

LANDSCAPE AND ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT PLAN (LEMP)

Document No. N1859-ONE-ZZ-XX-RP-L-0003 Revision: P06

Date Produced: 10.09.2026

Date Revised: 23.09.2026

Bolney Green; Battery Energy Storage Facility

Land East of Wineham Lane, Wineham, West Sussex BN5 9AY

Planning Permission: DM/21/2276

Client: Bolney Green Energy Hub Ltd

Prepared by: One Environments Ltd

This document should be read in conjunction with the following documents;

Design and Access Statement CRM.347.007.PL.R.002 June 2021;

Arboricultural Report 200938-PD-11 Tim Moya 22/06/2021;

Ecological Impact Assessment CRM.347.006.EC.R.001;

N1859-ONE-ZZ-XX-RP-L-0004 – Landscape Management Plan

and drawings;

Site plan UK028-BS-D-ENG-4401_V14;

Landscape strategy CRM.347.007.LA.D.006;

N1859-ONE-XX-XX-DR-L-0004 – Landscape Site Plan;

N1859-ONE-XX-XX-DR-L-0005 – Hard Landscape Plan;

N1859-ONE-XX-XX-DR-L-0006 – Planting Strategy Plan.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose

This Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) has been prepared to satisfy Condition 6 of planning permission DM/21/2276, which reads as follows:

"A Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) shall be submitted to, and be approved in writing by, the local planning authority prior to commencement of the development. The content of the LEMP shall include the following:

- a) Description and evaluation of features to be managed.*
- b) Ecological trends and constraints on site that might influence management.*
- c) Aims and objectives of management.*
- d) Appropriate management options for achieving aims and objectives.*
- e) Prescriptions for management actions.*
- f) Preparation of a work schedule (including an annual work plan capable of being rolled forward over a five-year period).*
- g) Details of the body or organisation responsible for implementation of the plan.*

h) Ongoing monitoring and remedial measures.

The LEMP shall also include details of the legal and funding mechanism(s) by which the long-term implementation of the plan will be secured by the developer with the management body(ies) responsible for its delivery. The plan shall also set out (where the results from monitoring show that conservation aims and objectives of the LEMP are not being met) how contingencies and/or remedial action will be identified, agreed and implemented so that the development still delivers the fully functioning biodiversity objectives of the originally approved scheme. The approved plan will be implemented in accordance with the approved details.

Reason: To allow the LPA to discharge its duties under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and s40 of the NERC Act 2006 (Priority habitats & species) and to accord with Policy DP38 of the District Plan."

The LEMP establishes the management framework for landscape and ecological features associated with the Bolney Green Energy Hub Battery Energy Storage Facility.

The LEMP also provides the framework for the long-term management of the landscaping, ecological mitigation and habitat enhancement measures approved as part of planning permission DM/21/2276, ensuring that the biodiversity objectives of the development are maintained throughout the operational life of the site.

The document provides:

- Description and evaluation of landscape and ecological features.
- Ecological constraints and opportunities.
- Management aims and objectives.
- Prescriptions for management activities.
- Five-year rolling work programme.
- Monitoring and remedial actions.
- Implementation responsibilities and funding mechanisms.

1.2 Site Overview

The site extends to approximately 7.2 hectares of former agricultural land located east of Wineham Lane and south of Bolney National Grid Substation. The approved development includes a battery energy storage facility together with substantial landscape and biodiversity enhancement measures.

The approved landscaping and ecological mitigation comprises:

- Retention of existing perimeter trees and hedgerows.
- Native woodland and shrub planting.
- Native hedgerow reinforcement.
- Species-rich meadow grassland.

- Ecological enhancement areas.
 - Sustainable drainage features including swales and detention basin.
 - Great Crested Newt habitat enhancement ponds.
 - Ancient woodland buffer.
 - Public perimeter walking route.
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2.0 SITE FEATURES TO BE MANAGED

2.1 Existing Features

The following features are retained and protected:

- Existing mature boundary hedgerows.
- Existing tree belts.
- Existing pond and copse within the northwest part of the site.
- Adjacent Ancient Woodland buffer.
- Existing drainage features.

2.2 Newly Created Habitat Features

- The following habitats will be established and managed:
 - Native Woodland Planting
 - Native broadleaf woodland belts around the site perimeter.
 - Native Hedgerows
 - New native hedgerow planting associated with site boundaries and access route.
 - Species-Rich Grassland
 - Wildflower and meadow grassland areas established to provide biodiversity enhancement and visual screening.
 - Sustainable Drainage Features
 - Swales, attenuation basin and associated wetland habitat.
 - Great Crested Newt Habitat
 - New ponds and adjacent rough grassland habitat.
 - Public Access Route
 - Perimeter recreational path incorporated within landscape buffers.
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3.0 ECOLOGICAL TRENDS AND CONSTRAINTS

3.1 Ecological Constraints

Management shall recognise:

- Protection of adjacent Ancient Woodland and associated buffer zone.
- Bird nesting season (March–August inclusive)
- Presence and potential use of habitats by Great Crested Newts.
- Protection of existing mature tree root zones.
- Avoidance of unnecessary external lighting.
- Avoidance of lighting spill onto woodland edge habitats and wildlife corridors.
- Protection of pond and wetland habitats.
- Control of invasive and pernicious weeds.

3.2 Ecological Opportunities

The development provides opportunities to:

- Enhance habitat connectivity.
 - Increase native woodland cover.
 - Create species-rich grassland.
 - Improve habitat for invertebrates.
 - Provide habitat for amphibians.
 - Increase foraging opportunities for bats and birds.
 - Deliver long-term biodiversity enhancement.
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4.0 MANAGEMENT AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Landscape Objectives

- Ensure successful establishment of all planting.
- Maintain effective landscape screening of the BESS facility.
- Maintain healthy and structurally diverse tree and shrub planting.
- Retain visual integration of the site within the surrounding landscape.

Ecological Objectives

- Achieve successful establishment of biodiversity enhancements.
 - Maintain species-rich meadow habitat.
 - Enhance Great Crested Newt habitat.
 - Protect existing ecological features.
 - Increase habitat diversity over time.
 - Maintain habitat connectivity within and around the site.
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5.0 MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1 Responsible Body

The site owner/operator shall retain responsibility for implementation of this LEMP throughout the operational life of the development.

Management works may be undertaken by:

- The Site Operator.
- A Landscape Maintenance Contractor.
- Qualified Ecological Consultants where specialist input is required.

5.2 Funding Mechanism

The approved landscape and ecological works shall be funded through the operational budget of the client and maintained throughout the operational life of the development..

Maintenance, monitoring and replacement planting costs shall be allocated by the site operator to ensure implementation of this LEMP.

6.0 MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS

Sections 6.0 through 16.0 to be read in conjunction with;

N1859-ONE-ZZ-XX-RP-L-0004 – Landscape Management Plan

N1859-ONE-XX-XX-DR-L-0004 – Landscape Site Plan;

N1859-ONE-XX-XX-DR-L-0005 – Hard Landscape Plan;

N1859-ONE-XX-XX-DR-L-0006 - Planting Strategy Plan.

All maintenance and monitoring operations to be undertaken at the instructed intervals for the full operational lifetime of the project unless otherwise stated.

6.1 General Requirements

The following shall apply across all landscape areas:

- Regular litter collection.
- No burning on site.
- Removal of fly-tipped material.
- Maintenance of drainage channels.
- Replacement of failed planting.
- Maintenance of access routes.
- Appropriate watering during establishment.
- Weed control.
- Monitoring for pests and disease.

7.0 ANCIENT WOODLAND BUFFER MANAGEMENT

Objectives

Protect the adjacent Ancient Woodland from direct and indirect impacts arising from operation and maintenance activities associated with the development.

Management Requirements

- Maintain the approved woodland buffer free from development, storage of materials and routine maintenance compounds.
- No soil stripping, ground disturbance, dumping of arisings or vegetation encroachment within the 15M buffer area.
- Prevent informal access routes developing into woodland habitat.
- Inspect annually for invasive non-native species and implement early control measures where required.
- Landscape arisings shall not be deposited within the woodland or buffer zone.
- Any future lighting installations shall be designed to avoid illumination of woodland edges, using directional fittings, shielding and warm colour temperatures where appropriate.
- Maintenance works adjacent to the woodland shall avoid damage to tree roots, ground flora, deadwood habitats and naturally regenerating woodland vegetation.
- Contractors undertaking maintenance activities shall be made aware of woodland protection requirements before works commence.

8.0 NATIVE WOODLAND AND TREE PLANTING

Objectives

Develop healthy, structurally diverse native woodland and screening vegetation.

Success would be determined by a 95% survival rate of trees.

Management Requirements

Years 1-5

- Water during prolonged dry periods to ensure establishment.
- Maintain weed-free 1 m diameter around each tree.
- Inspect quarterly, especially after heavy winds.
- Adjust and repair stakes and ties.
- Replace failed stock annually during planting season.
- Formative pruning during winter.

Year 6 Onwards

- Two inspections annually.
- Removal of dead, diseased or crossing branches.
- Selective thinning as woodland matures.
- Deadwood retained where safe and ecologically beneficial.
- Gather in dead hedges and restack to strengthen boundaries and control movement of people.

Long-Term Management

- Woodland thinning beginning approximately Year 15.
- Retention of best quality specimens.
- Creation of habitat piles from arisings.

9.0 HEDGEROW MANAGEMENT

Objectives

Maintain dense, continuous native hedgerows providing screening and ecological connectivity.

Management Requirements

Establishment Phase

- Water as required especially during dry weather to ensure establishment
- Replace failures annually during planting season.
- Inspect quarterly, especially after heavy winds.

Long-Term Management

- Trim on a two to three-year rotation.
- Avoid annual cutting where possible.
- Maintain varied profile.
- Hedge cutting only between January and February outside of bird nesting season.

10.0 SPECIES-RICH GRASSLAND AND MEADOWS

Objectives

Achieve diverse flowering meadow habitat supporting pollinators and wildlife.

Year 1

- First cut in late summer – typically September
- Cut height approximately 75 mm.

- Arisings left 1-7 days to shed seed.
- Arisings removed from meadow and composted onsite or removed and disposed of by maintenance contractor.
- Spot control docks, thistles and pernicious weeds and tree species

Year 2 Onwards

- One principal annual cut during August after seeds have dropped
- Remove all arisings from meadow and compost on site/remove and dispose of responsibly.
- Spot control docks, thistles and pernicious weeds and tree species.

Habitat Management

- Rotational management;
 - Cut no more than 50% of grassed areas in one season where practical.
 - Remaining >50% to provide refuge areas for invertebrates and small mammals.
 - Rotate cut / no-cut zones on an annual basis as required.
- A spring cut can be added to regime, with ecologist approval, if;
 - Growth is too vigorous where site access and visibility are required.
 - Soil conditions are fertile to remove the first flush of grasses.
 - Required to improve the diversity of the wildflower grassland.

11.0 PONDS, SWALES AND DRAINAGE FEATURES

Objectives

Maintain functioning SuDS and maximise ecological value.

Management Requirements from qualified operative, with reporting responsibility to site manager.

- Quarterly inspections and after storm events.
- Remove litter and debris from inlet and outlet, to maintain flow of water
- Monitor water levels during major storm events, noting any overtopping or puddling.
- Control invasive aquatic species.
- Retain marginal vegetation.
- Desilt only when necessary to maintain flow channel and storage capacity
- Ecologist consultation prior to major maintenance works.
- Inspection and maintenance records shall be maintained by the site operator and retained for review.
- Records shall include inspection date, operative, weather conditions, defects identified and corrective actions undertaken.
- Maintenance activities shall be coordinated with any recommendations provided by the project drainage engineer or drainage asset owner.
- Significant erosion, sediment build-up, blockage or hydraulic performance issues shall be reported to the Site Manager for further investigation.
- Any major maintenance or modification works shall be recorded and incorporated into future inspection reports.

12.0 GREAT CRESTED NEWT HABITAT

Objectives

Maintain suitable breeding, foraging and refuge habitat for Great Crested Newts.

Management Requirements

- No pond clearance during breeding season.
- Retain rough grassland surrounding ponds.
- Maintain connectivity between habitats.
- No herbicide use adjacent to ponds.

13.0 PUBLIC ACCESS ROUTE

Objectives

Provide safe public access while protecting ecological interests.

Management Requirements

- Six-monthly inspection, recorded in standard documentation and shared with client
- Vegetation cut back as required to maintain footpath
- Surface repairs as necessary to ensure even surface with no standing water.
- Litter removal from path and collected on site for off-site removal.
- Maintain visibility and safety of site and users

14.0 MONITORING AND REMEDIAL ACTIONS

Monitoring shall include:

- Plant establishment has been achieved.
- Tree survival rates with a target minimum survival rate of 95% after five years.
- Native shrub establishment and condition.
- Hedgerow condition, continuity and absence of significant gaps.
- Meadow species diversity and successful establishment of target species.
- Pond condition and health of water.
- Functionality of swales and drainage features.
- Presence of invasive species. Notifying client team if found.
- Condition of Ancient Woodland buffer and evidence of encroachment or disturbance.
- Public access route condition.

Success Criteria

- Trees: Minimum 95% survival after five years with replacement planting undertaken as and where required.
- Hedgerows: Continuous healthy hedgerow structure maintained with no significant unmanaged gaps.
- Species-rich grassland: Establishment of a diverse sward with target wildflower species successfully represented across the habitat area.
- Swales, ponds and attenuation features: Continued drainage function with no significant erosion, blockages or excessive sediment accumulation.

- Ancient Woodland buffer: No evidence of encroachment, lighting impacts, inappropriate storage, invasive species spread or deterioration attributable to site management activities.

Remedial Measures

Where monitoring identifies failure of management objectives:

- Replace dead planting during next planting season.
- Increase watering regime if required.
- Undertake correct procedure if invasive weeds are found to control and stop them spreading.
- Alter meadow cutting regime should species decline
- Repair damaged hedge with new planting and additional protection
- Obtain ecological advice where habitat quality declines from suitably qualified ecologist.

Results shall be reviewed annually and management adjusted accordingly.

15.0 FIVE-YEAR WORK PROGRAMME

Task	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Tree inspections	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Watering	✓	✓	As required	As required	As required
Replacement planting	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Formative pruning	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Meadow cutting	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Weed control	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pond inspection	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ecological monitoring	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hedgerow maintenance	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Public route maintenance	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

16.0 Planning Condition Compliance Statement

This LEMP addresses all requirements of Condition 6 by providing:

- Description and evaluation of features to be managed;
- Ecological trends and constraints;
- Management aims and objectives;
- Appropriate management options;
- Prescriptions for management actions;
- Five-year work programme;
- Details of implementation responsibilities; and
- Monitoring and remedial measures.