

30th May 2025

Wiltshire Council
County Hall
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge
BA14 8JN

Via email

Our Ref: RMA/LC2788 – Studley Solar Farm Wiltshire - Discharge of Condition 11

Dear Sir/Madam,

**RE: PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF A SOLAR FARM AND BATTERY STORAGE FACILITY
WITH ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON LAND AT STUDLEY FARM, ATWORTH –
DISCHARGE OF CONDITION 11**

We have set out in this letter the findings of our assessment with the objective of discharging Condition 11 of the above planning application (Wiltshire Council planning reference: PL/2021/08690).

Condition 11

For ease of reference, the wording of Condition 11 is as follows:

“No development shall commence on site until clear arrangements are in place for ongoing maintenance of SuDS for the lifetime of the development. REASON: The matter is required to be agreed with the Local Planning Authority before development commences in order that the development is undertaken in an acceptable manner, to ensure that the development can be adequately drained.”

The SuDS Maintenance Plan detailed within Appendix A has been based on the approach set out within the Flood Risk Assessment (RMA Environmental Limited in collaboration with Pitman Associates, 2025) submitted to discharge condition 10 for the planning application. The SuDS Maintenance Plan has been prepared by Pitman Associates in collaboration with RMA Environmental Ltd and is summarised below (refer to Appendix A).

Details for the maintenance activities for the permeable access tracks, the inverter stations drainage blankets, swales and basins are included in Tables 1 and 2 in Appendix A. Details of landscape management activities are included in the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP).

It is envisaged that day-to-day activities will be carried out by Belectric Solar UK over the lifetime of the development. The person with ultimate responsibility for ensuring the activities are carried out is the Operations Manager from Belectric Solar UK.

I trust that the enclosed details are sufficient to allow the Council to discharge Condition 11. However, should you have any questions or if you require any additional information, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Rosie Wagstaff
Environmental Consultant

Encs: Appendix A – SuDS Maintenance Plan (Pitman Associates, 2025)

***Appendix A:
SuDS Maintenance Plan (Pitman Associates,
2025)***



**Studley Farm, Atworth,
SN12 8JN**

SUDS Maintenance Plan

May 2025



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Document title	SUDS Maintenance Plan
Status	A - Initial issue
Date	Rev A – May 2025
Project name	Studley Farm, Atworth, SN12 8JN
Project number	0536
Client	RMA Environmental Ltd.

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1. INTRODUCTION

This document has been prepared for the discharge of condition 11 for approved planning application PL/2021/08690:

No development shall commence on site until clear arrangements are in place for ongoing maintenance of SuDS for the lifetime of the development. REASON: The matter is required to be agreed with the Local Planning Authority before development commences in order that the development is undertaken in an acceptable manner, to ensure that the development can be adequately drained.

1.1 The purpose of the document is to describe the maintenance activities required for the drainage features included in the project. It also sets out who will be responsible for carrying out these activities.

1.2 The drainage features included in the project are as follows

- Permeable Access Tracks
- Inverter Stations Drainage Blanket
- Swales/Basins
- Grassland

The location of these features is shown on DR-001 and DR-003 in Appendix A.

1.3 Details of the maintenance activities required for the above features are covered in the following sections. Further information on the maintenance activities can be found in the CIRIA SuDS Manual 2015.

1.4 Some SuDS components are visible on the surface, form part of the overall site landscape and include a range of habitats. The maintenance regime needs to take account of the wider landscape context of amenity and biodiversity, as well as drainage requirements. Details of landscape management activities are included in the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP). This plan should be read in conjunction with the LEMP.

2. RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1 It is envisaged that day-to-day activities will be carried out by Belectric Solar UK.

2.2 The person with ultimate responsibility for ensuring the activities are carried out is the Operations Manager from Belectric Solar UK.

3. OPERATION AND MAINTAENCE ACTIVITY CATERGORIES

- 3.1 Maintenance activities can be broadly defined as:
- 1 regular maintenance (including inspections)
 - 2 occasional maintenance.
 - 3 remedial maintenance.
- 3.2 Regular maintenance consists of basic tasks carried out to a frequent and predictable schedule, including inspections/monitoring, silt or oil removal if required more frequently than once per year, vegetation management, sweeping of surfaces and litter and debris removal.
- 3.3 Occasional maintenance comprises tasks that are likely to be required periodically, but on a much less frequent and predictable basis than the regular tasks (eg sediment removal).
- 3.3 Remedial maintenance describes the intermittent tasks that may be required to rectify faults associated with the system, although the likelihood of faults can be minimised by good design, construction and regular maintenance activities. Where remedial work is found to be necessary, it is likely to be due to site-specific characteristics or unforeseen events, and so timings are difficult to predict.

4. HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 4.1 Health and safety is an important consideration in all maintenance activities. It is a requirement of this plan that all contractors prepare, and regularly review/ update, specific health and safety risk assessments for all activities for which they are responsible.

5. TYPES OF DRAINAGE FEATURE

The following features are included in the design of the drainage system

- Drainage Blankets (for the permeable access tracks and inverter stations)
- Swales/Basins
- Grassland to manage runoff from the panels (refer to LEMP for maintenance activities)

The maintenance activities for these features are set out in the tables below.

<u>Maintenance Schedule</u>	<u>Required Action</u>	<u>Typical frequency</u>
<u>Drainage Blankets</u>		
Regular maintenance	Removal of surface debris	Once a year, after autumn leaf fall, or reduced frequency as required, based on site-specific observations of clogging – pay particular attention to areas where water runs off pervious surface from adjacent impermeable areas as this area is most likely to collect the most sediment.
Occasional Maintenance	Stabilise and mow adjacent areas	As required
	Removal of weeds or management using glyphosate applied directly into the weeds by an applicator rather than spraying	As required
Remedial Actions	Remediate any landscaping which, through vegetation maintenance or soil slip, has been raised to within 50mm of the level of the drainage blanket	As required
Monitoring	Performance inspection	Monthly for three months after instillation
	Inspect for evidence of poor operation and/or weed growth – if required, take remedial action	Three-monthly, 48 hours after large storms in first six months
	Inspect silt accumulation rates and establish appropriate brushing frequencies	Annually
	Monitor inspection chambers	Annually

Table 1 - Drainage Blankets (applies to inverter stations and access tracks)

Maintenance Schedule	Required Action	Typical frequency
Swales		
Regular maintenance	Remove litter and debris	Monthly, or as required.
	Cut Grass – to retain grass height within specified design range	Monthly (during growing season), or as required.
	Manage other vegetation and remove nuisance plants	Monthly at start, then as required.
	Inspect inlets, outlets and overflows for blockages and clear if required	Monthly
	Inspect infiltration surfaces for ponding, compaction, silt accumulation, record areas where water is ponding for >48 hours	Monthly, or when required.
	Inspect vegetation coverage	Monthly for 6 months, quarterly for 2 years, then half yearly
	Inspect inlets and facility surface for silt accumulation, establish appropriate silt removal frequencies	Half yearly
Occasional Maintenance	Reseed areas of poor vegetation growth, alter plant types to better suit conditions, if required	As required or if bare soil is exposed over 10% or more of the swale treatment area
Remedial Actions	Repair erosion or other damage by re-turfing or reseeded.	As required
	Relevel uneven surfaces and reinstate design levels	As required
	Scarify and spike topsoil layer to improve infiltration performance, break up silt deposits and prevent compaction of the soil surface	As required
	Remove build-up of sediment on upstream gravel trench, flow spreader or at top of filter strip	As required
	Remove and dispose of oils or petrol residues using safe standard practices	As required

Table 2 – Swales/Basins

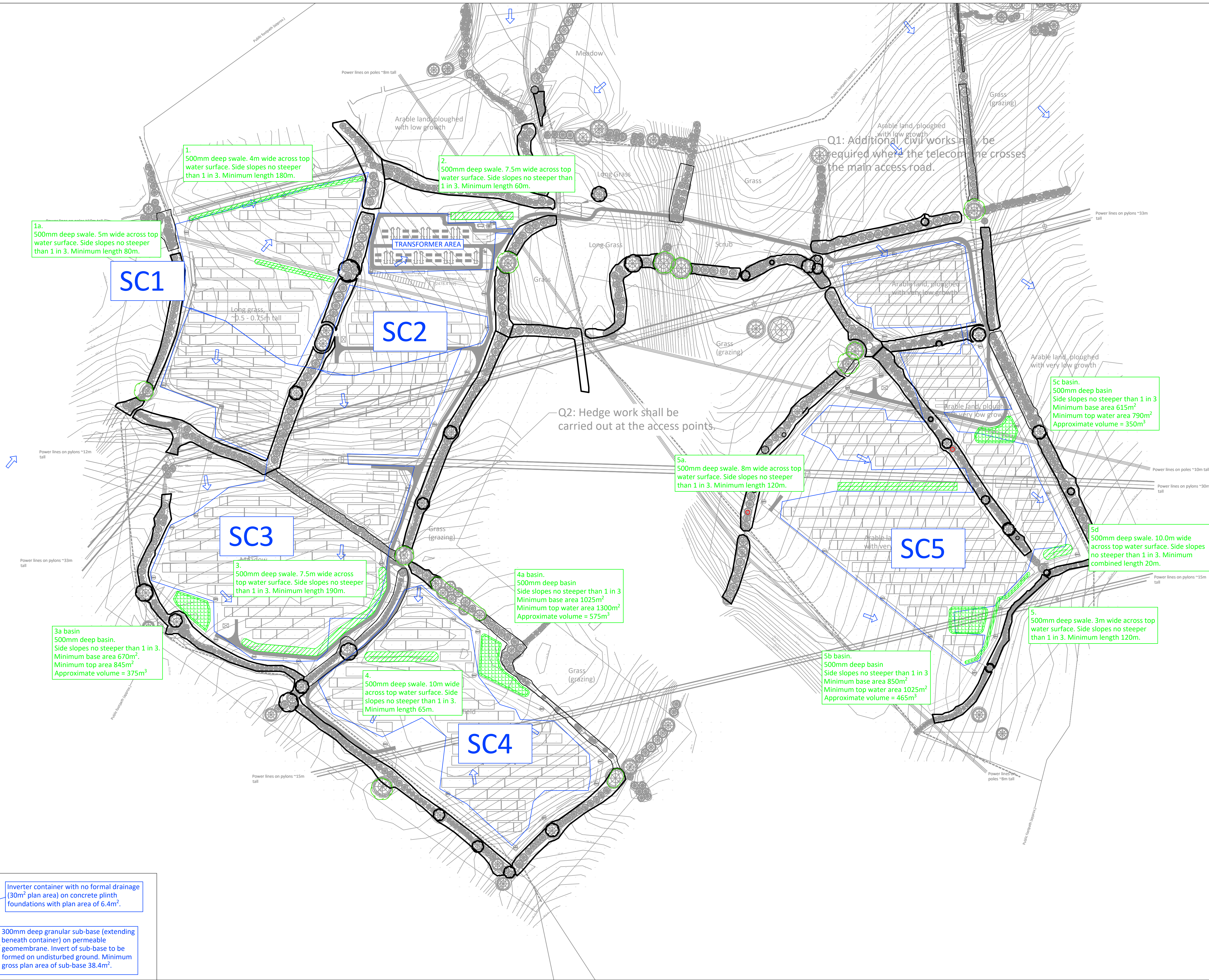
APPENDIX A
DRAWINGS

DR-001 Surface Water Drainage Layout

(solar) North
Grid North
(OSGB36)

0.15° grid-convergence
angle
True North is 0.15°
CLOCKWISE of Grid
North
(Calculated using
Ordnance Survey
projection and
transformation
calculation tool, v.3.36.
t-T correction = 0.00)

True South | Grid South



NOTES
1. See DR-002 for details of swales.

Inverter container with no formal drainage
(30m² plan area) on concrete plinth
foundations with plan area of 6.4m².
300mm deep granular sub-base (extending
beneath container) on permeable
geomembrane. Invert of sub-base to be
formed on undisturbed ground. Minimum
gross plan area of sub-base 38.4m².

B	28.02.2025	FOR CONDITION
A	27.07.2021	INITIAL ISSUE
REV	DATE	DESCRIPTION
CLIENT:		

PROJECT: STUDLEY SOLAR FARM		
TITLE: SURFACE WATER DRAINAGE LAYOUT		
REV: B	PROJECT No: 0536	DRAWING No: DR-001
SCALE @ A1: 1:2000		

