
Stoneshollow

on behalf of JBM Solar

Construction Environmental Management Plan



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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 This Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) has been prepared to discharge condition 13 and 15 of planning permission (Reference: 21/01395/FUL) for the installation of a solar farm and battery storage facility with associated infrastructure including a cable connection (the 'Proposed Development') on Stoneshollow, Barlestone, Leicestershire (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.

Condition 13: *No development shall take place until a site wide Construction Environment Management Plan has first been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. This plan must include the following elements:*

o Measures for protecting the retained hedges and trees, with specific reference to the Black Poplar;
o Protection of setts and badger foraging routes during construction;
o Creation of gaps/gates along boundary fencing to allow hedgehog, badger and small mammal access, and avoid entrapment with the site; and
o Avoidance of harm to bird nesting during construction - either by avoidance of works in the March to July inclusive nesting season, or through surveys by suitably qualified ecologist immediately prior to ground clearance and construction; any birds nesting 'in the way' will need to be protected and monitored until they have finished nesting and their young have fledged.

The development will be carried out in accordance with the approved Construction Environment Management Plan thereafter.

Reason: To ensure the protection of wildlife and supporting habitat and secure opportunities for the enhancement of the nature conservation value of the site and secure BNG in accordance with SADMP policy DM6; BNP policies ENV3, ENV7, ENV8 and ENV9; and the advice contained in the NPPF together with the Habitats Directive.

Condition 15: Prior to commencement of development a Construction Environmental Management Plan shall be submitted to and agreed in writing by the LPA. The plan shall detail how, during the site preparation and construction phase of the development, the impact on existing and proposed residential premises and the environment shall be prevented or mitigated from dust, odour, noise, smoke, light and land contamination. The plan shall detail how such controls will be monitored. The plan will provide a procedure for the investigation of complaints. The agreed details shall be implemented throughout the course of the development.

Reason: To protect the amenities of nearby land users in accordance with SADMP policies DM7 and DM1 and the advice contained in the NPPF.

- 1.1.3 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.
- 1.1.4 The Site Manager 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.

- 1.1.5 This CEMP is to be read in conjunction with the Ecological Appraisal Report (EAR), Confidential Badger Report (Avian Ecology, 2023¹), Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) and the Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) 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.
- 2.1.3 Specific details relating to the Proposed Development have been included in the Design and Access Statement (RPS, 2021²).
- 2.1.4 Security fencing (approximately 2m high) will be installed around the perimeter of the Site; the fencing would comprise of 'Deer Fencing'; wooden fence poles and galvanised high tensile steel wire between.
- 2.1.5 The perimeter of the Site would be protected by a system of CCTV and/or infra-red cameras to provide full 24-hour surveillance around the internal perimeter. The security system will not result in lighting within the Site at night-time.
- 2.1.6 No permanent lighting is proposed. Manually operated lights may be attached to the substations and transformer and/or inverter cabinets in the event of an emergency maintenance visit being required in the hours of darkness.
- 2.1.7 It is anticipated that the construction phase will last for approximately 52 weeks. As stated in Condition 16 of the planning permission, Site preparation and construction shall be limited to Monday to Friday 07:30 - 18:00 and Saturday 08:00 - 13:00. No work will be undertaken on Sundays and Bank Holidays.

¹ Avian Ecology (2023). Confidential Badger Report.

² RPS Group (2021). Design and Access Statement: Stoneshollow Solar Farm.

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 a security presence at the key access points to deter any criminal activity.
- 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 breaches of the CEMP will be reported to the Site Manager (Principal or EPC Contractor) with the authority to stop construction/decommissioning 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.

3.7 Complaints

- 3.7.1 The Site Manager (Principal or EPC Contractor) would be responsible for ensuring coordination within development parcels and suppliers sites to minimise traffic disruption in accordance with the Construction Traffic Management Plan. The Site Manager would also be responsible for promoting a good working relationship with the immediate neighbours to the development site and dealing with any complaints arising from the construction of the. In order to respond to any issues immediately the Site Manager's contact details would be provided on information flyers at the site entrance and shared with the relevant Parish Councils. The information on the notice board would provide information on the works and contact details for general enquiries and emergencies.
- 3.7.2 Where complaints cannot be managed by the Site Manager these should be escalated to JBM. Similarly, any response to complaints from the Site Manager should include within them JBM's details in case the relevant body wishes to escalate it. A log of all complaints will be held by the Site Manager

without holding personal details (unless authority given) so JBM can manage issues which arise for future site management.

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 An update badger survey was undertaken in June 2023, the results of which can be found in the Confidential Badger Report (Avian Ecology, 2023).
- 4.1.3 The pre-construction surveys to be undertaken include:
- A badger survey to check for active or any newly constructed setts (between the June 2023 survey and the construction start date) within at least 30m of construction areas within the Site.

5 CONSTRUCTION ECOLOGY MANAGEMENT PLAN

- 5.1.1 This section details the required measures to ensure adequate protection, mitigation and compensation for protected and 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;
 - 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 by means of a dry wheel washing facility 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 within wash water does 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 Severn Trent Water.

5.5 Smoke

5.5.1 All contractors will adhere to (so far as is reasonably practicable) the measures set out below in order to help reduce smoke related generated during the construction works:

- Use electrical equipment where possible as opposed to petrol / fuel based equipment;
- Do not leave engines running idle during unloading / offloading;
- Prohibit on site fires;
- Encourage car sharing where possible; and,
- Delivery activities and vehicles will be located as far away as possible from the development site boundaries and neighbouring properties.

5.6 Lighting

5.6.1 All activities will be undertaken in accordance with the Environmental UK Light Pollution Leaflet and will ensure that areas identified by the HSE (within statement below) will be suitably lit. The HSE requires that JBM install adequate lighting.

5.6.2 “Adequate lighting should be provided to all areas and especially to those used in darkness hours, or where loading/unloading can be carried out in poor visibility or diminished lighting conditions. As a minimum, lighting should be provided for junctions, around plant and buildings, pedestrian routes and areas where loading/unloading is to be carried out. Guidance for road lighting can be found in BS 5489 ‘Road Lighting’.”

5.6.3 The Workplace (Health, Safety & Welfare) Regulations 1992 will be complied with. JBM Solar do not commonly work during ‘out of light’ hours. JBM will ensure that illumination levels do not add light

pollution to the neighbourhood throughout the duration of the construction works. Compound lighting and any necessary site task or general lighting will be configured such as to ensure that it is directed to illuminate the area required without illuminating the surrounding area. This lighting will be further controlled by means of time clocks and sensors, as required, and will only be used if absolutely necessary for safe operations.

5.6.4 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 or adjacent woodland/watercourses 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.

5.6.5 There are no streetlights to be used within the development site.

5.7 Odour

5.7.1 No activities likely to create odours are foreseen to be undertaken on this development. Waste bins will be located within the site staff welfare facilities and will be removed frequently to prevent the build-up of any waste creating an odour risk.

5.8 Dust

5.8.1 All contractors will adhere to (so far as is reasonably practicable) the measures set out below in order to help reduce and control dust generated during the construction works:

- Water suppression will be used in dry conditions to reduce dust emissions (e.g., mobile bowsters or fixed sprayers as appropriate);
- Any stone/concrete cutting will have water fed suppression and appropriate PPE; this will be reinforced during site specific induction;
- Delivery activities, plant, stockpiled materials and/or any other activities liable to significant dust generation will be located as far away as possible from the development site boundaries and neighbouring properties;
- Stored materials liable to dust generation will be dampened down, covered with tarpaulin, or otherwise contained as far as reasonably possible;
- Skips, chutes, and conveyors will be covered and, if necessary, enclosed to ensure that dust does not escape;
- All vehicles carrying loose materials will be securely covered;
- Areas where there is regular vehicular movement will have a bound surface which will be kept in good repair;
- Periodic road-sweeping will be implemented if ground conditions and/or adverse weather conditions dictate. This will ensure that the site access track and public roads affected are kept clean. The public highway will be inspected regularly; and,
- A water bowser will be made available at the construction compound, if ground conditions and prevailing weather conditions dictate. This will be used for dust suppression of compound areas.

5.9 Land contamination

- 5.9.1 It is considered that measures listed within this CEMP will also prevent and/or mitigate land contamination such as runoff control and pollution prevention measures and the use of spill kits, if required.

5.10 Wildlife and Biodiversity

- 5.10.1 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 1.4 of the EAR).

Good Practice to be Employed

- 5.10.2 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.
- 5.10.3 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

- 5.10.4 Habitats of ecological value, such as hedgerow, woodland, stream and trees will be largely retained and protected during works. Two 2m sections of hedgerow will be removed during the works.
- 5.10.5 Timed, phased works, limiting disturbance across the Site at any given time will also be implemented. Construction methods, including buffers relating to tree root protection zones and 5m buffers around the stream, will also ensure no damage / disturbance to designated sites and habitats. Black Poplar Local Wildlife Site and Stream Local Wildlife Site, both of which are within the Site boundary, will be clearly marked out with Heras-style fencing preventing encroachments into the buffer areas. In addition, awareness of these non-statutory sites and buffer zones will be included within the Site induction.
- 5.10.6 Additional protections relating to habitats include implementing tree and hedgerow protection measures in line with *BS 5837:2012: Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction*. This will include the protection of all black poplar trees present on or adjacent to the Site. The development has been designed to avoid woodland / tree removal, with any necessary hedgerow removal to be compensated for upon the completion of construction, helping to safeguard retained terrestrial habitats within the Site, and within the surrounding environment.
- 5.10.7 There will also be clear delineation of working areas and access routes for vehicles entering the Site and instructions on these will be given to all site construction staff, delivery drivers and subcontractors.
- 5.10.8 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.

- 5.10.9 Standard measures to ensure runoff control and pollution prevention will be implemented Site-wide; these measures will safeguard on-site ditches, stream and boundary habitats as well as off-site land (including ponds) and associated habitats and species.

Birds

- 5.10.10 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). 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.
- 5.10.11 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.
- 5.10.12 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

- 5.10.13 Protection of hedgerows and mature trees on Site or along access routes and adjacent land will safeguard potential roost sites and maintain foraging and commuting opportunities.
- 5.10.14 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

- 5.10.15 Full mitigation measures regarding badgers are discussed separately in the **Confidential Badger Report** (Avian Ecology, 2023).
- 5.10.16 A pre-construction badger survey will be undertaken immediately prior to works commencing to check for active or any newly constructed setts (between the update badger survey (June 2023) and the construction start date) within at least 30m of construction areas.
- 5.10.17 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.
- 5.10.18 Security fencing located around the Site perimeter will have mammal gates or gaps positioned at several locations along the base of fences in order to allow badgers (together with other small mammals, such as hedgehogs) to continue to use the habitats on Site during the operational period, thereby maintaining dispersal routes and opportunities to access relatively undisturbed habitat within the secured Site and connectivity in the wider landscape. The exact location of these gates/gaps will

be determined during the pre-commencement badger survey and will be positioned based on site conditions, such as existing mammal paths and cut-throughs.

- 5.10.19 No works will take place between sunset and dawn (i.e. no nighttime working) within 50m of an active badger sett and lighting (including construction and operational, if used) will not be directed towards any of the setts.

Amphibians

- 5.10.20 As a precautionary measure, Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) are required during the construction phase to avoid adverse effects on great crested newt (GCN) and other amphibian species (if present) and to ensure works can be undertaken within the applicable legislation. The RAMS includes a 'tool box talk' information leaflet to minimise risk of accidental harm. The RAMs can be found in **Annex 1**.

Otter

- 5.10.21 The otter survey undertaken in June 2021 by RPS concluded that the watercourse does provide some potential habitat for otters, although no evidence of the species was recorded during the otter survey.
- 5.10.22 The majority of works are situated over 5m from the watercourse and therefore will not impact otter, if present within the Site. To protect this habitat, sturdy fencing (such as Heras-style fencing) will be erected during any works adjacent to the watercourse to provide a 5 m buffer between its banks and the location of works. The area behind the fence should be designated an Ecological Protection Zone within which no personnel or machinery should enter, and no materials should be stored within it.
- 5.10.23 If, for any reason, works are required within 5m of the watercourse, a pre-construction survey will be undertaken to check for presence of otters in the vicinity of the impact point(s). If otters are confirmed to be likely absent, temporary construction works affecting the watercourse will be undertaken in accordance with specific RAMS. 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 working under a class licence or site licence.
- 5.10.24 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 watercourse/ditch network.
- 5.10.25 No works will take place between sunset and dawn (i.e. no nighttime working) within 20m of the watercourse and lighting (including construction and operational, if used) will not be directed towards the watercourse.

5.11 Materials and Waste

- 5.11.1 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.
- 5.11.2 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'.
- 5.11.3 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.

5.11.4 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 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.

Annex 1: Outline Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMS)

Method Statement

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 amphibians (including great crested newt).

Measures to ensure the favourable conservation status of the species during the proposed development must reflect legislation and guidance application at the time. The construction phase will be undertaken following RAMS under the supervision of an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECOW) as required to provide advice. Should RAMs be considered insufficient for great crested newts, certain works may require to be undertaken under a Low Impact Class Licence (LICL) or full European Protected Species Mitigation (EPSM) licence from Natural England, either of which would be supported by a presence/absence environmental DNA survey and detailed Method Statement.

These RAMs relate to small scale removal of optimal habitat, including hedgerows and tall grassland, and are not to be employed for larger scale or extensive habitat removal. The RAMS will be followed during the installation of the solar panels and associated minor works within the Site, which may affect the surrounding terrestrial habitat. 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

The following Method Statement outlines suitable measures to be implemented during construction works to avoid the potential for disturbance, injury or killing of individual great crested newts, if present in the local area. EDNA surveys in 2021 found great crested newts to be present in pond P1 situated adjacent to the Site. Pond P2 located within the Site and pond P3 also adjacent were found to be negative for great crested newt DNA.

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.

Should RAMs be considered insufficient, certain works may require to be undertaken under a Low Impact Class Licence (LICL) or full European Protected Species Mitigation (EPSM) licence from Natural England, either of which would be supported by a detailed Method Statement.

Where possible, 30m buffers will be implemented around ponds.

These RAMs relate to the removal of suitable terrestrial habitats, including small scale hedgerow removal as well as grassland over 15cm in height. They should not be employed for larger scale or extensive scrub, 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.

Method Statement

This Method Statement will be followed for the construction works and associated minor short term destructive habitat clearance works within the Site, as listed above 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:

- On the first working day, a suitably experienced ecologist will deliver a 'toolbox' talk to all site operatives on the potential for protected species to occur on-site, the risks to these species, what to look out for and what to do in the event that animal is found.
- Vegetation clearance will only commence after a careful visual inspection by an ECoW has determined that no animals are present. Vegetation will 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. Vegetation will then be cut to ground level and maintained as such to make the area unsuitable for amphibians.
- The proposed timing of the works should avoid the hibernation period (November to February inclusive) in order to prevent disturbance to hibernating amphibians as well as reptiles and hedgehogs.
- Any trenches or excavations will include an escape route for animals that might enter the trench, especially if left open overnight. Ramps will 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 will be checked for animals prior to the continuation of works or infilling.
- Any excavated material stored overnight will be searched prior to being used as infill.
- Any brash cut down from the Site should be placed in piles throughout the Site, to create additional hibernacula for both amphibian and reptile species.

Should a great crested newt (or other notable species) 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 within a designated receptor area comprising of terrestrial habitats which will not be impacted by the proposed works and has excellent connectivity with surrounding terrestrial habitats.