



Landscape and Ecological Management Plan

Tophams Solar Farm, Bygrave

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1.0

1. Introduction

Background

- 1.1** This Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) has been jointly prepared by Briarwood Landscape Architecture Ltd. and Phlorum Ltd.
- 1.2** The report has been prepared on behalf of PACE Jolt Energy Ltd. in order to support a planning application for the installation of a solar farm with associated infrastructure on land at Tophams, Bygrave.
- 1.3** Ecological surveys of the site were undertaken by Phlorum Ltd. and the findings of these surveys are outlined in the "Preliminary Ecological Appraisal" (Phlorum Ltd, April 2021) and accompanying reports.
- 1.4** A Landscape and Visual Appraisal was prepared by Briarwood Landscape Architecture Ltd. to support the planning application for the proposed development.
- 1.5** This LEMP draws on the findings and recommendations detailed in the above reports.
- 1.6** The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) identifies ways in which the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment, including minimising impacts upon biodiversity and promoting net gains where possible. Opportunities to enhance biodiversity in and around developments are to be encouraged and as such local authorities have a responsibility to ensure that such opportunities are taken.
- 1.7** Established guidance¹ sets out a series of opportunities to enhance solar farms for local wildlife and contribute to national biodiversity targets. This LEMP reflects recommendations set out within the guidance document.
- 1.8** The proposed solar farm is an example of a development which presents considerable opportunity for biodiversity enhancement. This LEMP has been prepared to ensure that the opportunities for enhancement are realised.

¹ BRE (2014) Biodiversity Guidance for Solar Developments. Eds G E Parker and L Greene

Planning

- 1.9** This LEMP has been prepared in support of the planning application for a proposed solar farm at Land west of Ashwell Road, Bygrave. The description of the planning application (North Herts Council ref: 22/00741/FP) is for a, *“Ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) farm including battery energy storage; continued agricultural use, ancillary infrastructure, security fencing, landscaping provision, ecological enhancements and associated works.”*

Purpose of the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan

- 1.10** The purpose of this LEMP is:
- To set out the agreed objectives for the landscape and ecological management of the proposed Tophams Solar Farm;
 - To set clear standards for the performance of landscape maintenance work;
 - To assist in the development of work programmes for landscape maintenance staff;
 - To preserve and enhance biodiversity;
 - To help monitor attainment and improvement against management aims and objectives.

Management Aims

- 1.11** The main aims for the maintenance and management of the proposed solar farm are:
- To help assimilate the solar farm into the landscape, through the retention and enhancement of key landscape characteristics such as tree and hedgerows etc, so as to minimise any effects on local landscape character and visual amenity;
 - To set out how valuable landscape and ecological features on the site will be protected during the construction phase and how, during the operational phase of the solar farm, landscape and ecological enhancements can be managed to increase the site for wildlife;
 - To help ensure ensuing management and monitoring of the solar farm will be in place so that any landscape and ecological benefits are long lasting ones;
 - To ensure that existing features with a biodiversity value on the site are protected and that the potential biodiversity value of the operational site is realised.

A green-tinted photograph of a greenhouse with solar panels on the roof. In the foreground, there are yellow flowers and a butterfly. The text "2.0" is centered in the middle of the image, underlined.

2.0

2. Existing and Proposed Landscape and Ecology Features

Site Description

- 2.1** The site of the proposed solar farm is contained within a single agricultural field to the north of the settlement of Bygrave. The centre of the site is located at approximate grid coordinates TL262370. The site is generally well defined.
- 2.2** To the north, the site is contained by the Cat Ditch. The Cat Ditch is a seasonal watercourse. The northern bank of the stream is well vegetated with tall shrubs and small trees.
- 2.3** To the east the site is contained by Ashwell Road. The site boundary running parallel to the road is defined by a generally low, uneven, hedgerow.
- 2.4** To the south, the site is defined by a hedgerow. In the hedgerow are hedgerow trees particularly along its eastern section.
- 2.5** To the west, the site is defined along much of its length by hedgerow planting. A short length of the boundary's southern section is defined by a block of woodland (Bygrave Plantation).
- 2.6** Topographically, the site rises southward from a low point of approximately 60 metres Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) close to the Cat Drain to a high point of approximately 90 metres AOD where the 90 metre contour follows the southern boundary.
- 2.7** A bridleway, Bygrave 13, passes through the site. Moving from north to south, the public right of way passes parallel to the site's northern boundary, along an existing gravel farm access track leading from Ashwell Road, before following the site's western boundary and exiting the site in its south-western corner.

Landscape and Ecological Features to be retained

- 2.8** The existing vegetation, trees and hedgerows, along the site boundaries will be retained. The existing public right of way will also be retained on its definitive alignment. The Cat Drain will be physically unaffected by the proposed solar farm.

- 2.9** The retention of key landscape features such as trees, hedgerows and watercourses on the site will help maintain the existing structure of the site. Their retention will also help to ensure that the site continues to contribute positively to the character of the local area.
- 2.10** The existing landscape features are also functional as well as aesthetic. They help define spaces and the retained trees and hedgerows will help to screen and filter views of the proposed solar farm
- 2.11** The site comprises of a track, an arable field, poor semi-improved grassland, ruderal vegetation, scattered scrub, tree lines, hedgerows, a dry drainage ditch and several individual trees (Phlorum, 2021). The grassland and hedgerows were generally found to be of poor quality and condition, so have good potential and scope to be enhanced as part of the development.

Mitigation and Enhancement Plan

- 2.12** A Mitigation and Enhancement Plan has been prepared for the proposed solar farm (see Appendix 1).
- 2.13** The layout of the proposed solar farm provides an opportunity to enhance the site's existing boundary planting.



3.0

3. Management Plan Objectives – Construction Phase

Objectives

- 3.1** The following construction phase objectives have been identified which, when achieved, will ensure the overarching aims of the Plan are achieved.

OBJECTIVE C1: TO PROTECT RETAINED HABITATS WITHIN AND SURROUNDING THE SITE FROM DAMAGE AND UNNECESSARY DISTURBANCE DURING CONSTRUCTION

- 3.2** Hedgerows, waterbodies, trees and field margins will not be directly affected by the construction works. However, appropriate measures will be required to ensure that adverse effects upon these habitats are avoided. Similarly, habitats beyond the site will be appropriately protected.

OBJECTIVE C2: TO ENSURE PROTECTED AND NOTABLE SPECIES ARE ADEQUATELY SAFEGUARDED DURING CONSTRUCTION

- 3.3** Appropriate precautions will be required to ensure adverse effects and offences are avoided to a number of protected and notable species which may be using the field and boundary habitats. These include phased and precautionary clearance regarding reptiles and breeding birds. As well as precautionary working practises regarding badgers.

OBJECTIVE C3: TO CREATE NEW HABITATS THROUGH CESSATION OF INTENSIVE AGRICULTURE AND THROUGH PLANTING OF LOCALLY APPROPRIATE NATIVE SPECIES

- 3.4** A more diverse grassland will be established beneath the panels through cessation of intensive arable production and fertilisation of the existing field.

- 3.5** Approximately 1400 linear metres of new native species hedgerows are proposed along the western boundary and eastern boundary (alongside Ashwell Road) of the proposed solar farm. The hedgerows will help provide:

- year round visual interest;
- screening and filtering of views of the proposed solar farm from the existing bridleway and from Ashwell Road;

- habitats with the potential to support invertebrates, reptiles, birds and small mammals.

3.6 The proposed new hedgerows would be comprised of native species, with the ability to support wildlife and improve the site's biodiversity. As well as being appropriate to the character of the site and the local landscape.

New Hedgerow Species Mix

Latin name	Common name	Percentage of mix
Acer campestre	Field Maple	10%
Corylus avellana	Hazel	20%
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn	40%
Ilex aquifolium	Holly	5%
Prunus spinosa	Blackthorn	5%
Rosa canina	Dog Rose	10%
Viburnum lantana	Wayfaring Tree	10%

OBJECTIVE C4: TO PROVIDE SHELTERING FEATURES AROUND THE SITE FOR NEARBY POPULATIONS OF BATS, BIRDS AND OTHER NOTABLE FAUNAL SPECIES

3.7 As the local habitat was considered likely to support bat and bird populations, management will seek to enhance the site for these species. This will include the instillation of bird and bat boxes on existing boundary trees, as well as log pile and hibernacula to create basking and hibernating habitat for reptiles.

A green-tinted photograph of a greenhouse with solar panels on the roof. In the foreground, there are yellow flowers and tall grass. The text "4.0" is centered in the middle of the image, underlined.

4.0

4. Management Plan Objectives – Operational Phase

Objectives

OBJECTIVE O1: TO MANAGE GRASSLAND TO ENSURE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A DIVERSE SWARD BENEATH THE ARRAY OF SOLAR PANELS.

- 4.1** Grassland within the site will be managed to create a more diverse grassland habitat which will benefit a wide range of wildlife. The site will be managed through light and rotational sheep grazing. This will create a range of vegetation heights, bare patches, and disturbance that will promote colonisation.
- 4.2** Where grazing isn't possible, then grassland will be cut. In general, this will be needed at least once per year for the whole site. The later this is done in the year, the more species will be able to seed, which will support a larger range of species. Even if the site is cut annually, certain areas will be left to stand throughout the winter and possibly for two seasons, but at least one entire year. Areas will also be cleared totally to open up bare patches.
- 4.3** All arisings will be removed from the grassland, with some piled within the site in a discrete area, which will provide new habitat suitable for species groups including invertebrates and reptiles, while surplus arisings will be removed from the site (see 5.13 and 6.14 below). The created heaps will be approximately 2m across and 1m high (the latter will reduce as the cut vegetation decomposes) and will incorporate sticks and twigs for aeration, to aid wildlife access and to prevent overheating as described by ARG (Amphibian and Reptile Groups) UK². A location for the heaps is recommended in the north-west part of the site so as to be near to water (Cat Drain), away from roads, and in an area that receives at least partial sunshine.
- 4.4** The field margins will be maintained as to create woodland habitats that create continuity between the site and adjacent habitats. The field margins will facilitate a range of stages, from bare ground, through the successional stages to mature trees, and dead wood. Different stages of growth, even of the same species, provide habitat for different species. A range of ages and height provides structural variation.

² Creating grass snake egg-laying heaps – the 'RAVON Recipe' - Amphibian and Reptile Groups of the UK (arguk.org)

- 4.5** Dead wood should be retained, ideally left where it falls with no intervention, except in areas of the site where it might hinder operational activities or public access i.e. along the length of the existing bridleway/public right of way. Dead wood provides habitat and food for different species as it breaks down. Standing dead trees should always be left in position where possible. Species reliant on dead wood (and woodland more broadly) are generally poor at dispersing to new sites.

OBJECTIVE O2: TO MANAGE HEDGEROWS AND HEDGEROW TREES TO ENHANCE THEIR AESTHETIC AND WILDLIFE VALUE.

- 4.6** Management of the existing retained hedgerows and hedgerow trees will involve regular (annual) monitoring to check for any detrimental deterioration through damage and/or disease. The monitoring process will put forward suggested remedial work measures so as to ensure the long term survival of the existing retained hedgerows and hedgerow trees.

- 4.7** Management of new hedgerow and hedgerow tree planting will ensure good successful establishment and healthy development.

OBJECTIVE O3: TO ENSURE WILDLIFE ARE ADEQUATELY PROTECTED DURING OPERATION

- 4.8** Management will ensure that protected and notable wildlife are able to continue to use the site and are protected from adverse impacts during the operational phase, this includes the installation of wildlife gates.

OBJECTIVE O4: TO MONITOR THE SITE AND ASSESS THE SUCCESS OF MANAGEMENT

- 4.9** In order to deliver the proposed ecological objectives, monitoring of the effects of management prescriptions will be required in order to ensure that these are effective, and to inform any necessary refinement of the site management.



5.0

5. Construction Phase Prescriptions

- 5.1** In order to achieve the objectives outlined in Section 3, the following management prescriptions have been identified.
- 5.2** Implementation of the construction phase measures will be co-ordinated by the main construction contractor with the assistance of a suitably qualified ecologist.

Prescriptions

PR1: PROTECTION OF TREES, HEDGEROWS AND WATERBODIES

Contributes to Objective C1

Trees and Hedgerows

- 5.3** Early construction of the proposed boundary security fence will help provide protection to existing retained trees and hedgerows outside the development site. Within the development site, existing trees and hedgerows to be retained will be protected as appropriate using methods outlined within BS.5837: 2012.

Watercourse

- 5.4** Suitable precautions are necessary to ensure that soil or any other spoil/pollutants will not enter the watercourse within the site during construction.
- 5.5** A buffer zone of at least 13 metres is proposed away from the Cat Drain where no construction will take place. This buffer area will be demarcated where necessary by installing temporary Heras fencing or similar prior to the commencement of construction.
- 5.6** No materials, machinery or plant will be stored within the buffer area between the temporary fencing and the watercourse.
- 5.7** The refuelling of all plant and vehicles will take place within the site compound, in a designated area, at least 13m away from the watercourse. A spill kit must be kept on site with sand, earth or commercial products for the containment of fuel and other material spillages. All members of staff are to receive appropriate training in the use of these kits and are to be made aware of where the kit is stored.
- 5.8** In the event of a spillage of oils or chemicals resulting in contamination of water courses or damage to habitats the following procedure will be adopted:

5.9 The site manager is to be informed and appropriate spill kit is to be deployed immediately. The spilled fuel/chemical plus the used containment material will all be removed as hazardous waste, with appropriate consignment note.

5.10 The incident is to be recorded within the site log book.

PR2: PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE DURING CONSTRUCTION

Contributes to Objective C2

General

5.11 A toolbox talk will be conducted to all personnel on site by the a suitably qualified ecologist in the presence of the site manager. An information pack will be produced by an ecologist sent to the site manager to use as part of the toolbox talk. This pack will outline the presence and potential presence of each protected species within and adjacent to the site and the correct procedure to follow should any of these species be encountered. A layout plan will be provided showing all sensitive areas on the site in order to ensure that these are protected from disturbance and damage.

5.12 A toolbox talk will be undertaken for each species prior to work commencing. This will include the current legislation pertaining to likely protected species on the site, risks posed by works, and what to do if protected species are found or suspected. The toolbox talk will outline the initial and expected procedures, however these can be dynamic and will be open to adaptation, by a competent ecologist, throughout the operational phase.

PR3: ESTABLISHMENT OF MORE DIVERSE GRASSLAND SWARD

Contributes to Objective C3

5.13 The existing grassland fields will be managed to reduce nutrient levels and increase the diversity of the sward by pulse grazing (nutrients extracted by sheep grazing, which are then removed from the site with the sheep) and by the removal from the site of any arisings from grass/vegetation maintenance (see 6.10-6.14 below).

5.14 The aim of grassland management is to create a range of vegetation heights from bare ground to regrowth through the remains of previous seasons material. Each grass species within an area of grassland should be able to undergo its full lifecycle, as each stage will provide food or habitat for a particular species. Bare ground is an important feature, as is dense thatch and accumulation. A variation in topography, provides a range of microclimates that support different species.

PR4: HEDGEROWS AND TREES

Contributes to Objective C3

- 5.15** The existing hedgerows and trees on the site will be retained as part of the solar development and new native species hedgerows and trees will be introduced in the locations indicated on the Mitigation and Enhancements Plan.
- 5.16** New native species hedgerow plants will be planted as 1+1 transplants at 80-100cm in height. New trees will be planted as Extra Heavy Standards (EHS) at 14-16cm girth and at between 425-600cm in height.
- 5.17** Trees will establish successful anchor roots, increase stem girth and form a better stem taper if allowed to move in the wind, whilst remaining secured at ground level. Therefore, low staking (75mm diameter x 1.8m length) will be used ensuring 600mm is visible above ground level.
- 5.18** Tree stakes will be securely fixed to new tree planting using proprietary rubber ties with spacers to prevent chaffing and damage to the tree.

PR5: PROVISION OF BAT AND BIRD BOXES

Contributes to Objective C4

- 5.19** Additional bird nesting and bat roosting provision will be incorporated into new design proposals.
- 5.20** Bat roosting opportunities will be provided through the installation of boxes on existing trees around the boundaries of the site, such as the Schwegler 2F, or other makes of a similar design, such as Chavenage Bat box. There are a range of bat boxes available and these can be selected to suit the site and bat species in the locality.
- 5.21** 10 Bird boxes will be installed on the remaining trees which could include the following Schwegler bird house or 1B makes, or similar designs from alternative suppliers.
- 5.22** 10 Bat boxes will be installed at appropriate locations ideally with south-east, south, or south-west facing aspects at least 3m from ground level. Ideally, they need to be exposed to 6-8 hours of direct sunlight, but sheltered from strong winds.

- 5.23** Bird Boxes will be located out of prevailing wind, rain, and strong sunlight, ideally with a clear flight path to the entrance. Ideally, they should be installed two to four metres from the ground facing north or north-east.
- 5.24** 3 Log piles and 2 buried hibernacula will be constructed in the area at the north east boundary where there will be no solar panels. These will be oriented so as to maximise their daily exposure to the sun- with the longest side facing south. The log piles should be made from neatly stacked wood, locally sourced where possible, and stacked approximately 1m in height, either in a pyramidal shape (bound with wire to prevent it breaking apart over time) or stacked against the fence or mature trees.
- 5.25** Log piles are ideal environments for reptiles; the surface of the structures may be used for basking and they may also be used as a refuge from predators. The dead wood also supports a diverse invertebrate fauna; a food source for reptiles.



6.0

6. Operational Phase Prescriptions

- 6.1** In order to achieve the objectives outlined in Section 4, the following management prescriptions have been identified.
- 6.2** Implementation of the construction phase measures will be co-ordinated by the main construction contractor with the assistance of a suitably qualified ecologist.

PR8: PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE DURING OPERATION

Contributes to Objective O4

- 6.3** Vegetation around the solar panels should allow for heights of 200-500mm during the nesting bird season to allow for this site to have the potential to be used by ground nesting birds. Examination of the use of the fields by ground nesting birds will form part of the annual monitoring by the ecologist.
- 6.4** As part of the proposed solar farm's management regime, sheep grazing will be restricted to periods outside of the main bird nesting season (i.e. no grazing between March and August inclusive) thereby avoiding conflict, should ground nesting birds be present.
- 6.5** The management of the array will require minimal intervention by machines and as such if reptiles or amphibians colonise the grassland beneath the array the potential for killing and injury of these species is considered to be minimal.

PR9: MANAGEMENT OF GRASSLAND HABITATS

Contributes to Objective O1

Grassland Within Array

- 6.6** Grassland within the array will be managed for the lifespan of the scheme to encourage the development of a more diverse sward than is currently present.
- 6.7** Grassland can be managed through low intensity pulse grazing using sheep and/or mowing. Both the approach of conservation grazing and the approach of management through mowing alone are presented below.

Pulse Grazing:

January-February	Light grazing on any new growth (optional).
Early March	Remove grazing; this allows plants to grow and creates good habitat for ground nesting birds
September to end of December	Main grazing period if sheep are used with light grazing down to a short sward height; a mosaic of plant heights helps encourage insects.

6.8 Grazing is only to be undertaken by sheep. Cattle, horse or donkey grazing will not be possible due to the damage these species will likely inflict on the solar panel structures.

6.9 The intended outcome of a grazing scheme will be to have a sward of the following height structure at the beginning of March:

- 75% at a height of approximately 5cm
- 25% at a height of approximately 25cm

6.10 A stocking density of between 5 – 10 animals per hectare is recommended between late September and February. This is a typical stocking density for conservation grazing. However, the stocking density and timing (the latter within the limitations set out in 6.11) of grazing will be at the discretion of the land manager, in order to achieve the desired sward structure given above. More animals could be used for shorter grazing periods.

6.11 Grazing will not be undertaken between mid-March and August inclusive.

6.12 Mowing (no grazing):

Mid-February	Cut short any significant winter growth leaving 25-50mm of sward
August/September	After flowering, carry out main cut and remove all of the arisings.

6.13 Mowing will only take place during periods of dry weather to ensure that no waterlogged ground is damaged by machinery.

6.14 When mowing the grassland all arisings will need to be removed off site to progressively reduce soil nutrient levels and facilitate the transition to wildflower meadow.

FIELD MARGINS

Contributes to Objective O1

The grassland areas within the field margins (i.e. between the panels and security fencing) at the edges of the solar arrays will be cut annually. Cutting should be carried out at the end of September or October to a height of 100mm with arisings removed off site.

General

6.15 No herbicides should be used on-site unless targeting specific weeds, as described in prescription PR10 below. Under this sensitive management a high floral diversity should develop over time and this will benefit a wide variety of invertebrates, birds and flowering plants. The grassland will not be improved by chemical fertilizer or slurry and nutrient levels in the soil should be allowed to reduce over time.

PR10: MANAGEMENT OF INJURIOUS WEEDS

Contributes to Objective O1

6.16 The land will be managed to make certain any of the five injurious weeds (Weeds act, (1959) do not proliferate on site, and ensure they do not spread. The five species are:

- common ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*);
- spear thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*);
- creeping or field thistle (*Cirsium arvense*);
- broad-leaved dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*); and
- curled dock (*Rumex crispus*).

6.17 If any species becomes a problem, it will be controlled through spot-treatment using selective herbicide during the plant's growth stage and prior to setting seed.

PR11: MANAGEMENT OF TREES AND HEDGEROWS

Contributes to Objective O2

Retained Trees and Hedgerows

- 6.18** Annual monitoring inspection of existing retained hedgerow and tree planting to take place in January and February. Any necessary tree works arising from monitoring inspection will be undertaken outside of the bird nesting season unless identified as a Health and safety risk in which case action would take place as soon as reasonably possible to eliminate risk.
- 6.19** All tree work should be carried out in accordance with BS 3998:2010 Tree Work Recommendations (or any subsequent updates). All work should be carried out by a suitably qualified person. Issues where a tree possesses a potential health and safety hazard should be dealt with by a qualified arboriculturist.
- 6.20** Unless for health and safety reasons, no pruning works to trees or hedgerows should normally occur between 1st March and 31st August inclusive so as to avoid the bird nesting season. Works during this period should be subject to a check by an ecologist so as to help ensure no nesting birds are present.
- 6.21** Where tree and hedgerow vegetation abuts the public right of way or any access track or roads, the portion of vegetation adjacent to the particular route shall be cut annually to allow free movement.

Maintenance of New Trees and Hedgerows Until Establishment

- 6.22** As a minimum, all implementation works are to be carried out in accordance with BS 4428: Code of Practice for General Landscape Operations.
- 6.23** The following maintenance operations are to be undertaken in relation to new tree and hedgerow planting implemented as part of the solar development:
- 6.24** Maintenance to accord with BS 7370-4 Grounds Maintenance: Recommendation for Maintenance of Soft Landscaping (other than amenity turf);
- 6.25** Until established, all trees and shrubs (transplants) are to be watered during the growing season. Following any dry periods of more than 7 days, soil moisture content should be assessed with an examination of root base and watering undertaken as necessary. Trees should receive a minimum of 40 litres per tree but this may need to be increased if trees should show signs of drought stress such as wilting leaves etc.

- 6.26** Tree stakes will be securely fixed to new tree planting using proprietary rubber ties with spacers to prevent chaffing and damage to the tree;
- 6.27** Tree stakes and ties will be regularly checked during the establishment period and adjusted as necessary to ensure that the developing trees are not damaged.
- 6.28** There will be a minimal pruning policy for trees as pruning wounds can provide a source of infection. Formative pruning of new trees will only be carried out to remove dead and diseased wood and to create a well-balanced tree with a single leader. Clear stems of 1.8 metres will be maintained by rubbing off any shoots and when the trees reach 5 to 6 metres high lower branches will be removed to give a canopy height of approximately 2.4 metres.
- 6.29** In the event of tree death, the reason for growth failure shall be investigated and addressed before replanting a replacement. If death is due to the planting conditions, these shall be ameliorated. If death is due to pests or disease and likely to be present in the future, a resistant species of an alternative similar tree shall be selected.
- 6.30** Where trees or hedges are seen to be failing due to compaction or lack of nutrients then soil aeration techniques and the use of inoculants shall be considered.
- 6.31** Any necessary remedial works will be carried out as soon as possible. All arisings will be either used to create compost heaps within the wildlife buffers outside the security fence or removed from site and disposed of at a registered facility.
- 6.32** To avoid competition and to assist with establishment, all planted areas and base of trees should be kept weed and grass free until plants have fully established at year 5.
- 6.33** At year 5, it should be confirmed that new hedgerow planting has well established roots. All shelters, stakes, guards and ties should then be carefully removed from hedgerow transplant.

A green-tinted photograph of a greenhouse with solar panels on the roof. In the foreground, there are yellow flowers and a butterfly. The number 7.0 is overlaid in the center.

7.0

7. Monitoring and Review

- 7.1** Annual reviews and monitoring shall take place up until 40 years – the life expectancy of the proposed solar farm.
- 7.2** At each 5 year period, the landscape management regime shall be reviewed in response to any feedback from users of the site, the client or interested third parties.



8.0



8. Appendices



Appendix 1 – Mitigation and Enhancement Plan



Appendix 2 – Bat Boxes



Appendix 3 – Bird Boxes



Appendix 4 – Log piles and hibernacula