Botley West Solar Farm

Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Volume 1

Chapter 6: Project Description

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Glossary

Term	Meaning
The Applicant	SolarFive Ltd
The Project	The Botley West Solar Farm (Botley West) Project

Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Meaning
AC	Alternating Current
AGL	Above Ground Level
BESS	Battery Energy Storage Systems
CoCP	Code of Construction Practice
DC	Direct Current
DCO	Development Consent Order
EDF	Électricité de France S.A.
EPC	Engineering, Procurement and Construction
ES	Environmental Statement
EVA	Ethyl Vinyl Acetate
FTE	Full-time Employment
GI	Green Infrastructure
HDD	Horizontal Directional Drilling
HV	High Voltage
NETS	National Electricity Transmission System
NGET	National Grid Electricity Transmission
PCS	Power Converter Stations

Units

Unit	Description
dB	Decibels
ha	Hectares
Kv	Kilo Volt
m	Meters
m^2	Meter Squared (Area)
MV	Middle Voltage
MW	Mega Watt
MWe	Mega Watts of Electrical Output
MWp	Mega Watt-Peak

6 Project Description

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1.1 The Applicant seeks consent to install and operate approximately 840MWe of solar generation development in parts of West Oxfordshire (WODC), Cherwell (CDC) and Vale of White Horse Districts (VWHDC) (the Project). All of the Botley West Solar Farm (Botley West) Project will be located within the county of Oxfordshire and has a total area of approximately 1,300 ha (see Volume 2, Figure 1.1). The name 'Botley West' is derived from the location of the grid connection point. The Project intends to deliver approximately 1,307 MWp of power to the National Grid, providing secure and clean energy to the equivalent of approximately 330,000 homes.

6.1.1.2 The Project extends from an area of land in the north, situated between the A4260 and the Dorn River Valley near Tackley and Wootton, through a central section, situated broadly between Bladon and Cassington, and connecting to a section further south near to Farmoor Reservoir and north of Cumnor, where the Project will connect to the National Grid transmission network. The majority of the land proposed for the Project is currently used for arable crops or is otherwise down to pasture.

6.1.1.3 The consent being sought by the Project is a temporary one. The Project will have a 35 year lease, with the option to extend to 42 years. Within this timeframe the Project will be constructed, become operational and be decommissioned. On the assumption that any DCO is confirmed in Q1 2025, construction is likely to commence approximately 6 months later. Construction is likely to take 24 months plus a period for testing and commissioning. October 2027 is now assumed to be the likely grid connection date given new lead in times to deliver the National Grid Substation.

6.1.1.4 Decommissioning is likely to start 2 years before the end of the lease and be completed in that time. All infrastructure associated with the development is intended to be removed. The chapter on waste describes how this material will be treated/removed. However, it is intended to leave all 33kV and 220 kV cables in the public highway and where cables have been laid using horizontal directional drilling (HDD) – either under river, road, or rail crossings in anticipation of a later use by the local network operator for potential grid enhancements. The National Grid substation will also remain. The Project site is then expected to revert to its previous agricultural use.

6.1.1.5 The Project's solar arrays (comprising all the mounting structures, frames and foundations) will be connected by underground electrical cables within each section of the site, and via underground electric cable to the substation at the grid connection point. The interconnecting cable route will largely follow the public highway, but some parts will cross land controlled by the Applicant. The cable route options being considered are shown in Volume 2, Figures 2.4A, 2.4B and 2.4C.

6.1.1.6 An illustrative masterplan is also shown in Figures 2.1A, 2.1B, 2.2A, 2.2B, 2.2C 2.2D and 2.3 in Volume 2. This shows the development within the proposed Project site boundary and comprises the proposed solar array layout,

associated electrical infrastructure, existing hedgerows, trees, woodland and watercourses, new areas given over for ecology and landscape enhancement, and existing and proposed accesses and new footpaths and/or cycleways. The Project site is also capable of providing areas suitable for sheep farming and small-scale food production, although these areas are not yet defined within the illustrative masterplan. This masterplan is also expected to evolve in response to ongoing assessment work and in particular is likely to be adjusted to avoid potentially significant effects on important underground archaeology.

6.1.1.7 The Project will connect to a new National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) system, via a new National Grid 400kV substation, to be located close to the existing National Grid 400kV line that runs between Cowley in Oxford, westwards to Walham, in Gloucestershire.

6.1.1.8 The precise extent of the site and solar installation is still being informed by ongoing environmental assessment work and by technical and commercial factors, but the intention is that the Project will be confined to the Project boundary as shown on Figure 1.1. This boundary also allows for land used temporarily, including land for construction compounds.

6.1.1.9 To date, for assessment purposes, design parameters have been set for key components of the Project to allow some design flexibility post consent, but at the same time to ensure it to be robustly assessed.

6.2 Operational Development

6.2.1.1 During the operational phase, activity on the Site will be minimal and will be restricted principally to landscape and ecology management, equipment/infrastructure maintenance and servicing including cleaning and replacement of any components that fail, and monitoring to ensure the continued effective operation of the development. Operational and maintenance staff (amounting to approximately 10 FTE per year), may require access to the Site during daylight hours, seven days a week. Based on a total area of approximately 1,300 ha site, RPS estimate that this would support approximately ten employees per year or 378 FTE jobs over the Project's operational phase.

6.2.1.2 The undeveloped areas of the site will be designed and managed to enhance the landscape and ecological value of the area. The Applicant and the landowners are keen to secure these and any other benefits that the local community and other stakeholders may wish to promote. Discussions are advanced in respect of allowing land to be given over to community groups for small scale food production, and for some parts of the site to be given over to sheep farming. Further details in respect to these elements will continue to be developed and refined, including the relevant management plans for these and other areas of the site. The intention is to report this information within the Environmental Statement that will accompany the Applicants' DCO submission.

6.2.1.3 The key components of the Project comprise the following:

- Solar PV Modules;

- Power Converter Stations (converters, transformers and supporting equipment);
- High Voltage Transformers, including feeders, switchgear and supporting equipment;
- Onsite cabling;
- Electricity export cabling and connection to the NGET substation;
- NGET substation;
- Fencing, security and ancillary infrastructure;
- Accesses from the highway and tracks; and
- Green infrastructure (GI).

6.2.1.4 For clarity, the Project does not incorporate any battery storage. Energy generated by the Project will be stored, as required, by Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) that are connected to the Grid elsewhere, including the EDF 50MW BESS located at Cowley substation.

6.2.1.5 Maximum and, where relevant, minimum design parameters will be set for the above development components within which the detail will evolve.

6.2.1.6 The following section provides further detail on the main components of the operational development.

6.2.1.7 The design parameters used for assessment purposes in this PEIR and ultimately in the Environmental Statement that will accompany the DCO submission, are summarised in Table 6.1 below. Depending on the topic examined, it is the likely worst case parameter that is used to identify relevant environmental impacts and then to assess the significance of any environmental effect.

Table 6.1: Solar Design Parameters

Project Component	Current Detail	Parameter
Site Areas		
Total developable area for solar arrays – Northern Site	Approx. 266 ha	Approx. 266 ha
Total Developable area for solar array – Central Site	Approx. 572 ha	Approx. 572ha
Total Developable areas for solar array – Southern Site	Approx. 51 ha	Approx. 51 ha
Solar modules		
Indicative Number of Solar PV Modules	Approx. 2,058,904	Range from 1,800,000 to 2,300,000 PV modules
Watts peak (Wp)	1,307 MWp	1200 to 1375 MWp
Indicative Solar PV Module Dimensions	Width (m) 1.30	1.1 to 1.4 m
	Length (m) 2.38	2.1 to 2.4 m

Project Component	Current Detail	Parameter
	Depth (m) 0.33	0.30 to 0.40 m
	Area (m^2) 3.1	2.3 to 3.5 m^2
Indicative Slope of Solar PV Modules from Horizontal	15 degrees	12 to 18 degrees
Minimum height range of Solar PV modules above ground level (AGL)	0.6 m	0.6 to 1.8m
Maximum height range of Solar PV modules above ground level (AGL)	1.8m to 2.5 m	1.8m to 2.5m
Indicative Solar PV Module Colour	Dark Blue	Dark blue or dark grey or black
Frame type	Anodized Aluminium Alloy	Anodized Aluminium Alloy
Indicative Number of Pyranometers (used to measure solar irradiance) Note: these are devices that are small and typically mounted onto the frame of the arrays or adjacent on freestanding poles no higher than 1.9m AGL	56	50-60
Indicative Table Width (incl. Ridge Break) East/West Width	18.2 m (14 x 2 modules plus gaps in-between of 20 mm) Portrait Configuration	3-22 m
North/South separation distance (m) between tables	2 m	1.5 m to 3 m
East/West separation distance (m) between tables	0.30 m	0.25 m to 0.50 m
Indicative Mounting Structure Material	Mix between galvanized steel and aluminium fixed tilt	Mix between galvanized steel and aluminium fixed tilt
Distance between site boundary and table areas (m)	7.00 m	6.0 m to 100.0 m
Indicative Foundation Type	Driven-piles or screw piles	Driven-piles or screw piles
Indicative Total number of piles	Max. Number of piles: 1,968,722	1,900,000 to 2,500,000 Use of concrete shoes may be employed, if necessary, but only in areas of high archaeology interest
Depth of piles below ground level (m)	1.5 m to 2.0 m	1.0 m to 3.0 m

Project Component	Current Detail	Parameter
Electrical Components		
Indicative Number Power Converter Stations (PCS)	156 Power Converter Stations, each containing a MV transformer [6 MVA] (1 per 7ha) Sound power levels: 67 dB (10 m distance) Forced fan cooling under unfavourable conditions (T>30°C) PCS containing two inverters plus one MV transformer. Total Installed Capacity of Inverters approximately 936,000 kVA (Total apparent power in AC)	130 to 170 PCS Approximately 67 dB (10m)
Power Converter Station (PCS) Dimensions	Height (m) – 2.89	Height (m) 2.7 – 3.5 m
	Length (m) – 12.2	Length (m) 12.0 – 14.0 m
	Width (m) – 2.44	Width (m) 2.2 – 2.9 m
Indicative Number of HV Transformer (Secondary substation)	6 no. 33/220 kV 50 dB (10 m distance)	4 to 6 no.
Indicative Power Rating (MVA) MV Transformer Indicative Power Rating (MVA) HV - main substation	MV [156 x 6 MVA] HV (4 x 200 MVA, 1 x 80 MVA,1 x 60 MVA) subject to further investigation 50 dB (10 m distance) HV – Main Substation (2 x 500 MVA)	As for Current Detail
Indicative HV Transformer Dimensions (Main Substation)	Footprint: 140 x 62m	Footprint: 1 ha (10,000 m^2)
Indicative HV Transformer Dimensions (Secondary Substation)	Length (m) - 15	Length (m) 12 – 18 m
	Width (m) - 8	Width (m) 6 – 10 m
	Height (m) – 5.0m plus height of isolator 50 dB (10 m distance)	Height (m) 4.0 m – 6.0 m (inc. isolator)
Indicative Transformer Foundation Dimensions (below ground level)	Length (m) - 20	Length (m) 19 – 22.0m
	Width (m) - 19	Width (m) 18 – 21m
	Height (m) - 1	Height (m) 0 – 1.0 m

Project Component	Current Detail	Parameter
Indicative Transformer Colour	Grey	Grey
Electrical Cabling maybe included in mounting structure		
DC Cables from Solar PV Modules to Inverters	DC string cables in the mounting structure, DC collection cables in underground trenches Depth: between approx. 0.40 and 0.80 m Length - TBD	DC string cables in the mounting structure, DC collection cables in underground trenches Depth: between approx. 0.40 and 0.80 m Length - TBD
AC Cables from Transformers to Secondary Substation (HV Transformer) (33/220kV)	Depth: Roadways: approx. 0.75 - 0.85 m Good agricultural land: approx. 0.91 - 1.2 m Footpaths, verges, uncultivated land: approx. 0.75 – 0.85 m	Depth: Roadways: 0.75 – 0.85 m Fields: 0.90 – 1.2 m Footpaths, verges: 0.70 – 0.90 m
NGET substation	Footprint - 165 x 135 m Max height – 14 m Site area – 2.3ha	180 x 150 m 12 – 15 m 3.8ha

Solar PV Array Areas

6.2.1.8 The proposed solar PV modules convert solar irradiance (light) into direct current (DC) electricity. They are designed to maximise the absorbency of the sun's rays and minimise solar glare. The individual solar PV modules within the development site are likely to consist of dark blue, and/or dark grey and / or black, photovoltaic (PV) cells. A range of alternative PV technologies is developing rapidly and may be available at the time of construction, therefore the solar PV modules are not limited to a particular type of PV cell. At the highest point the modules are likely to be between 1.8m to 2.5m and between 0.6m to 1.8m at the lowest point. The arrays will be fixed, not rotating.

6.2.1.9 The Project will be constructed in line with manufacturing standards for PV modules (IEC TS 63126:2020, IEC 62548 and IEC 61215-1:2021, or relevant future standards), which require that modules be functional over a wide range of temperatures, humidity and UV radiation. Manufacturing standards also require consideration for extensive weather (such as hailstorms) and extreme thermal fluctuations. The list below identifies the main components of the solar panels.

Main components of solar panels

- Solar photovoltaic cells - Silicon
- Toughened Glass (only front or front and rear)
- Extruded Aluminium frame

- Encapsulation - EVA film layers with polymer rear back sheet or toughened rear glass
- Junction box - diodes and connectors

Solar PV Module Mounting Structure

6.2.1.10 The solar PV modules are expected to be mounted on a metal framework. This is likely to be formed using a mix between galvanised steel and aluminium, supported by galvanised steel piles or screws driven into the ground by an impact piling or screwing rig, to a depth of approximately 1.5 to 2.0m. In sensitive areas of archaeology, 'concrete shoes' (or similar) might be used to hold the frame to the ground, rather than piling, to avoid underground impacts on any archaeology of significance.

Transformers

6.2.1.11 Middle Voltage (MV) Transformers (1kV/33kV) are required to control and increase the voltage of the electricity generated across the Solar PV Tables before it reaches the High Voltage transformer.

Inverters

6.2.1.12 Inverters are required to convert the DC electricity generated by the PV modules into alternating current (AC), which allows the electricity to be exported to the NETS. Inverters are sized to deal with the level of voltage which is output from the strings of solar PV modules and will be housed within the Power Convertor Stations (PCS).

Power Converter Stations (PCS)

6.2.1.13 MV Transformers (1kV/33kV) and switchgear will be housed in one unit known as a Power Converter Station (PCS). There will be approximately 156 PCS located within the solar PV installation area. The dimensions of a PCS are up to 12m long and up to 3m high. Inverters might also be located within the PCS. Sound levels are expected to be 67 dB (10 m distance).

High Voltage Transformers

6.2.1.14 High Voltage (HV) Transformers (33/220 kV) are required to increase the voltage of the electricity coming from the MV Transformers and to connect the three development sites with the Main Transformers (220/400kV) and the NGET substation. The HV Transformers will be located within the solar PV installation area. In total, there are likely to be six HV Transformers and two Main Transformers (220/400kV). The dimensions of a HV transformer are approximately 18m long and 6m high.

Electrical Cabling

6.2.1.15 On site electrical cabling is required to connect the solar PV tables to the combiner boxes and from combiner boxes to the inverters at the PCS as DC cabling system, and then to the transformers on site as AC, MV and HV cabling

systems. Higher rated cables are then required between the transformers and the secondary substation (HV transformer) within the electrical compound.

DC Cables

6.2.1.16 DC cabling between modules and combiner boxes within each of the installation areas will be installed above ground, fixed to the mounting structure and also laid underground. The DC cable from combiner boxes to inverters will be set approximately 0.4 to 0.8 m underground. All above ground cables will be routed through conduit and racking secured to the solar PV module mounting structures.

AC Cables

6.2.1.17 AC cables from the inverters to the substation will be routed through underground cable trenches. The proposed route of the AC cables is largely settled but at this stage there are still three areas along the route where several options continue to be evaluated. The evaluation will have regard to their environmental effects as well as commercial and engineering considerations. These are focused i) on an area just south of the Northern Site of the Project site boundary, in the vicinity of the Oxfordshire Way, south east of Wootton; ii) on land to the east of Woodstock; and iii) on land east and south of Eynsham, around the Swinford Bridge River Thames crossing – see Volume 2 Figures 2.4A, 2.4B and 2.4C respectively. The preferred route option in these areas should be decided by the time the DCO submission is made.

6.2.1.18 The cable route from the first 33/220kV transformer in the Northern Site to the main transformer in the Southern Site is approximately 22km in length. Approximately 15.5km is located on farmland that is mostly part of the development, 6km in public highway, and approximately 0.5km in trenchless crossings.

6.2.1.19 The AC cables between the transformers and the Project substation will be buried at the following approximate depths:

- Roadways: approximately 0.75 - 0.85 m;
- Agricultural land: approximately 0.91 - 1.2 m;
- Footpaths, verges, uncultivated land: approximately 0.75 - 0.85 m; and
- Depth under railway and river crossings - to be determined.

Landscaping

6.2.1.20 Planting and management of grassland, hedgerows, trees and areas of scrub is proposed across the site for landscape, visual and biodiversity mitigation and enhancement. Areas under and around the panels will develop vegetation that is fit for grazing by sheep or can be cut back to produce compost. In areas not affecting power generation vegetation growth will be facilitated to improve biodiversity.

6.2.1.21 Any necessary mitigation measures will be undertaken on additional areas, to be defined in the course of consultations.

6.2.1.22 Further actions will be undertaken, where necessary, to reduce the visual impact of the project by observing reasonable distances and additional planting.

6.2.1.23 Landscape mitigation will be embedded in the overall project design and would be formulated to minimise potential landscape and visual impacts and maximise enhancement of landscape features, landscape character and biodiversity of the site. A landscape masterplan will be presented being informed by experience of similar projects and good practice guidance relating to retention and enhancement of woodlands, trees and hedgerows. The landscape masterplan would include opportunity to create new habitats such as hedgerows, tree planting woodland and meadows in keeping with the characteristics of the host landscape character types.

Earthworks

6.2.1.24 Earthworks on the Site (e.g., transformer, substation and access foundation excavations) may result in a small surplus of material within areas of the Site. This material is intended to be reused in landscaping and restoration of the Site during and after construction and is not intended to be exported.

Grid Connection

6.2.1.25 The Project will connect to the National Grid transmission system via a new National Grid 400kV substation to be located close to the existing National Grid 400kV line that runs between Cowley and Walham. Discussions have been ongoing with NGET regarding the location for their substation, based upon their own assessment and evaluation work. Whilst, at the time of writing this report, a final decision has yet to be taken by NGET, it is likely that the NGET substation will be located in one of two possible locations:

1. On land within the Applicant's control, at its Southern Site, at the western most extremity, south of the Farmoor Reservoir.
2. On land near the Applicant's Southern Site, to the west of that site, south of the Farmoor Reservoir.

6.2.1.26 For assessment purposes, the Applicant assumes that the NGET substation will be within the Applicant's site, as described in Option 1 above, and powers will be taken to consent that substation as part of the Applicant's DCO. If NGET decides not to locate their substation within the Applicant's site, then PVDP will assess:

- an alternative location, assumed to be close to the Southern Site at its western end, on a cumulative basis, with NGET seeking consent via the Town and Country route; and
- the substitution of solar panels for the substation on the land referred to in Option 1 above.

6.2.1.27 The area to be set aside for the NGET substation amounts to between 2.3ha to 3.8 ha. Within that area it is assumed that the substation itself will occupy a footprint of approximately 165m by 135m, with a likely maximum height of 14m, excluding connecting tower structures.

6.2.1.28 The substation is to be constructed by NGET in the Southern Project Site between the B4017 and the B4044, the precise design and position of the substation will be decided by NGET.

6.2.1.29 The three main Project sites (Northern, Central and Southern – see Volume 2, Figure 1.2) will be connected via 220kV underground cables. These 220kV cables are required to connect all Project sites with the main substation.

Site Access

6.2.1.30 Vehicular access to serve the installation areas will either be through existing field entrances or purpose-built new access roads. Further details of all vehicular access points, including temporary compounds, will be identified, described, assessed and appropriate plans produced at the Environmental Statement stage.

Other Infrastructure

6.2.1.31 Fencing, lighting and new vehicular accesses will also need to be constructed. The fencing will be for operational security purposes and may be up to 2.1 m in height. Lighting and CCTV might be installed too, but on limited areas of the development, generally around the high voltage infrastructure. Access requirements both temporary and permanent are being considered. Table 6.2 below provides more details.

6.2.1.32 The large, mostly arable, areas within the Site have been sub-divided using existing physical features such as hedgerow, ditches and overhead power lines, into developable land parcels. The illustrative masterplan at Figure 1A shows the current extent of the areas within which the solar arrays will be located.

Table 6.2: Other Infrastructure Design Parameters

Project Component	Current Detail	Parameter
Fencing	Length (km) Northern Site – Approx 27 Central Site – Approx 73 Southern Site – Approx 9	Length (km) Northern Site – Approx 27 Central Site – Approx 73 Southern Site – Approx 9
	Height (m AGL) - Approx 2.1m	Height – 1.8m to 2.1m
CCTV	No. of CCTV cameras – 81 (one on each gate plus one on each HV substation)	No. of CCTV cameras – 81 (one on each gate plus one on each HV substation)
	Support Column Details 100 mm box section galvanized steel column or wooden pole	Support Column Details 100 mm box section galvanized steel column or wooden pole
	Camera Height (m AGL) – 3.0m	Camera Height (m) – 3.0 m to 4.0 m

Project Component	Current Detail	Parameter
	Camera Position - 1m inside the fence boundary	Camera Position – 1m to 2m inside the fence boundary
	CCTV Lighting Infrared outside daylight hours (not visible light) No lighting will be permanently operated.	CCTV Lighting Infrared outside daylight hours (not visible light) No lighting will be permanently operated.
Lighting	Solar PV Array Transformers Manually operated lighting PIR motion sensor activated security / emergency lighting.	Solar PV Array Transformers Manually operated lighting PIR motion sensor activated security / emergency lighting.
	Electrical Compound(s) Manually operated lighting Passive infra-red (PIR) motion sensor activated security / emergency lighting.	Electrical Compound(s) Manually operated lighting Passive infra-red (PIR) motion sensor activated security / emergency lighting.

6.3 Construction

6.3.1.1 The construction of all aspects of the Project is subject to the final Project design and potential environmental constraints. It is anticipated to last approximately 24 months, plus a period for testing and commissioning. The indicative start date for construction is dependent on when the necessary consents are granted, but is likely to be mid to late 2025. The following are the main construction activities:

- Site preparation;
- Delivery of construction material, plant and equipment to site;
- Establishment of the perimeter fence and main construction compound(s);
- Solar PV module and associated infrastructure construction, comprising;
  - Delivery of components to site
  - Erection of module mounting structures
  - Installation of modules and power converter stations
  - Trenching and installation of electric cabling
  - Transformer foundation excavation and construction
  - Testing and commissioning
- Landscaping and other environmental enhancements.

Construction Control Mechanisms

6.3.1.2 Construction will be outsourced to a reputable, experienced contractor under an engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contract. This type of contract is sometimes referred to as 'turn-key' arrangement. The EPC contractor will provide market terms for warranties, completion and performance guarantees. PVDP has in-house experience in managing construction companies but will additionally employ specialized consultants to oversee the construction and commissioning process. The EPC contractor will provide operation and maintenance ("O&M") services during the warranty period, thereafter a dedicated PVDP-company will take on these responsibilities. High voltage and grid connection equipment will be serviced by specialized companies on a subcontract basis.

6.3.1.3 Prior to EPC tender and procurement, PVDP will set out its expectations of a future contractor including best practice environmental protection measures during construction. An Outline Code of Construction Practice (Outline CoCP) will be produced to accompany the Environmental Statement (ES). ES chapters will be able to rely on assumptions for mitigation measures contained in the Outline CoCP.

Temporary Construction Compounds

6.3.1.4 There will be four main temporary construction compounds in the Project Sites, one in the North, two in the Central and one in the South. The temporary construction compounds will be carefully located in order to minimise environmental or amenity impact. Topsoil and subsoil will be stripped from such areas and stored on site for replacement following the completion of construction works. Each compound will have fencing and suitable hard standing, offices, welfare facilities and generators to supply electricity.

6.3.1.5 The temporary construction compounds will be returned to original state upon completing construction.

Temporary Field Compounds

6.3.1.6 There will be temporary compounds created for each of the three main site areas. These will serve as storage and welfare facilities, as well as areas associated with the key crossing points to be constructed, over relevant stretches of road, rivers and the railway.

6.3.1.7 The temporary field compounds will be returned to their previous use upon completing construction or used for solar installations.

6.4 Decommissioning and Enhancement

6.4.1.1 The Project will have a 35 year lease with the option to extend to 42 years. Within this timeframe the Project will be constructed, become operational and be decommissioned.

6.4.1.2 Decommissioning is likely to start two years before the end of the lease and be completed in that time. All infrastructure associated with the development

will be removed. The exception to this is assumed to be all cables in the public highway. The National Grid substation will remain.

6.4.1.3 Other than electrical cables within public highways, all solar PV array infrastructure including solar PV modules, mounting structures, cabling, inverters and transformers will be removed from the site and recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and market conditions at that time.

6.4.1.4 A decommissioning and enhancement plan, to include timescales and transportation methods, ecological and landscape enhancements and other environmental improvements, will be developed in consultation the local planning authority, local community and key stakeholders and form an integral part of the DCO application.