

LANDSCAPE AND ECOLOGY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Aston Flamville Solar Farm
On Behalf of Elgin Energy Esco

794-PLN-WWP-00230

4

June 2025

REPORT

Document status

Version	Purpose of document	Authored by	Reviewed by	Approved by	Review date
1	Landscape and Ecology Management Plan	Georgia Kelly	Tim Oliver	Tim Oliver	27/08/2024
2	Landscape and Ecology Management Plan	Georgia Kelly	Tim Oliver	Tim Oliver	10/01/2025
3	Landscape and Ecology Management Plan	Georgia Kelly	Tim Oliver	Tim Oliver	06/05/2025
4	Landscape and Ecology Management Plan	Georgia Kelly	Tim Oliver	Tim Oliver	13/06/2025

Approval for issue

Tim Oliver

13 June 2025

© Copyright R P S Group Limited. All rights reserved.

The report has been prepared for the exclusive use of our client and unless otherwise agreed in writing by R P S Group Limited no other party may use, make use of or rely on the contents of this report.

The report has been compiled using the resources agreed with the client and in accordance with the scope of work agreed with the client. No liability is accepted by R P S Group Limited for any use of this report, other than the purpose for which it was prepared.

R P S Group Limited accepts no responsibility for any documents or information supplied to R P S Group Limited by others and no legal liability arising from the use by others of opinions or data contained in this report. It is expressly stated that no independent verification of any documents or information supplied by others has been made.

R P S Group Limited has used reasonable skill, care and diligence in compiling this report and no warranty is provided as to the report's accuracy.

No part of this report may be copied or reproduced, by any means, without the written permission of R P S Group Limited.

Prepared for:

Elgin Energy Esco

Contents

1	INTRODUCTION	1
1.2	Site Description	1
2	BIODIVERSITY AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	3
2.1	Habitats	3
2.2	Aims	3
2.3	Objectives.....	4
	Grassland	4
	Hedgerows	4
	Scrub 4	
	Mature and Semi-mature Trees	4
	Broadleaved Woodland.....	4
	Pond and Wet Ditches	5
	Grassland	5
	Hedgerows and Scrub.....	5
	Mature and Semi-mature Trees	5
	Woodland	5
	Pond and Wet Ditches	6
3	ECOLOGICAL TRENDS AND CONSTRAINTS.....	7
3.1	Establishment of Created Habitats	7
3.2	Mature and Semi-Mature Trees	7
3.3	Legally Protected Species.....	7
	Bat Roosts	7
	Breeding Birds.....	7
	Badger 8	
	Reptiles 8	
4	HABITAT CREATION AND ESTABLISHMENT	9
4.1	Soil/ Substrate Preparation	9
4.2	Grassland	9
	Seeding9	
4.3	Shrub Planting (Hedgerows and Dense Scrub).....	9
4.4	Woodland Planting (Compartment 11).....	10
	Planting 10	
	Shrub Condition	11
	Replacement Planting	11
5	HABITAT MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING	13
5.1	Establishment Phase	13
5.2	Habitat Management.....	13
6	MONITORING	15
6.1	Monitoring Strategy	15
6.2	Responsibilities	16
	REFERENCES	17

Tables

Table 6.1: Assessment method for habitat monitoring	15
--	-----------

Drawings

Drawing 1 Landscape Strategy Plan

Appendices

Appendix A Maintenance Schedule Years 1 -2

Appendix B Maintenance Schedule Years 3 onwards

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 This Landscape Management Plan has been prepared on behalf of Elgin Energy Esco for the 20MW solar farm at Aston Flamville.
- 1.1.2 The development will comprise the solar photo voltaic (PV) array with an associated infrastructure and ancillary works including a substation, access track and security fencing.
- 1.1.3 Full planning permission has been granted for the solar farm (Planning condition reference: 22/00739/FUL). This Landscape Management Plan has been prepared to fulfil Condition 7 of the planning permission which states that prior to the commencement of works the following should be submitted:
- 'No development shall take place (including ground works or vegetation clearance) until a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) covering the lifetime of the development has been submitted to and approved in writing by the District Planning Authority. The LEMP shall include the following details*
- a) Description and evaluation of the features to be created/managed;*
 - b) Aims and objectives of management;*
 - c) Appropriate management options for achieving aims and objectives;*
 - d) Prescriptions for management options;*
 - e) Work schedule;*
 - f) Species/seed mixes to be planted/sown; and*
 - g) Ongoing monitoring and remedial measures.'*
- 1.1.4 This LEMP details the biodiversity aims for the habitat types being created and enhanced as part of the solar farm development. It sets out the proposed management actions / specifications for the initial establishment / enhancement of habitats and their ongoing management for positive biodiversity outcomes.
- 1.1.5 The report also describes the monitoring programme and targets which will initially assess the outcomes of the habitat creation and enhancement and inform the management of habitats over long term to achieve and maintain the target conditions and value.
- 1.1.6 This report has been prepared alongside the Biodiversity Management Plan (RPS, 2024). The BMP defines the ongoing management actions / specifications / schedule and the monitoring programme which will be implemented over a minimum of 30 years to achieve the target habitat types and condition commitments presented in the Biodiversity Net Gain metric.
- 1.1.7 The prescriptions for management options and the work schedule are consistent between the LEMP and the BMP.

1.2 Site Description

- 1.2.1 The site comprises two separate areas divided by the M69: a 13.5ha development area to the west (centred at OS grid reference SP455927), and a 28.5ha development area to the east (centred at OS grid reference SP458919).
- 1.2.2 The baseline site consists of arable farmland with grassy field margins bound by ditches, hedgerows and trees. There is a small block of woodland encircling a pond at the south-east of the site. A linear section of broadleaved semi-natural woodland is present along the eastern boundary.

- 1.2.3 The site is located within an arable landscape. Lychgate Lane runs along the southern boundary of the western part of the site.
- 1.2.4 The site is located within the Leicestershire Vales National Character Area (NCA). This landscape is composed of low-lying clay vales with a range of varied river valleys creating a large, relatively open, uniform landscape. The site is located within the western section of the NCA, where the land has a rural character with a mixture of arable and pastoral farmland. The village of Aston Flamville is located to the east of the site.

2 BIODIVERSITY AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 Habitats

2.1.1 Retained, enhanced and created habitats throughout the site will be managed to promote their value for biodiversity. These habitats are shown on the Landscape Strategy Plan (Drawing 1 and 2). The following habitats will be present within or on the boundary of the operational solar farm and will be subject to management to promote their biodiversity value:

- Neutral grassland beneath the solar arrays (Compartments 1a – 8a)
- Neutral grassland between the perimeter fencing and field boundaries (Compartments 1b – 8b)
- Neutral grassland within fields without solar panels (Compartments 9 and 10)
- Hedgerows
- Lines of trees
- Mature and semi-mature trees
- Scrub (Woodland edge planting) (Compartments 14 - 16)
- Broadleaved woodland (Compartments 11 and 12)
- Non-priority pond (Compartment 13)

2.1.2 The specific BNG target conditions and criteria for each habitat over the 30 year BNG period are described in the BMP (RPS, 2024).

2.2 Aims

2.2.1 The key aims for biodiversity are defined as:

- Create and maintain areas of grassland supporting a mixture of grasses and wildflower species within management compartments 9 and 10
- Develop tussocky grassland around the boundaries of fields within the solar farm which will provide habitat for invertebrates and amphibians
- Create and maintain new areas of scrub and new and existing hedgerows and trees providing nesting habitat and foraging resources for birds
- Maintain the areas of woodland, promoting the development of a shrub understorey and woodland ground flora within the eastern section of woodland (management compartment 11)
- Maintain the pond and wet ditches, providing habitat for amphibians and invertebrates
- Protect the mature tree resource and allow deadwood features to develop (invertebrates, bats and nesting birds)
- Promote habitat connectivity across the site
- Identify any negative habitat trends and effectively address through management and/or remedial actions
- Ensure that all management actions comply with all wildlife legislation

2.3 Objectives

Grassland

- Maintain at least a moderate wildflower diversity in management compartments 9 and 10 with higher than 9 species per m²
- Maintain tussocky grassland as continuous habitat corridors on the field perimeters
- Maintain a continuous grassland cover comprising a mix of native grasses and wildflower species below and between the solar panel arrays
- Ensure that grassland habitats within the Biodiversity Area provides food, cover and prey for faunal species (invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles and small mammals)

Hedgerows

- Establish and maintain new native species-rich hedgerows
- Establish and maintain new hedgerows with a dense structure
- Promote flowering/ fruiting of shrubs and trees through sensitive management
- Increase the diversity of hedgerow ground flora
- Protect mature and semi-mature trees allowing them to continue to develop value for biodiversity

Scrub (Woodland edge planting)

- Maintain dense, closed structure of scrub
- Establish and maintain trees and scrub comprising a mixture of native species
- Promote flowering/ fruiting of shrubs and trees through low intensive management

Mature and Semi-mature Trees

- Mature and semi-mature trees should be maintained in a healthy condition.
- Avoid all unnecessary tree management works maintaining a balance between health and safety, arboricultural value and biodiversity value.
- Where possible deadwood should be retained to provide habitat for invertebrates.
- Cavities should be allowed to form and may provide features suitable for bats and nesting birds.

Broadleaved Woodland

- Mature and semi-mature trees within the woodland should also be protected and deadwood / cavities allowed to develop where possible.
- Establish and maintain a range of native woody species.
- Maintain trees and shrubs in a healthy condition.
- Allow dense patches of scrub / coppice to develop in management compartment 11.
- Encourage the development of a woodland ground flora in management compartment 11.

Pond and Wet Ditches

- A water depth of at least 1m should be maintained within the pond and wet ditches.
- A diversity of non-competitive herbaceous wetland plant species should be established and maintained on the pond margins.
- Algal blooms and duckweed should be controlled at low levels.
- The absence of fish and invasive non-native species should be maintained.

Grassland

- 2.3.1 At the east of the site, management compartments 9 and 10 will be sensitively managed to create a grassland with a range of wildflowers and varied sward height. The grassland would provide habitat for small mammals, amphibians and invertebrates, also providing suitable foraging habitats for barn owl and bats. The wetter ground conditions within the south-eastern section of the field is expected to result in variation in the structure and composition of the grassland across the field, increasing the species-richness.
- 2.3.2 Grassland between the perimeter fencing and site boundaries will be managed as tussocky grassland. This will provide habitat for small mammals, amphibians and invertebrates and provide cover for fauna using the field boundaries as a wildlife corridor.
- 2.3.3 The grassland beneath solar arrays will be shaded by the solar array infrastructure and will be subject to low intensity cutting or grazing. Ideally parts of the grassland beneath the solar arrays should be left uncut or ungrazed during the main flowering season to increase the value of the habitat for invertebrates and species that prey on them.

Hedgerows and Scrub (Woodland edge planting)

- 2.3.4 New hedgerows and shrubs will be planted and will be sensitively managed along with retained scrub and hedgerows. The habitats will provide cover for nesting birds and wildlife corridors. A range of native woody species will be planted and managed to promote flowering and fruiting, providing a foraging resource for nesting birds, small mammals and invertebrates.
- 2.3.5 Existing and created hedgerows will be managed to maintain dense continuous canopy over 2.5m high and 1.5m wide with dense woody growth close the ground.
- 2.3.6 The hedgerow base will be managed to develop a tall herbaceous growth with a mixture of grasses and wildflower species, providing dense cover and increasing its value as a foraging resource for many faunal species.

Mature and Semi-mature Trees

- 2.3.7 Mature and semi-mature trees are present within the hedgerows and woodland. There is potential for deadwood and cavities to develop which would provide habitat for invertebrates, roosting bats and nesting birds.

Woodland

- 2.3.8 Two small areas of broadleaved woodland will be retained: a linear plantation block on the eastern boundary and a small block on adjoining the pond.
- 2.3.9 Minimal management of larger trees will be required, and all deadwood features should be retained as standing or fallen timber to provide additional habitat.

- 2.3.10 Around the pond, shrubs on the edges of the habitat will be subject to selective coppicing using hand tools in Year 1 and 2 to create variation in age and structure while maintaining a main block of continuous dense cover. This small parcel of woodland will continue to support a mix of native woody trees and shrubs.
- 2.3.11 The eastern boundary woodland currently lacks a shrub understorey and has a very limited woodland ground flora. Native shrubs will be planted as saplings to establish a native understorey beneath the single age class tree.
- 2.3.12 Native tree species would also be planted on the margins with robust protection from browsing to introduce the next generation of canopy trees and supplement the existing species composition.
- 2.3.13 Native woodland herb species would be introduced to the ground flora via plug planting.
- 2.3.14 For both blocks of woodland there will be monitoring for invasive species and remedial measures will be implemented to remove plants that colonise before they establish stands.
- 2.3.15 The measures collectively will increase the species richness of the woodland habitats and provide additional niches for wildlife.

Pond and Wet Ditches

- 2.3.16 The wet ditches and pond will be retained and sensitively managed to promote their value for invertebrates and amphibians.
- 2.3.17 The creation of grassland on fields that are currently under arable crop production will increase the value of terrestrial habitat for amphibians and increase the level of connectivity between the pond (and surrounding woodland) and other habitats of value for wildlife within the site and immediate surroundings.

3 ECOLOGICAL TRENDS AND CONSTRAINTS

3.1 Establishment of Created Habitats

- 3.1.1 The areas of grassland will be sown on previously arable land and the soil is expected to have high nutrient levels. During the initial establishment phase there is potential for the natural colonisation and spread of undesirable species (ruderals, bramble scrub) and/or for some of the sown species to poorly establish with reduced levels of germination. Habitat monitoring will assess the establishment of the areas of grassland and inform where remedial measures are required to achieve the biodiversity objectives.

3.2 Mature and Semi-Mature Trees

- 3.2.1 The mature and semi-mature trees within the hedgerows have high existing value with a wide range of niches that will be associated with a diversity of invertebrates. This existing value will continue to develop over time as more deadwood features and cavities form in the structure of the trees.
- 3.2.2 Areas of decay on trees can have specific value for biodiversity and in the absence of management these features will naturally form in old trees increasing the value of the tree. Conversely the removal of rot, cavities and deadwood would reduce the importance of the tree and could adversely affect legally protected nesting birds and roosting bats.

3.3 Legally Protected Species

- 3.3.1 Management actions need to be consistent with the species protection requirements of wildlife legislation. The following species protection measures need to be integrated into the implementation of the management plan.

Bat Roosts

- 3.3.2 The potential presence of bat roosts in trees will need to be fully addressed before the implementation of any arboricultural works to trees (pruning, crown reduction, crown thinning etc). The presence/absence of bat roosts must be confirmed by a suitably experienced ecologist.
- 3.3.3 Pre-works climbing inspections would need to be undertaken by a class II bat licence holder to inspect any cavities or gaps in the structure of the tree and areas of dense ivy cover, which all have the potential to be roost features.
- 3.3.4 Features being used by roosting bats should be retained unless there are no alternatives. Removal could only be undertaken under a Natural England mitigation licence and species conservation measures would need to be provided to provide replacement features.

Breeding Birds

- 3.3.5 The majority of the breeding bird assemblage at the site is associated with the retained field boundary habitats – hedgerows and associated dense ground cover, and linear woodland belt.
- 3.3.6 Ground nesting birds using fields in which solar panels will be installed will have a very low likelihood for nesting but the meadow grassland habitats within the site will be a potential foraging habitat for pairs breeding in the locality.
- 3.3.7 The retention of the small buildings would be expected to maintain a barn owl roost within the solar farm. Increasing the extent of long grassland is expected to result in an increase in the populations of small voles. The narrow strips of field margin tussocky grassland may have limited

use as foraging habitat due to the close proximity of the hedgerow and perimeter fence, the conversion of arable to low intensively managed grassland across the site has the potential to increase the value of the Site as foraging habitat for barn owl.

Badger

- 3.3.8 There is potential for badger setts to be established prior to construction or during the operational life of the solar farm. As a mobile species, new setts can be established at any time of year. The status of badger and presence/absence of active setts should be assessed prior to the start of construction.
- 3.3.9 All active badger setts would need to be protected from disturbance. Any proposed construction or operational activities within 30m of a badger sett should be subject to review by a suitably experienced ecologist. The design of all potentially disturbing works should avoid incursion into a 30m exclusion zone.
- 3.3.10 Where sett disturbance is unavoidable, temporary or permanent sett closure would need to be under a Natural England disturbance licence with the completion of seasonally restricted, species protection measures prior to the works.

Reptiles

- 3.3.11 There is potential for reptiles to be present in suitable habitat within the site, largely restricted to field margins. Construction works should avoid the potential for the killing or injury of reptiles if present.
- 3.3.12 Works within any dense vegetation including long grassland, tall ruderal, hedge bases or woodland should be subject to a precautionary working method. This would involve the removal of all potential surface refuges and the phased cutting back of vegetation which would be undertaken as enabling works in advance of vehicle access and/or construction activities.

4 HABITAT CREATION AND ESTABLISHMENT

4.1 Soil/ Substrate Preparation

- 4.1.1 The upper 50mm of topsoil within all areas of grassland seeding is to be cultivated to a fine tilth (particle size 2 – 8mm). Any undesirable material brought to the surface should be removed including weeds, roots, stones and clods larger than 50mm in any dimension, tufts of grass and foreign matter.
- 4.1.2 It is important to ensure that the soil is not unnecessarily compacted by trampling or trafficking by site machinery. In addition, soil handling shall be stopped during heavy rainfall, and not continued until the soil is non-plastic in consistency. If, at any stage during the course of the soiling works, the soil is structurally damaged and compacted, the contractor shall ensure that it is suitably cultivated to relieve the compaction and restore the structure prior to any planting.
- 4.1.3 The proposed native scrub (woodland edge planting) would be pit planted directly into undisturbed ground, with ameliorants incorporated into the backfill of the plant pit as specified in the landscape specification below.
- 4.1.4 Any imported soil should be free from toxins, pathogens or other extraneous substances harmful to plant, animal or human life. Certification should be obtained which details the supply source, content analysis, confirmation of suitability for purpose and confirmation of absence of harmful substances. No peat products should be used.

4.2 Grassland

- 4.2.1 The majority of the existing arable will be sown with General Purpose Meadow Mixture Emorsgate EM2 (or a similar mixture approved by an ecologist).
- 4.2.2 The grassland within the flood risk zone (compartment 10) will be sown with Wildflower Meadow Wetland Mixture Emorsgate EM8 (or a similar mixture approved by an ecologist).

Seeding

- 4.2.3 Carry out the work while soil and weather conditions are suitable. This should typically be undertaken mid-March to end of May or September to mid-October. Avoid sowing wildflower mixtures in dry weather.
- 4.2.4 Water evenly, wetting the full depth of the topsoil, as necessary to ensure the establishment and continued thriving of grass/ wildflower sward.
- 4.2.5 If water supply is or is likely to be restricted by emergency legislation do not carry out seeding until the risk is resolved.
- 4.2.6 Leave the works in a clean, tidy condition at completion and after any maintenance operations. Maintain planted areas free from litter.

4.3 Hedgerows and Scrub (Woodland edge planting)

- 4.3.1 A 0.13 km section of native hedgerow will be planted at the east of the site and a 0.066 km section of native hedgerow will be planted at the west of the site.
- 4.3.2 A mixture of six native woody species will be planted comprising hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel, holly, rowan, wych elm and guelder rose.
- 4.3.3 Linear scrub belts (woodland edge planting) comprising the same species mix will be planted along the northern boundary of both the eastern and western sections of the site measuring 0.76 km and 0.63 km in length (compartments 14 -16).

4.4 Woodland Planting (Compartment 11)

- 4.4.1 Native shrubs will be planted at 2m centres in three 15m² areas within the broadleaved woodland. A planting mixture will comprise four native woody species: hazel, hawthorn, holly and elder.
- 4.4.2 The planting will create blocks of understorey beneath the even aged tree canopy and increase the structural diversity of the woodland habitat.
- 4.4.3 Native tree species would also be planted on the margins with robust protection from browsing to introduce the next generation of canopy trees and supplement the existing species composition. Native species to be planted will including birch, pedunculate oak, field maple, rowan, wild cherry or equivalent.
- 4.4.4 The position of the underplanting will be defined on the ground by the ecologist to avoid adversely affecting trees or disturbing more diverse areas of the woodland ground flora.
- 4.4.5 Plug plants of woodland herb species would be introduced to the ground flora within the first 10 years.
- 4.4.6 Native shade tolerant ground flora species associated with long established woodland would be introduced where commercially available including red campion, greater stitchwort, wood avens, enchanter's nightshade, hart's-tongue fern and male fern. Plugs of an individual species would be planted in open groups of 3 -5 plants. A minimum of 100 plugs would be planted in small groups spread throughout the block of woodland.

Planting

- Cut back any existing herbaceous vegetation to ground level under the direction of an ecologist and remove arisings. Allow a fallow period of 2 weeks to allow some re-growth of herbaceous vegetation before spot spraying individual planting stations with an approved non-residual herbicide to remove the existing emergent herbaceous vegetation.
- Do not plant during periods of frost, strong winds or excessive rain fall. Deciduous trees and shrubs should generally be planted between early November to late March. Container grown plants may be planted at any time if ground and weather conditions are favourable.
- Mechanical tools should not be used within 100 mm of tree and plant stems.
- If water supply is or is likely to be restricted by emergency legislation do not carry out planting until the risk is resolved.
- Leave the works in a clean, tidy condition at Completion and after any maintenance operations. Maintain planted areas free from litter.
- Timing: Excavate pits no more than 48 hours before planting
- Scrub plants shall be planted at 1.5m centres.
- Sizes: 150 mm wider than roots when fully spread (approximately 300mm) and 300 mm deep.
- Additional requirements: Increase dimensions where necessary to ensure that pits are at least 75 mm deeper than root system and wide enough to accommodate roots when fully spread.
- Pit bottom improvement: Break up to a depth of 100mm.
- Plastic rabbit/shelter guards should be installed around all planted shrubs. Guards should be 600mm height x 130-160mm diameter TUBEX Shelterguard Shrubshelter (Service Life 5-7 years) or similar approved by Competent Authority supported by a single stake and secured to stake using x2 proprietary ties. Stake to be driven at least 300mm below ground.
- Backfill shall comprise 80% in-situ soil mixed with 20% peat free tree and shrub planting compost.

- Compost (to be incorporated into the backfill of planting pits at 20% by volume) shall be as follows:
 - pH: 4.5-7
 - Conductivity: up to 900 microsiemens/cm
 - Available Nitrogen as N: 0.7
 - Available Phosphorus as P₂O₅: 0.6
 - Available Potassium as K₂O: 0.8
 - Available Magnesium as Mg: 0.06
 - Slow-release fertiliser (4% N: 19% P₂O₅: 10% K₂O: 7.5%MgO) shall be incorporated into the backfill of planting pits at a rate of 20g/pit.
- Plant upright or well balanced with best side to front.
- Water immediately after planting, thoroughly and without damaging or displacing plants or soil.
- Lightly firm soil around plants.

Shrub Condition

- 4.4.7 Arrangements should be made for all tree/transplant stock to be inspected by the client representative at the supplying nursery/s.
- 4.4.8 Plants should be:
 - Materially undamaged, sturdy, healthy and vigorous.
 - Grown in a suitable environment and hardened off.
 - Free from pests, diseases, discoloration, weeds and physiological disorders.
 - The root and branch system should be balanced and there should be no elongated shoots.
 - All bare root stock to be root dipped in Broadleaf P4 root dip immediately after lifting at the Nursery and prior to its transport to site.
- 4.4.9 Should substitutions be required, approval should be sought from the ecologist and landscape architect.
- 4.4.10 Bare root plants to be used. Where Container Grown Plants/ Trees are used as a substitute the following will apply:
 - Grown with adequate nutrients for plants to thrive until permanently planted.
 - Centred in containers, firmed and well-watered.
 - Roots substantially filling containers, but not root bound, and in a condition conducive to successful transplanting.
 - Grown in the open for at least two months before being supplied.
 - Kept in containers with holes adequate for drainage when placed on any substrate commonly used under irrigation systems.

Replacement Planting

- 4.4.11 Shrubs that have failed to thrive (unless due to theft or malicious damage after substantial completion) during the first five years shall be replaced with equivalent plants/ trees/ shrubs where appropriate.

- 4.4.12 Replacement planting shall be carried out every 12 months post completion. Replacements should match the size of adjacent or nearby plants of same species or match original specification, whichever is the greater. Replacement planting should be undertaken during the next suitable planting season.

5 HABITAT MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING

5.1 Establishment Phase

- 5.1.1 During the first five years, management will seek to successfully establish the new grassland, scrub and hedgerow habitats and to maintain and enhance those which are retained.
- 5.1.2 The maintenance and management schedule for Years 1 and 2 is provided in Appendix A.
- 5.1.3 During this initial establishment phase the sown grassland will be managed with the aim of successfully establishing an open cover of native grasses and wildflowers across the former arable fields with a very low abundance of sub-optimal weed species (including creeping thistle, spear thistle, broadleaved dock, curled dock and common nettle).
- 5.1.4 In fields where solar panels will be installed (management compartments 1a – 8a) and management compartments 9 and 10 up to three cuts would be undertaken in spring, late summer and autumn.
- 5.1.5 The grassland sown around the perimeter of fields (outside the perimeter fence) in management compartments 1b – 8b will be managed on rotation to encourage the development of a tussocky sward providing good cover for a range of wildlife. Any colonising shrubs will be removed and encroaching bramble will be cut back. The grassland will be left uncut for the first 2 years while the grassland starts to establish longer sward height. As with the other grasslands, control of sub-optimal weed species will be required throughout the growing season in Years 1 and 2 to prevent their establishment.
- 5.1.6 New hedgerows will be occasionally trimmed back in Years 1 and 2. Trimming the sides of the future hedgerow will form an 'A' shaped structure without a wide flat top promoting denser growth by removing outer shoots and vertical leaders.
- 5.1.7 For proposed scrub (woodland edge planting) habitat, the edges of groups of close planted shrubs, designed to form scrub, will be occasionally trimmed back in Years 1 and 2 to promote denser growth by removing outer shoots frequently cut with the aim of successfully establishing areas of scrub and hedgerows.
- 5.1.8 Trees in hedgerows and woodland would be allowed to continue to mature without intervention.
- 5.1.9 Monitoring across the site in Years 1 and 2 would identify negative factors in management compartments, such as the presence of a Schedule 9 species and remedial actions will be initiated on discovery of factors that could degrade the future biodiversity value of the site.

5.2 Habitat Management

- 5.2.1 The management schedule (Year 3 onwards) is detailed in Appendix B. This defines the actions required, the optimal/permitted timing for each and their frequency.
- 5.2.2 The management specifications and measures and their timing are consistent with the management schedule presented in the BMP (RPS, 2024).
- 5.2.3 Grassland beneath the solar arrays (management compartments 1a – 8a) will be subject to cutting management (up to three times per year) outside the main flowering period or alternatively would be subject to low intensive grazing. The frequency of cutting will depend on the species composition and growth rates. Three cuts would be adopted where coarse grasses are abundant and wildflower diversity is below target in parts of the grassland.
- 5.2.4 If management compartments 1a – 8a are managed via grazing, at least one field should be left ungrazed (on rotation) between April and July each year to increase nectar and pollen sources on-site.

- 5.2.5 The two grassland fields outside the solar arrays (management compartments 9 and 10) will be subject to the same cutting management regime. Alternatively these may be subject to low intensity grazing outside of the flowering season. Higher biodiversity targets have been set for these fields.
- 5.2.6 All arisings will be removed from the site after each cut. Optimally 'cut and collect' machinery would be used in preference to the much more labour-intensive strimming with handheld machinery and the raking off all the grass cuttings by hand.
- 5.2.7 The strips of grassland between the perimeter fencing and field boundaries will be sub-divided in sections and cut rotationally. A third of the sections of grassland field margin will be cut each year with every section only being cut once every 3 years. Any self-sown shrub species colonising the field margin grassland will be removed by hand annually. Bramble growing out into the grassland on the field boundary will be cut back annually in winter to maintain the extent of grassland.
- 5.2.8 Established hedgerows with continuous canopy and growth down to close to ground level will be trimmed back into an 'A' shape on a 3 year rotation, sufficient to maintain dense structured habitat. Management should aim for the height and width of all the hedgerows to increase over time with each having a minimum height of 2.5m and width of 1.5m.

6 MONITORING

6.1 Monitoring Strategy

- 6.1.1 The long-term monitoring of habitats and their biodiversity value will specifically assess the extent to which the target conditions are met as a result of the management actions.
- 6.1.2 The monitoring will be undertaken following the methods described in Table 6.1. The key measurable values will relate to the extent, structure and botanical species composition of each habitat.
- 6.1.3 All habitat monitoring should be undertaken in Years 1, 3 and 5. After Year 5 the success of the management would be reviewed to inform the monitoring frequency between Years 5 and 10. From Year 10 monitoring would be undertaken every five years for the remainder of the 30 year monitoring period.

Table 6.1: Assessment method for habitat monitoring

Habitat	Monitoring Assessment	Years 1 - 5	Years 5 - 10	Years 10 - 30	Timing
Other neutral grassland	Habitat condition – species diversity and structure	Every other year	To be informed by Year 5 monitoring	Every 5 years	June
Broadleaved Woodland	Habitat condition – woodland structure and diversity, tree age classes deadwood component, damage	Every other year	To be informed by Year 5 monitoring	Every 5 years	(May) June
Scrub (Woodland edge planting)	Habitat condition –structure and species diversity, shrub age classes, edge habitat	Every other year	To be informed by Year 5 monitoring	Every 5 years	May – August
Established Hedgerows	Habitat condition, dimensions, structure, species diversity, ground flora, mature hedgerow trees, planted hedgerow trees	Every other year	To be informed by Year 5 monitoring	Every 5 years	May - August
New Native Hedgerows		Every year	To be informed by Year 5 monitoring	Every 5 years	May – August
Pond and wet ditches	Habitat condition – marginal plant community, open water, water clarity, water depth, any negative factors	Every other year	To be informed by Year 5 monitoring	Every 5 years	June - August

- 6.1.4 Habitats will be monitored by a suitably experienced ecologist to assess whether the aims and objectives described in Section 2 are being met and assess the condition in accordance with BNG criteria. Further detail on the habitat monitoring assessment is provided in the BMP (RPS, 2024).
- 6.1.5 Monitoring reports will be prepared and made available to the LPA.
- 6.1.6 The monitoring will assess where the objectives and conditions of habitats are being met and identify where changes to management may be required for these to be met.
- 6.1.7 The management prescriptions and timing will be reviewed in light of the findings of the monitoring visits. The review will focus on the structure, features and nature conservation value of habitats, to ensure that they remain an important resource for wildlife within the Proposed Development. The

review will inform if changes are required to the future management prescriptions, actions and/or timing to continue to achieve target condition.

- 6.1.8 Remedial actions and/or additional management actions would be added to the management work schedule where needed to address negative changes or trends. Examples of potential risk factors, triggers for action and potential remedial actions are provided in the BMP. The adaptive approach will maintain flexibility so that over the 30 year period the management prescriptions can be tailored as necessary to achieve the desired outcomes.
- 6.1.9 Many of the management prescriptions during the first five years post construction will be undertaken as required based on the checks and monitoring to assess the habitats condition specified in the plan.

6.2 Responsibilities

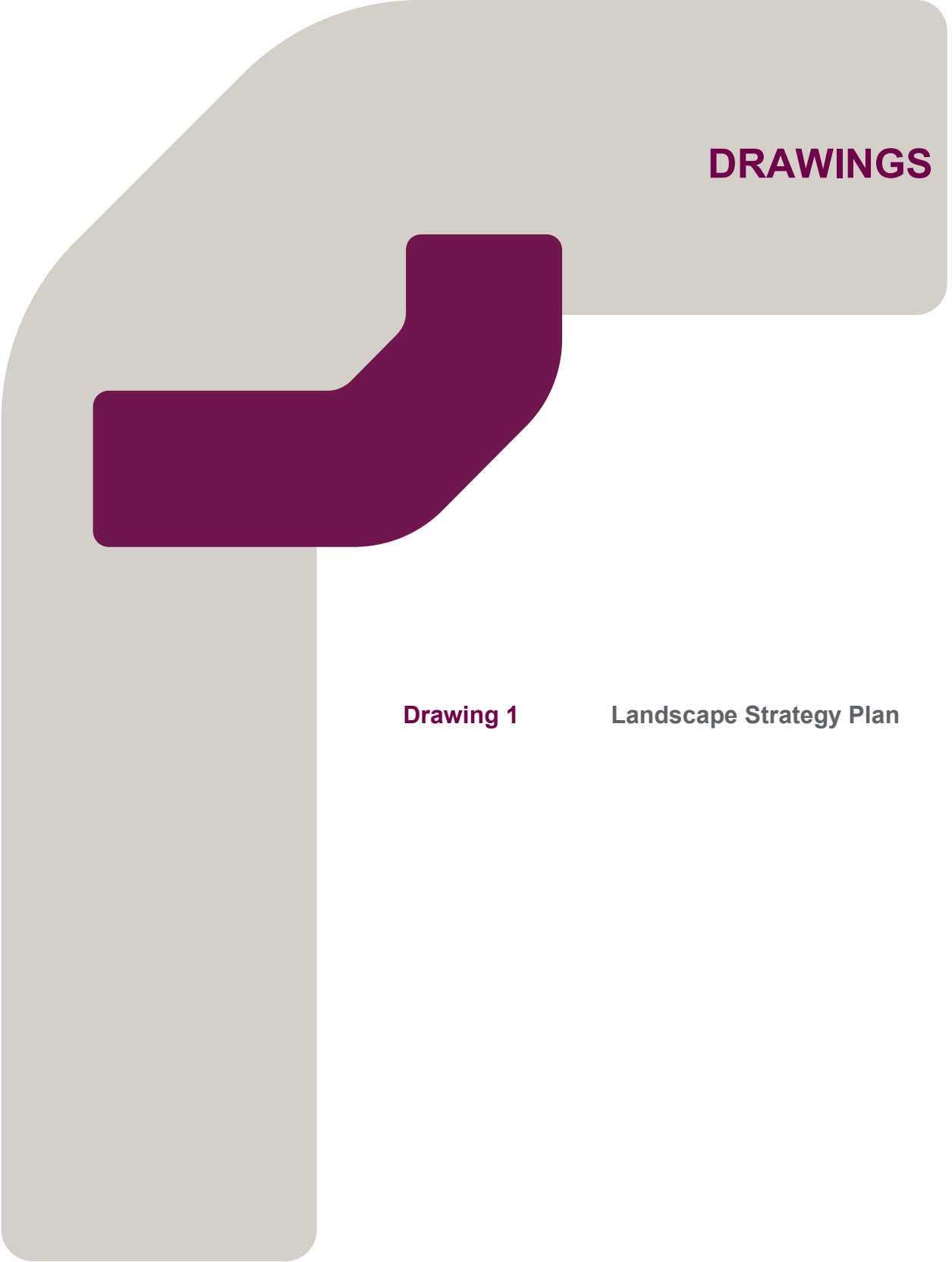
- 6.2.1 Elgin Energy Esco will be responsible for the full implementation of the implementation of the Landscape and Ecology Management Plan. Elgin Energy Esco will document progress in relation to the nature conservation aims and objectives through monitoring reports which would be prepared by an ecologist. Monitoring reports would be made available to the LPA.
- 6.2.2 Elgin Energy Esco will appoint suitably experienced contractors, ecologists and landscape architects as required to assist in the delivery.
- 6.2.3 The mechanism through which the long-term funding can be guaranteed will be agreed with the local planning authority prior to the start of construction. Funding will cover the physical management on the ground following good ecological practice, targeted biological monitoring and the associated reporting and when necessary remedial measures.

REFERENCES

RPS (2024). Biodiversity Management Plan: Aston Flamville, On Behalf of Elgin Energy Esco

BSG (2022^a) Ecology Report Land at Aston Flamville

BSG (2022^b) Biodiversity Gain Report, Aston Flamville .



DRAWINGS

Drawing 1

Landscape Strategy Plan

Botanical name	Common name	Girth / size	Stock	Density / %
A. Trees				
i. Standard Tree				
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	12-14cm	C / SR / RB	
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Hornbeam	12-14cm	C / SR / RB	
<i>Malus sylvestris</i>	Crab Apple	12-14cm	C / SR / RB	
<i>Prunus avium</i>	Wild Cherry	12-14cm	C / SR / RB	
<i>Quercus robur</i>	English Oak	14-16cm	C / SR / RB	
<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Red Oak	14-16cm	C / SR / RB	
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Mountain Ash/Rowan	12-14cm	C / SR / RB	
<i>Tilia cordata</i>	Small Leaved Lime	14-16cm	C / SR / RB	
B. Native Species Hedgerow				
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	60-90cm	B	15%
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	60-90cm	B	15%
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	60-90cm	B	40%
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly	3L	C	5%
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Common Privet	60-90cm	B	10%
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	60-90cm	B	15%
Planted at 7.00/m in two staggered rows				100%
C. Woodland Edge Planting				
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	60-90cm	B	10%
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	60-90cm	B	30%
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	60-90cm	B	10%
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly	3L	C	10%
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Mountain Ash/Rowan	60-90cm	B	20%
<i>Ulmus glabra</i>	Wych Elm	60-90cm	B	10%
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Guelder Rose	60-90cm	B	10%
				100%
D. Grass and Meadow seed mixes				
i. Grazing Grassland: EM2 General Purpose Mixture by Emorsgate (or similar and approved)				
ii. Field Margin Meadow: EH1 Hedgerow Mixture by Emorsgate (or similar and approved)				
iii. Wetland Meadow: EM8 Wildflower Meadow Wetland Mixture by Emorsgate (or similar and approved)				
Notes:				
- Any alterations to species, stock sizes or planting densities shall only be with prior consent of the CA / LA				
- St C = Container grown S = Seeded RB = Root balled B = Bagged				



Habitat references:

Grassland parcels 1a
Hedgerows H1
Watercourses W1
Other habitat parcels 11

© 2025 RPS Group

Notes

1. This drawing has been prepared in accordance with the scope of RPS's appointment with its client and is subject to the terms and conditions of that appointment. RPS accepts no liability for any use of this document other than by its client and only for the purposes for which it was prepared and provided.
2. If received electronically it is the recipients responsibility to print to correct scale. Only written dimensions should be used.
3. This drawing should be read in conjunction with all other relevant drawings and specifications.
4. Where applicable Ordnance Survey (c) Crown Copyright 2025
All rights reserved. Licence number AC0000808122

Safety, Health & Environment Information

In addition to the hazards / risks normally associated with the types of work detailed on this drawing take note below. It is assumed that all works on this drawing will be carried out by a competent contractor, working, where appropriate, to an appropriate method statement.

Construction risks	Maintenance/Cleaning risks	Demolition/Adaption risks

KEY

PROPOSED ELEMENTS

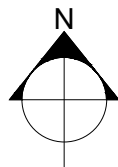
- APPLICATION SITE BOUNDARY
- 3.5m ACCESS TRACK
- SUBSTATION
- SUBSTATION HARD SURFACE.
Compacted MOT Type 1, hoggins gravels or crushed hardcore
- ELGIN HV CABLE
- SECURITY FENCE
- GATES

EXISTING FEATURES

- PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY
- TREES to be retained and protected during construction
- HEDGEROW to be retained and protected during construction
- WOODLAND

PROPOSED SOFT LANDSCAPE

- STANDARD TREES
- WOODLAND EDGE PLANTING
(for specification refer to LEMP)
- NATIVE SPECIES HEDGE
(for specification refer to LEMP)
- GRAZING GRASSLAND
(for mix refer to schedule)
- FIELD MARGIN MEADOW
(for mix refer to schedule)
- WETLAND MEADOW MIX
(for mix refer to schedule)



Rev	Description	By	Ckd	Date
P02	Updated following client comments	KW	GL	16.06.2025
P01	Cable Easement Removed	KW	GL	25.04.2025

rps MAKING COMPLEX EASY
A TETRA TECH COMPANY

Lakesbury House, Hittingbury Road, Chandlers Ford,
Hampshire SO53 5SS
United Kingdom
T: +44 2380 810 440 E: rpsso@rpsgroup.com

Client **Elgin Energy Esco**

Project **Aston Flamville Solar Farm**

Title **Landscape Strategy
Sheet 1 of 2**

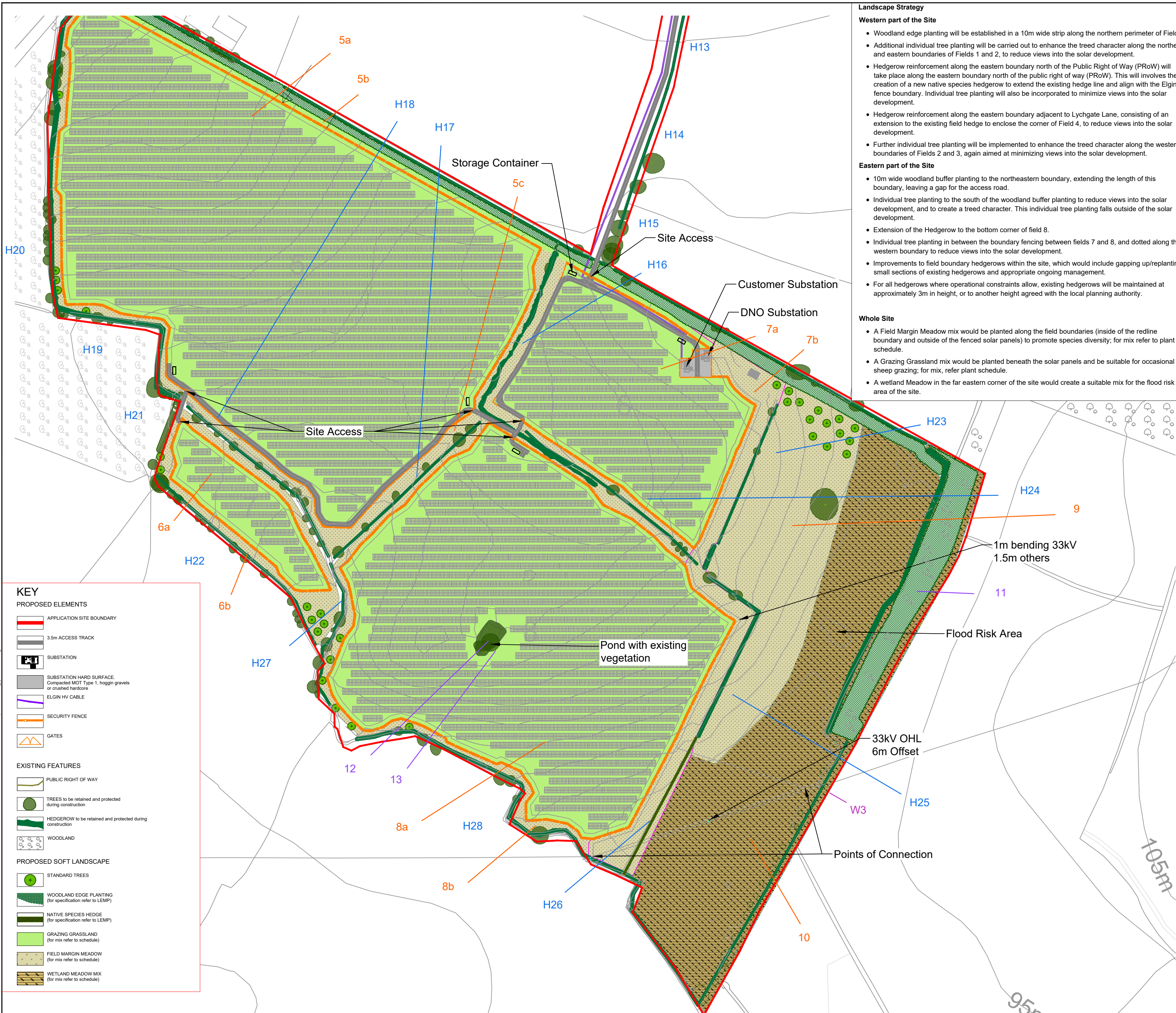
Status **Drawing Status** Scale **1:500 @A2** Date Created **08.04.2025**
Task Team Manager **GL** Information Author **KW** Task Information Manager **GL**

Document Number
5171-RPS-XX-XX-DR-L-9101

Project Code - Originator - Zone - Level - Type - Role - Drawing Number

RPS Project Number **794-PLN-LAN-5171** Suitability **S2** Revision **P02**

rpsgroup.com



Landscape Strategy

Western part of the Site

- Woodland edge planting will be established in a 10m wide strip along the northern perimeter of Field 1.
- Additional individual tree planting will be carried out to enhance the treed character along the northern and eastern boundaries of Fields 1 and 2, to reduce views into the solar development.
- Hedgerow reinforcement along the eastern boundary north of the Public Right of Way (ProRW) will take place along the eastern boundary north of the public right of way (ProRW). This will involve the creation of a new native species hedgerow to extend the existing hedge line and align with the Elgin fence boundary. Individual tree planting will also be incorporated to minimize views into the solar development.
- Hedgerow reinforcement along the eastern boundary adjacent to Lychgate Lane, consisting of an extension to the existing field hedge to enclose the corner of Field 4, to reduce views into the solar development.
- Further individual tree planting will be implemented to enhance the treed character along the western boundaries of Fields 2 and 3, again aimed at minimizing views into the solar development.

Eastern part of the Site

- 10m wide woodland buffer planting to the northeastern boundary, extending the length of this boundary, leaving a gap for the access road.
- Individual tree planting to the south of the woodland buffer planting to reduce views into the solar development, and to create a treed character. This individual tree planting falls outside of the solar development.
- Extension of the Hedgerow to the bottom corner of field 8.
- Individual tree planting in between the boundary fencing between fields 7 and 8, and dotted along the western boundary to reduce views into the solar development.
- Improvements to field boundary hedgerows within the site, which would include gapping up/replanting small sections of existing hedgerows and appropriate ongoing management.
- For all hedgerows where operational constraints allow, existing hedgerows will be maintained at approximately 3m in height, or to another height agreed with the local planning authority.

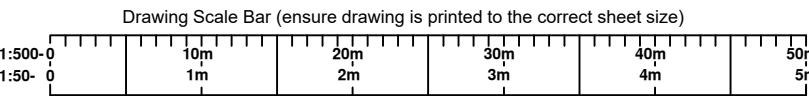
Whole Site

- A Field Margin Meadow mix would be planted along the field boundaries (inside of the redline boundary and outside of the fenced solar panels) to promote species diversity; for mix refer to plant schedule.
- A Grazing Grassland mix would be planted beneath the solar panels and be suitable for occasional sheep grazing; for mix, refer plant schedule.
- A wetland Meadow in the far eastern corner of the site would create a suitable mix for the flood risk area of the site.

© 2025 RPS Group

Notes

1. This drawing has been prepared in accordance with the scope of RPS's appointment with its client and is subject to the terms and conditions of that appointment. RPS accepts no liability for any use of this document other than by its client and only for the purposes for which it was prepared and provided.
2. If received electronically it is the recipients responsibility to print to correct scale. Only written dimensions should be used.
3. This drawing should be read in conjunction with all other relevant drawings and specifications.
4. Where applicable Ordnance Survey (c) Crown Copyright 2025
All rights reserved. Licence number AC0000808122



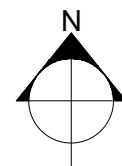
Safety, Health & Environment Information

In addition to the hazards / risks normally associated with the types of work detailed on this drawing take note below. It is assumed that all works on this drawing will be carried out by a competent contractor, working, where appropriate, to an appropriate method statement.

Construction risks	Maintenance/Cleaning risks	Demolition/Adaption risks

Habitat references:

Grassland parcels	1a
Hedgerows	H1
Watercourses	11
Other habitat parcels	W1



P02	Updated following client comments	KW	GL	16.06.2022
P01	Cable Easement Removed	KW	GL	25.04.2022
Rev	Description	By	Ckd	Date



Lakesbury House, Hiltngbury Road, Chndlers Ford
Hampshire SO53 5SS
United Kingdom
T: +44 2380 810 440 E: rpsso@rpsgroup.com

Client **Elgin Energy EsCo**

Project **Aston Flamville Solar Farm**

Title Landscape Strategy
Sheet 2 of 2

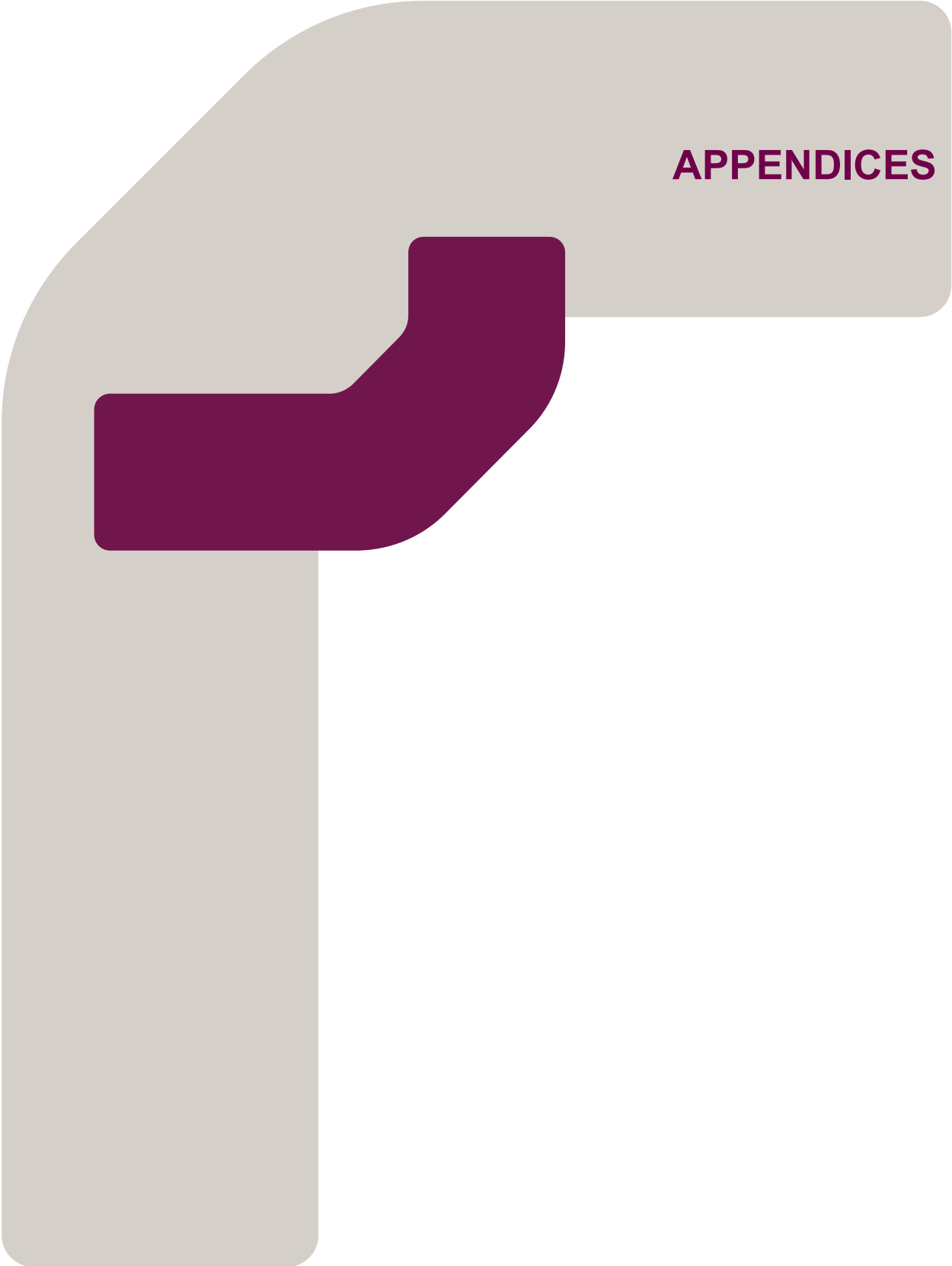
Status	Scale	Date Created
Planning	1:500 @A2	08.04.2025
Task Team Manager	Information Author	Task Information Manager
GL	KW	GL

Document Number
5171-RPS-XX-XX-DR-L-9102

Project Code - Originator - Zone - Level - Type - Role - Drawing Number

RPS Project Number	Suitability	Revision
794-PLN-LAN-5171	S2	P02

rpsgroup.com



APPENDICES

Appendix A

Maintenance Schedule Years 1 -2

REPORT

MAINTENANCE ITEM		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
General	Remove litter, leaf litter, rubbish and debris from all areas within the site. Dispose of arisings from all specified operations off site.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
General – Tree and Shrub Planting	Watering of all planted areas sufficient to maintain healthy growth, irrespective of season or weather conditions*, until restrained from doing so by statutory legislation. Specimen trees to be irrigated by means of dedicated irrigation tubes where provided. (*Do not water when ground is frozen / likely to freeze).			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
General – Tree and Shrub Planting	Re-firm all plants affected by frost heave / wind rock / vandalism by treading around the base. Re-stake shrubs if necessary. Collars at the base of shrub stems created by tree movement to be broken up by fork, avoiding damage to roots, backfilled with topsoil as necessary, and re-firmed.			✓						✓			
General – Tree and Shrub Planting	Check / replace / adjust tree stakes, ties and rabbit / trimmer guards as required. Remove redundant tapes, tags, ties, labels and other encumbrances.	✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓	
General – Tree and Shrub Planting	Apply Enmag CRF granular fertilizer, or equal approved, at ~140g per individual tree pits and 70g / sqm to planted areas (quantities to be confirmed by manufacturer).			✓									
General – Tree and Shrub Planting	Replace any diseased, damaged or dead plants with plant stock of the same size / species (unless otherwise directed by the Landscape Architect or LPA). A schedule of all dead plant material removed is to be kept by the Maintenance Operator.										✓		
All Grassland	Generally, make good all ridges, ruts, depressions and dead areas.			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
General – Schedule 9 Plants and other pernicious non-native weed species	Check for the colonisation of pernicious weeds preventing the establishment of stands and their spread. (All species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) plus snowberry, butterfly bush. Additional species subject to actively controlled will be added to the list during monitoring. Physically remove colonising plants where found where possible. Where required for eradication, apply an appropriate herbicide at the appropriate time of years and continue treating as necessary to achieve complete eradication.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grassland within fields – compartments 1a – 8a and 9 - 10	Mowing: Remove litter, rubbish and debris from grassed areas before mowing. Do not allow mowing machinery closer than 500mm to any plant stems. Avoid damage to stems by nylon filament rotary cutters or other mechanical tools. Complete operations close to stems, corners and edges using handheld trimmer with special care taken not to cause whipping / damage to the base of tree trunks.			✓					✓	✓	✓		
Grassland within fields – compartments 1a – 8a and 9 - 10	To be mown late summer after annual weeds have flowered and late autumn (2 No. cuts total). Cut-and-collect machinery to ideally be used to remove cuttings from site. Use of herbicides or other pesticides to be avoided where possible except for spot treatment of any colonising ruderal species (e.g. nettles, thistles and docks).			✓					✓	✓	✓		
All Grassland	All grassed areas to be watered so as to maintain healthy growth / establishment.			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
All Grassland	Re-seed any gaps / hollows in the grassland/meadows with the approved native species seed mix selected to match the other created areas.			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
All Grassland	Weed species (creeping thistle, spear thistle, broadleaved dock, curled dock, common nettle) within sward to be dug out manually. Where this is not practical weeds can be spot treated with suitable herbicide.				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			
All Trees and Shrubs (woodland, hedgerows and individual trees in fields)	Standing and fallen dead wood to be retained to provide opportunities for wildlife. Trees with cavities / deadwood will have high biodiversity value and may provide bird nests, bat roosts and high invertebrate diversity. Last resort pruning of trees and shrubs only where the structure is dangerous and pose a risk to site staff and contractors. All trees subject to works must be checked by an ecologist prior to works. Approval for the works to proceed will be dependant on the findings of the protected species assessment completed by an ecologist and appropriate permission where covered by a Tree Preservation Order. All unavoidable works to be consistent with BS:7370 Part 4 (clauses 3.6.3 to 3.6.5). All trees to be checked for safety by a suitably trained arboricultural specialist. Pruning shall be conducted by skilled labour only. No growth retardants, fungicide or sealant to be applied. Wood resulting from pruning or other tree works should be retained within discrete habitat piles within the woodland. Surplus / additional material to be removed.			✓						✓			
Existing Hedgerows	Trim back each section once every three years. All hedgerows should have a ‘A’ shape with a narrower top and a minimum height of 2.5m. All trees within hedgerows to be protected during hedgerow cutting. (This will result in only one third of hedgerows being cut in year. with each section of hedgerow cut only once every 3 years on rotation). This will provide a continuity of food sources and cover for wildlife. Trimming should take place during late winter to maximise food and cover availability for wildlife and also to avoid detrimental effects on breeding birds.	✓	✓								✓	✓	✓

REPORT

MAINTENANCE ITEM		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Newly Planted Hedgerows	New hedgerows to be periodically trimmed / faced up to promote side growth and remove leader shoots. Control bramble and grass growth (and removal arisings) as needed to enable new planting to establish, taking care not to damage new hedgerow plants.				✓			✓			✓		
New Tree and Shrub Planting	Monitor initial establishment of planting to ensure trees and shrubs remain upright, stable and in good condition. Where necessary, cut back or spot treat excessive bramble or other invasive / ruderal weeds to allow planted species to establish, taking care not to damage new planting. The use of herbicides or other pesticides to be avoided where possible.	✓	✓							✓			
Pond and Wet Ditches	Monitor the diversity and value of aquatic and marginal vegetation and changes in water depth to inform future management. If non-native invasive plant species are recorded during survey, they will be subject to control using a methodology appropriate to the species present (and the presence of a waterbody).				✓			✓			✓		
Hard Surfacing	Clear soil, mulch, litter or other debris from hard surfaced areas and remove from site.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fencing	Report any damage; provide temporary barriers to secure fence line where damage poses a risk.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Other	Report any remaining element that through failure, fatigue or vandalism poses a risk to public safety.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Appendix B

Maintenance Schedule Year 3 onwards

REPORT		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
MAINTENANCE ITEM													
General	Remove litter, leaf litter, rubbish and debris from all planted areas (including grassed areas). Dispose of arisings from all specified operations off site.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
General – Planting Areas <i>Until stakes and guards are removed</i>	Check / replace / adjust tree stakes, ties and rabbit / strimmer guards as required. Remove redundant tapes, tags, ties, labels and other encumbrances.	✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓	
General – Planting Areas	Replace any diseased, damaged or dead plants with plant stock of the same size / species (unless otherwise directed by the Landscape Architect or LPA). A schedule of all dead plant material removed is to be kept by the Maintenance Operator.										✓		
General All Areas – Schedule 9 Plants and other pernicious non-native weed species	Check for the colonisation of pernicious weeds preventing the establishment of stands and their spread. (All species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) plus snowberry, butterfly bush. Additional species subject to actively controlled will be added to the list during monitoring. Physically remove colonising weed plants where found where possible. Remove without the use of herbicide where possible. Where required for eradication, apply an appropriate herbicide at the appropriate time of years and continue treating as necessary to achieve complete eradication.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
All Grasslands (management compartments 1 – 10)	<i>Cutting management regime:</i> Ahead of mowing: Remove litter, rubbish and debris from grassed areas before mowing. Do not allow mowing machinery closer than 500mm to any plant stems. Avoid damage to stems by nylon filament rotary cutters or other mechanical tools. Complete operations close to stems, corners and edges using handheld strimmer with special care taken not to cause whipping / damage to the base of tree trunks.			(✓)					✓	✓	✓		
	Removal of sub-optimal weed species throughout the growing season to prevent flowering and setting of seed – ideally dig out or alternatively spot treat with herbicide.				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Grassland beneath solar arrays – (management compartments 1a – 8a)	<i>Cutting management regime:</i> Cut in late summer after most species have flowered and set seed ideally using cut-and-collect machinery to ~50mm. May also be cut in late autumn to following the same method. Provisional third cut in March to prevent a dominant grass cover limiting species diversity with the removal of cuttings from site. Localised differences in the grassland within the field may require a targeted approach. Control of colonising ruderal species (e.g. nettles, thistles and docks) will be required during the growing season. Control through herbicide application would be adopted as a last resort.			(✓)					✓	✓	✓		
	<i>Grazing regime – as an alternative to cutting:</i> Low intensive grazing may be undertaken as an alternative to cutting. At least one field (on rotation) should be left ungrazed between April – July each year.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Field margins – (management compartments 1b – 8b)	Cut once every 3 years on a rotational basis so that a third of the field margins are cut each one year. Ideally cut in September. Less intensive management over time will develop an open tussocky nature as a refuge for wildlife.			(✓)					✓	✓	✓		
Meadow / wildflower grassland (management compartments 9 and 10)	<i>Cutting management regime:</i> Up to 3 cuts annually using cut-and-collect machinery. Areas to be cut late summer after annuals have flowered and set seed to ~50mm. May also be cut in late autumn to following the same method. Provisional third cut in March to prevent a dominant grass cover limiting species diversity with the removal of cuttings from site. Localised differences in the grassland within the field may require a targeted approach. Control of colonising ruderal species (e.g. nettles, thistles and docks) will be required during the growing season. Control through herbicide application would be adopted as a last resort.			(✓)					✓	✓	✓		
	<i>Grazing regime – as an alternative to cutting:</i> Low intensive grazing (less than 0.5 livestock units per ha) in autumn and winter. Grazing to be avoided during flowering season.	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Scarification of the ground to control the dominance of grass species once every 2 years.									✓	✓		
All Grasslands (management compartments 1 – 10)	Remove sub-optimal weed species (creeping thistle, spear thistle, broadleaved dock, curled dock, common nettle) where present - to be dug out manually and removed from site. Where this is not practical weeds can be spot treated with suitable herbicide.				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
All trees (woodland, hedgerows and individual trees in fields)	Standing and fallen dead wood to be retained to provide opportunities for wildlife. Trees with cavities / deadwood will have high biodiversity value and may provide bird nests, bat roosts and high invertebrate diversity. Remediation where the structure of an individual tree is dangerous and poses a risk to site staff and contractors. All trees subject to pruning/surgery must be inspected by an ecologist prior to works, comprising an aerial inspection by a bat survey licence holder to determine if there are any potential roost features. Approval for the works to proceed will be dependent on the findings of the protected species assessment completed by an ecologist and appropriate permission where covered by a Tree Preservation Order. All unavoidable works to be consistent with BS:7370 Part 4 (clauses 3.6.3 to 3.6.5). All trees to be checked for safety by a suitably trained arborist. Pruning shall be conducted by skilled labour only. No growth retardants, fungicide or sealant to be applied. Wood resulting from pruning or other tree works should be retained within discrete habitat piles within the woodland. Surplus / additional material to be removed.	✓	✓								✓	✓	✓
Woodland	Areas of new tree and shrub planting to be monitored for their health and structure.				(✓)						✓		

REPORT		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
MAINTENANCE ITEM													
	Selective coppicing of trees and shrubs to be undertaken every 5 years (outside of spring / summer to avoid detrimental effects on nesting birds), to ensure successful development of an open canopy and understorey vegetation.											✓	✓
Scrub (Woodland edge planting) (management compartments 14 – 16)	Areas of new tree and shrub planting to be monitored for their health and structure. The outer growth of planted shrubs to be trimmed back every 2-3 years or as required to promote side growth and create a dense structured scrub habitat. Management to be adapted to promote the establishment and maintenance of target habitat conditions.	✓	✓								✓	✓	✓
Bramble scrub	Cut back bramble encroachment into neutral grassland but maintain dense thickets, especially on south facing margins of scrub and woodland.	✓										✓	✓
Hedgerows	Trim back each section once every three years. All hedgerows should have a ‘A’ shape with a narrower top and a minimum height of 2.5m. All trees within hedgerows to be protected during hedgerow cutting. (This will result in only one third of hedgerows being cut in year. with each section of hedgerow cut only once every 3 years on rotation). This will provide a continuity of food sources and cover for wildlife. Trimming should ideally take place during late winter to maximise food and cover availability for wildlife and also to avoid detrimental effects on breeding birds.	✓	✓								✓	✓	✓
Pond and Wet Ditches	Management to ensure a third of the pond surface remains free from vegetation with tall emergent vegetation to be maintained at a maximum extent of 20%. A variety of vegetation structures will be created by cutting back and removing narrow sections of marginal vegetation every 2 years in rotation targeting any dense stands of single species (e.g. yellow iris) with the removal of roots where possible. No more than 25% of marginal vegetation or silt will be removed from the pond during management in any one year with all works conducted during the winter. Encroaching and self-seeded scrub / hedgerows shading the ditch channel to be removed during winter months to prevent excessive shading and encroachment into wetland areas. This will be conducted by hand pulling and cutting. Any removed aquatic or marginal vegetation will be left at the pond edge for up to 3 days (minimum 1 day) to allow any pond life to re-enter the pond. Some piles may be left to provide refuge opportunities for amphibians, invertebrates and reptiles, but generally all arisings will be removed from the management area. Any algae and duckweed to be removed from the surface. If non-native invasive plant species are recorded during survey, they will be subject to control using a methodology appropriate to the species present (and the presence of a waterbody).											✓	✓
Pond and Wet Ditches	Removal of sediment from the pond / wet ditches will be as required during winter. (No more frequently than once every 5-10 years).	✓										✓	✓
Hard Surfacing	Clear soil, mulch, litter or other debris from hard surfaced areas and remove from site.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fencing	Report any damage; provide temporary barriers to secure fence line where damage poses a risk to public safety.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Other	Report any remaining element that through failure, fatigue or vandalism poses a risk to public safety.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓