. There will be clear delineation of working areas and access routes for vehicles entering the Site. This will include the clear use of the set down area which HGV's will use to store materials with smaller machinery being used to transport this around the Site. This will limit the disturbance of the woodland.

Instruction will be given to all site construction staff, delivery drivers and subcontractors on the Site, as well as clear signage on Site.

5.5.7 Due to the nature of how solar farms are built, the construction will happen in phases, limiting disturbance across the Site at any given time. Construction methods including buffers will also ensure no damage / disturbance to designated sites and habitats. These will be clearly marked out and awareness of these will be included within the Site induction.

5.5.8 Additional protections relating to habitats include implementing tree protection measures in line with *BS 5837:2012: Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction*. The development has been designed to avoid woodland / tree removal, with any necessary habitat removal to be compensated for upon the completion of construction, helping to safeguard retained terrestrial habitats within the Site, and within the surrounding environment.

5.5.9 During the operation of the solar farm over time, dirt and dust can accumulate on the glass surface of the module, reducing its power output. Periodic cleaning of PV modules where required will be undertaken with a soft brush and using soft, clean water. No chemicals are required.

5.5.10 Standard measures to ensure runoff control and pollution prevention will be implemented Site-wide; these measures will safeguard on-site ditches and boundary habitats as well as off-site habitats and species including with LWS's.

Birds

5.5.11 Site clearance works should be undertaken outside of the breeding bird season in so far as reasonably practical. The breeding bird season is generally considered to be 1st March to 31st August inclusive. Where this cannot be avoided, a suitably experienced ecologist will be appointed to undertake a pre-site clearance survey to identify the presence of any wild bird nests being built or in use (including those of ground nesting birds such as skylarks and the Schedule 1 species peregrine falcon). Only once the appointed ecologist is satisfied that an offence under Part 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) will not occur, may works proceed.

5.5.12 If a nesting species is identified, suitable work exclusion zone will be established around nest site where required, in line with best practice guidance and in consultation with the advising ecologist.

5.5.13 During operation, disturbance will be minimal and limited to intermittent maintenance activities. However, it is recommended that the cleaning of panels is undertaken outside of the breeding bird season in so far as reasonably practical to minimise disturbance to nesting birds.

Bats

5.5.14 Protection of hedgerows, mature trees and woodland on Site or along access routes and adjacent land will safeguard potential roost sites and maintain foraging and commuting opportunities, where possible. All existing trees will be retained and protected during construction, and hence there will be no loss of possible roost features. There will be no direct effects on adjacent woodland and minimum 15m buffers will be implemented around ancient semi-natural woodland including the two LWS's adjacent.

5.5.15 Minimal lighting is required during construction and / or operation of the solar farm, but any required will be employed in a sensitive manner and directed away from field boundary habitats to maintain bat foraging and commuting routes as dark corridors. This will be achieved in line with BCT guidance (2018) *Bats and Lighting in the UK: Bats and the Built Environment Series*.

Badger

5.5.16 The presence of badger was found within the Site during the baseline surveys, the results of which are detailed within the Confidential Badger Survey Report. A pre-construction badger survey will be undertaken prior to works commencing to check for active or any newly constructed setts (between the initial baseline survey and the construction start date) within at least 30m of construction areas.

5.5.17 If baseline conditions have altered and significant disturbance to badgers or their setts is considered likely during the proposed works, one or both of the following options will be incorporated:

- The development design will be amended to avoid works which may impact upon badgers and their setts (e.g. alteration of the configuration of panels and/or fencing); and/or,
- A disturbance licence will be obtained from Natural England before construction commences.

5.5.18 A Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) Method Statement will be adopted during the construction phase under the advice of an ecologist to avoid disturbance when working near boundary features potentially used by badgers and ensure that no damage occurs to active badger setts. An outline RAMs Method Statement is provided in **Annex 1**.

Amphibians

5.5.19 Ten ponds located in the Site and within 250m were surveyed for great crested newt (GCN). Five of these ponds were surveyed (P4 on the site boundary and P2, 13, 17 and 20 in the wider area) and found to be negative for GCN DNA. The five other ponds inspected (P12 and 21 within the Site and P3, 18, 19 in the wider area) were all found to be dry. All five of these ponds are considered to be permanently dry.

5.5.20 Standard pollution prevention and runoff control measures will be in place during construction, which will safeguard on site waterbodies and associated species (please refer to **Section 5.4** for more details).

5.5.21 The dominant arable habitat within the Site has very low value to amphibians with hedgerows and woodland providing higher value habitat.

5.5.22 Works will be carried out under Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) to avoid adverse effects on GCN and other amphibian species (if present) and to ensure legislative compliance. The RAMs will be adopted for works within suitable habitat including hedgerows and field boundaries. The RAMS includes measures such as works being undertaken under the supervision of an ECoW and full details can be found in **Annex 2**.

Reptiles

5.5.23 The implementation of RAMs as detailed for amphibians above, will avoid impacts on individual reptiles potentially present, see **Annex 2**.

5.5.24 Neighbouring terrestrial habitat will not be directly or indirectly affected by the Proposed Development with perimeter fencing and pollution prevention measures in place.

Water Vole & Otter

5.5.25 The proposed works are situated over 5m from watercourses and ditches within the Site and therefore will not impact water voles if present within the Site.

5.5.26 As a precaution, if any works are required within 5m of a ditch, a pre-construction survey will be undertaken to check for presence of water vole and otters in the vicinity of the impact points.

5.5.27 If found to be present, the appointed ECoW will advise on mitigation measures to ensure legislative compliance including, if necessary, changes to the Site layout, working methods and/or licence application.

5.5.28 Standard good practice measures will be employed to ensure runoff control and pollution prevention to protect aquatic/bankside habitats both on Site and in the wider ditch network.

Dormice

5.5.29 The Proposed Development will largely avoid impacts to hedgerows, woodland and trees within and bordering the Site.

5.5.30 The proposed access tracks will wherever possible exploit gaps in hedgerows requiring only very localised disturbance of short sections of hedgerow (approximately 5m wide).

5.5.31 Disturbance to the hedgerows will be short term during construction and this habitat has limited potential for the species. As a precaution, any works requiring short sections of hedgerow removal (e.g. for the access tracks) will be undertaken under RAMs (as detailed in **Annex 2** of the BMP), with pre construction inspections and appropriate timings of works to avoid potential disturbance, injury or killing of individual dormice (if present).

Other species

5.5.32 The dominant habitat within the Site (arable) is considered to be of low potential for hedgehog, brown hare and harvest mouse. However, hedgerows and woodland have potential for breeding/rearing, shelter, foraging and hibernation.

5.5.33 Any works within hedgerows will follow Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) under the supervision of an ecologist to avoid any risk of adverse effects on small mammal species if present. Outline RAMs are provided in **Annex 2**.

5.6 Materials and Waste

5.6.1 Materials supplied and used on Site will be recorded, with surplus materials reused or recycled where possible. Material that cannot be reused or recycled will be disposed of in accordance with current legislation. Construction waste generated is expected to be restricted to normal construction wastes which will be sorted and either recycled or disposed of offsite to an appropriately licensed landfill by the Contractor.

5.6.2 Waste management will be in compliance with the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and in accordance with the 'Waste Management - A Duty of Care - A Code of Practice'.

5.6.3 Welfare facilities will be self-contained with all discharge of waste water to sealed tanks which will be regularly emptied off-site in an authorised manner. All other waste will be collected in skips and removed from Site at appropriate intervals to an authorised site.

5.6.4 For waste materials that do arise as a consequence of the works, the following measures will be adopted:

- All waste streams will be segregated;

- All waste will be stored safely and securely to prevent damage to health, or escape into the environment. Consideration will be given to prevent the theft of waste, acts of vandalism and scavenging by animals. Separate containers for different waste will be labelled to avoid confusion;
- Waste Management (Duty of Care) training for nominated site operatives;
- Nominated person(s) on Site for the signing-off of Waste Transfer Notes;
- Records of waste transfer will be maintained up to date and easily retrievable in order that waste officers from the Environment Agency can inspect them at any time;
- Rubbish will be removed regularly and the Site will be kept clean and tidy.

6 MONITORING

6.1.1 In order to ensure that the objectives and mitigation measures which are set out in this CEMP are met, implemented as appropriate and managed effectively, JBM proposes to ensure that frequent meetings are in place with the appointed Site Manager (Principal or EPC Contractor) prior to and during the construction of the Proposed Development.

6.1.2 The meetings would have the following responsibilities:

- Communicate and monitor the CEMP and its mitigation measures;
- Ensure records of HGV movements were maintained and reported;
- Discuss any complaints which require JBM intervention as well as discuss all complaints raised by the site staff;
- Record near misses, incidents and hazards and resolve issues as informed by contractors, stakeholders and the public; and
- Monitor, review and improve, where necessary, the CEMP and associated mitigation measures.

6.1.3 Monitoring relating to biodiversity will be carried out, as outlined within the Monitoring Strategy submitted to discharge condition C12. The implementation of the Mitigation Strategy during operation will be the responsibility of the operator, and owner either being the applicant or appointed contractor of the Site, working in conjunction with a suitably qualified (and where required licenced) ecologist.

6.1.4 Furthermore, a monitoring report will be prepared by a competent person (ECoW/Ecologist) to confirm that the that the required mitigation and/or compensation measures identified in the CEMP have been completed. The report will be submitted to the LPA within 3 months of the date of completion of the development or at the end of the next available planting season, whichever is sooner.

ANNEX 1: REASONABLE AVOIDANCE MEASURES METHOD STATEMENT: BADGERS

This Method Statement assumes that works will not directly impinge upon badger setts and that no licensable activities are required. The objectives of this Method Statement are therefore to:

- To ensure that no badgers are harmed or disturbed by the proposed works and that no badger sett is subject to damage or destruction; and,
- Avoid committing an offence under the legislation.

Any unmitigated development related activities on the Site, including vegetation clearance or excavations in areas close to a badger sett may potentially damage a sett or disturb a badger occupying a sett. As a result, safeguards must be implemented to protect setts and the Method Statement below details measures to be implemented to ensure these objectives are achieved.

Method Statement

This Method Statement should be followed for the entire construction phase. Minor or temporary works will also follow this Method Statement to ensure legal compliance and to ensure that no significance disturbance (beyond that typically encountered) on badgers or their setts results from the proposed development.

The following mitigation measures will be adopted throughout the construction phase of the development:

- Due to the high level of badger activity surrounding the Site, pre-construction badger survey will be undertaken prior to the commencement of construction works to determine levels of badger activity at the identified setts, and to check for any newly constructed badger setts;
- Prior to the commencement of development activities; where possible, a 30m buffer area will be applied around active badger sett entrances. This will be fenced off in order to clearly define working zones and prevent encroachment. No clearance works, vehicle movements, tool/equipment storage or other construction activity will take place within this defined radius;
- Prior to any construction works commencing all site operatives will be informed by 'tool box' talk, which will detail site specific ecological constraints and protected species issues relating to this Site;
- No trenches/excavations will be left open over night without the creation of sloping escape ramps for badgers, which may be achieved by edge profiling of trenches/excavations or by using planks placed into them at the end of each working day, alternatively, open excavations may be covered overnight with boards;
- Any areas of soil to be stored for any period of time should be fenced to deter use by badgers and/or checked daily by site staff to ensure no attempted creation of new setts by badgers (soil bunds hold great potential for sett creation).
- No works will take place between sunset and dawn (i.e. no night time working) within 50m of the active badger sett and security lighting (if used) will not be directed towards any of the sett entrances;
- Care and diligence will be used at all times; as new holes could be opened up in a short period of time. If any suspected badger holes are observed, works in that area should stop and further advice sought from the appointed ecologist;

- If low impact works are required within 30m of a badger sett this should be discussed and agreed with the appointed ecologist, prior to works commencing. The appointed ecologist will keep a continuous watch during the works within 30m of the sett entrances;

- In the unlikely event that an exposed badger tunnel is suspected, all works at this location will cease immediately, the tunnel if exposed will be covered using wooden boards and the trench immediately back filled, as advised by the appointed ecologist;

- Chemicals will be stored in a designated and secured compound located as far away from the badger setts as possible; and,

- Suitable pollution prevention and control measures that prevent negative effects occurring to the badger setts on and adjacent to site, will be adopted during the proposed developments construction and operational periods.

ANNEX 2: REASONABLE AVOIDANCE MEASURES METHOD STATEMENT: AMPHIBIANS, REPTILES AND SMALL MAMMALS

The following Method Statement outlines suitable measures to be implemented during construction works associated with the proposed solar development to avoid the disturbance, injury or killing of individual small mammals such as hedgehog, brown hare, harvest mouse, amphibians (including great crested newt) and common reptile species.

Measures to ensure the favourable conservation status of the species during the Proposed Development must reflect legislation and guidance application at the time and the construction phase will be undertaken following RAMS under the supervision of an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) as required to provide advice.

These RAMs relate to small scale removal of hedgerow for access tracks and should not be employed for larger scale or extensive woodland or hedgerow habitat removal. Minor or short term destructive or disturbance works (e.g. grid connection, cable laying, ground mountings, construction of substations) will also follow this Method Statement to ensure legal compliance and to ensure the objectives are achieved.

Summary of Method Statement

It is currently understood that two small areas (5m) of hedgerow will be impacted to accommodate new access tracks. Although species such as amphibians, reptiles and small mammals are considered unlikely to be present, as a precautionary measure these RAMs will be used to guide works.

Vegetation clearance works including within hedgerows as well as grasslands greater than 15cm in height will be supervised by a suitably licensed ecologist and/or accredited agent.

Method Statement

This Method Statement should be followed for the construction works and associated minor short term destructive habitat clearance works within the Site in order to ensure legal compliance and to ensure the objectives are achieved.

The following measures will be adopted throughout the construction period of the Proposed Development:

- Site operatives will be informed by a 'tool box' talk of the potential for protected species to occur on-site, what to look out for and what to do in the event that animal is found;

- Vegetation clearance works should only commence after a careful visual inspection by an ECoW has determined that no animals are present. Vegetation should be reduced (by hand strimmer) to a height of c.150mm prior to ground works commencing to aid visual searches and encourage individuals to temporarily move away from the working areas;

- The proposed timing of the works should avoid the hibernation period (November to February inclusive) in order to prevent disturbance to hibernating animals including amphibians, reptiles and hedgehogs;

- Trenches and excavations should include an escape route for animals that might enter the trench, especially if left open overnight. Ramps should be no greater than 45 degrees in angle and can include wooden planks or ramped earth. Ideally, any excavations open for a prolonged period should be covered;

- All excavations left open overnight or longer should be checked for animals prior to the continuation of works or infilling;

- Any excavated material stored overnight should be searched prior to being used as infill;

- Any brash cut down from the Site should be placed in piles within the set aside habitat area, to create additional hibernacula for both amphibian and reptile species;

- Site specific management practices will be set out within a Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) and must be adhered to during construction to ensure the protection of habitats and species within the Site.

Should an amphibian, reptile or other notable species (or signs of) be found at any point during construction, works within suitable habitat and/or potentially disturbing works in close proximity to the animal must cease immediately and the ECoW will advise on the appropriate actions, including applying for a licence, if required.

Other amphibians found during the visual inspection will be placed away from the development works in the wider area comprising of terrestrial habitats which will not be impacted by the proposed works and has excellent connectivity with surrounding terrestrial habitats.