



Arboricultural Method Statement

Tophams Solar Farm, Bygrave

August 2025

**BS5837:2012 'TREES IN RELATION TO DESIGN, DEMOLITION AND CONSTRUCTION –
RECOMMENDATIONS'**

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REVISIONS:

Date	Rev	Description	Initials
13.08.25	-	First Issue	DP

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 LandArb Solutions Ltd were instructed to prepare a proportionate arboricultural method statement and updated tree protection plan in respect of addressing condition 14 of the planning permission ref: 22/00741/FP at Tophams Solar Farm; herein referred to as the 'site'.

1.2 Condition 14 states;

'No construction shall take place until an arboricultural method statement with tree and hedge protection plan following the recommendations contained within BS 5837:2012 identifying measures to protect trees and hedges to be retained, has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The statement shall include proposed tree protection measures during site preparation, during construction, and landscaping operations'.

2 ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT

Purpose

- 2.1 The aim of this AMS is to prevent and/or minimise the impacts of construction works approved by planning permission on the trees that are to be retained as part of the proposals. It gives step-by-step guidance for works which have the potential to result in loss of, or damage to, retained trees.
- 2.2 The applicant will appoint appropriately qualified and experienced contractors to carry out the construction of the proposals.
- 2.3 They will be referred to as the 'appointed contractor' within this AMS.
- 2.4 The tree protection plan is set out in appendix 1.
- 2.5 The appointed contractor will install the solar farm security fencing first, which will act as protection to retained trees and vegetation. This will protect retained survey items from potential damage from construction vehicles accessing the site to commence construction.

How the AMS must be used

- 2.6 The AMS must be used as a reference source for site operatives in order to guide tree-related aspects of the construction process. A precautionary approach is required.
- 2.7 The AMS must be referred to by the applicant and their appointed contractor and any other site operatives during the construction process itself. A copy of this document must therefore be kept available for quick and easy reference.

Contacts and Responsibilities

Client

- 2.8 Pathfinder Clean Energy (PACE) UKDev Ltd.

Contractor

- 2.9 TBC

Project Arboriculturist

- 2.10 David Paginton 07988 849412
- 2.11 The client shall hold overall responsibility for the project and will appoint an appropriately qualified and experienced contractor as building professionals and delegate responsibility in relation to the scheme of Tree Protection as follows:
- 2.12 Construction Manager – shall hold responsibility to ensure that any construction contractors or subcontractors employed to assist on the project have a responsibility to be aware of trees and to abide by tree protection procedures set out within the Scheme of Tree Protection and the Arboricultural Method Statement.
- 2.13 It will be the responsibility of the client and the appointed contractors to ensure that this method statement for tree protection measures is adhered to at all times and that a monitoring regime with regards to tree protection is adopted on site.
- 2.14 The client and the appointed contractor shall be jointly responsible for contacting the project arboriculturist and Local Planning Authority at any time should issues arise related to the trees on site.
- 2.15 The client and the appointed contractor shall ensure the build sequence is appropriate to ensure that no damage occurs to the trees during the construction processes. Protective Heras barriers will remain in position until completion of all construction works on the site.
- 2.16 The client and the appointed contractor shall also be responsible for ensuring subcontractors do not carry out any process or operation that is likely to adversely impact upon any tree on site.
- 2.17 Project Arboriculturist - shall be responsible for independently monitoring/supervising the effectiveness of tree protection at regular intervals and report all findings in writing back to the applicant, the appointed contractors and the local planning authority. They shall also be instructed to provide additional advice should unforeseen circumstances

develop. They must hold a recognised qualification in arboriculture to NQF Level 4 or higher.

APPENDIX 3 – SITE MONITORING FORM

Work phases and order of site operations

- 2.18 Site operations must be sequenced in accordance with the timetable of work stages set out within this AMS. The Project Arboriculturist must be consulted should any change to the sequence of operations be necessary, or if any other incidents occur. The Project Arboriculturist will then evaluate any potential arboricultural impacts that could arise and specify additional tree protection/remediation measures as required. Confirmation that the proposed changes are acceptable within the context of relevant planning permission must be obtained in writing from the local planning authority prior to any new operations on site.

Work Stages

- 2.19 The table below lists the sequence of works that must be followed in order to minimise damage to retained trees.

Work stage	Job description	Project Arboriculturist Action
1	Installation of site security fencing, to protect retained survey items.	Attend site to check and confirm the set-out positions of the site security fencing in advance of site construction.

General Site Rules

- 2.23 Root Protection Areas essentially become 'Construction Exclusion Zones (CEZ)' in which there must not be any construction activities without prior liaison with the project arboriculturist and written consent from the local planning authority.
- 2.24 No works shall be undertaken within any CEZ. The CEZ's are to be afforded protection at all times and will be protected by site security fencing as shown on the tree protection plan. The site security fencing shall be erected prior to the commencement of any site works e.g. before site clearance and preparation, and any materials or machinery are brought on site, development or the stripping of soil commences.
- 2.25 Any activities that are at odds with the scheme of tree protection measures as set out in this AMS must be avoided.
- 2.26 The list below is non-exhaustive, providing examples of activities that must not occur within the CEZ, unless specifically included in this AMS.
- No excavations for services or installation of services;
 - No soil/turf stripping, raising/lowering of ground levels, deposit or excavation of soil or rubble;
 - No storage of materials, machinery fuel, chemicals or other materials of any other description;
 - No parking/use of tracked or wheeled machinery;
 - No siting of temporary structures including hard standing areas, portaloos, site huts;
 - No fixtures or fittings such as signs, cables or the like being attached to any part of a retained tree;
 - No mixing of cement.

Contractors' car parking and access storage space

- 2.27 Construction access to the site will make use of existing access point into the site.
- 2.28 All storage of materials shall be outside of any CEZ.
- 2.29 Given the nature of the scheme, there is plenty of space available for storage of any materials or machinery that will not cause impact to any retained trees/vegetation.

3 ONGOING SITE MONITORING

Monitoring

- 3.1 As a proportionate approach to the proposals, a simple process for site monitoring can be undertaken using the following methods.

Day to Day Monitoring

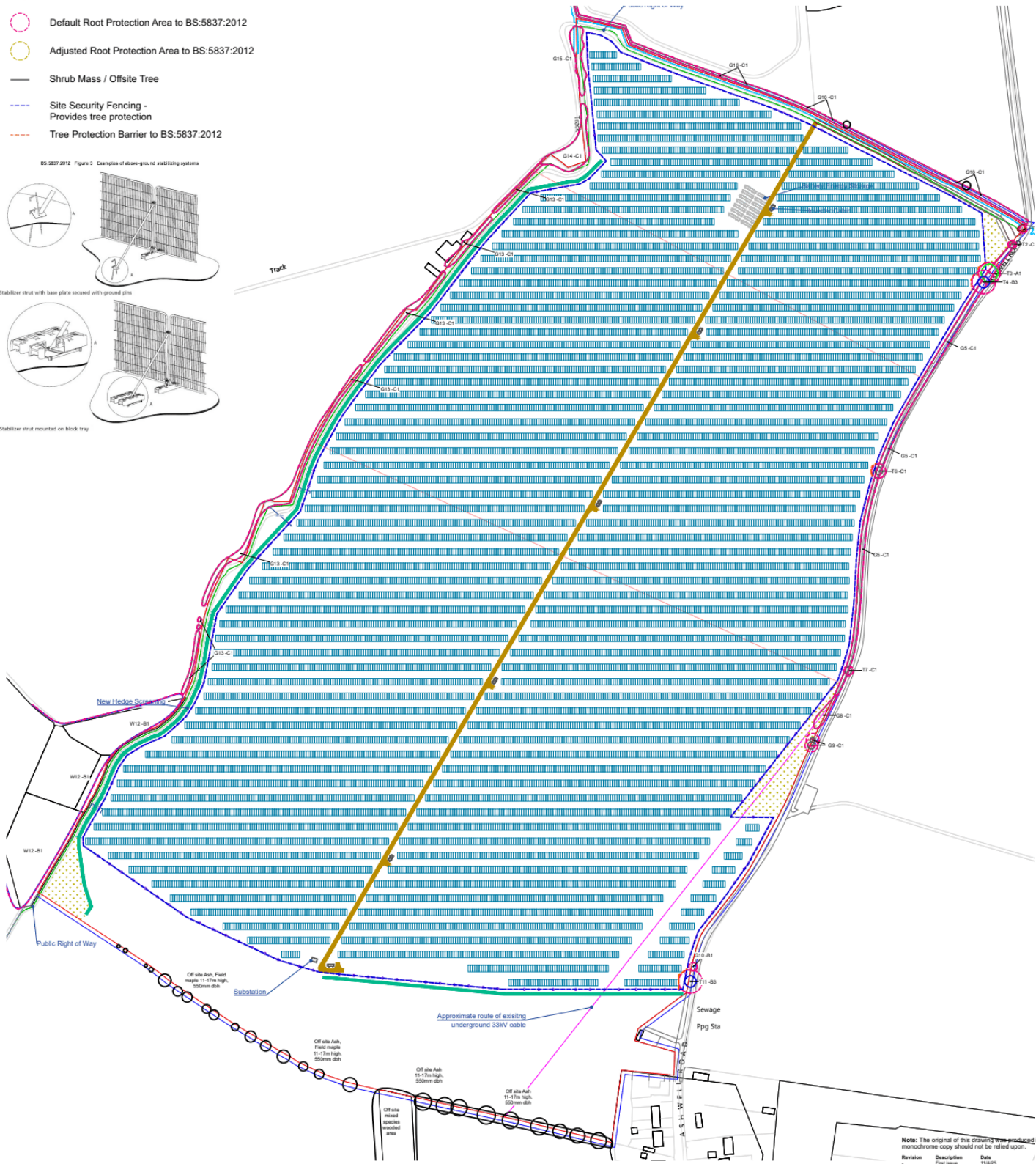
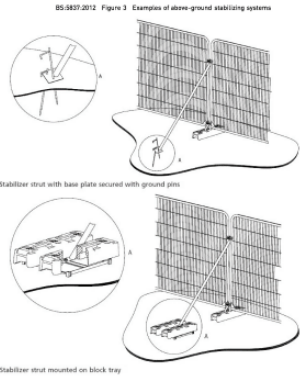
- 3.2 The monitoring for the project will require photographic evidence to be gathered regularly by the applicant and/or the appointed contractor (in addition to project arboriculturist pre-programmed site visits) to ensure the quality of the project delivery in accordance with this arboricultural method statement. In some weeks, activity on site will vary to a greater or lesser degree to the next. It is proposed that the applicant and/or the appointed contractor will keep in regular contact with the project arboriculturist and make use of digital cameras/smart phones to take regular progress photos which will be stored as record of site progress. The applicant and/or the appointed contractor will provide regular photo updates by taking photos of installed site security fencing, and general progress updates.
- 3.3 The applicant and/or the appointed contractor will update the project arboriculturist by telephone and email as appropriate on a regular basis, at a minimum of once a month and report any issues relating to trees/vegetation. The project arboriculturist will update the LPA once every month in addition to coinciding with planned site construction activities. The project arboriculturist will be available to attend site as and when required and as advised by the applicant and/or the appointed contractor if any situations

change for any reason and the project arboriculturists presence on site becomes necessary.

APPENDIX 1: TREE SURVEY AND PROTECTION PLAN

KEY - BS 5837 : 2012 Categories

- Tree Category A - High Quality
- A Category - Hedgerow, Group, Woodland
- Tree Category B - Moderate Quality
- B Category - Hedgerow, Group, Woodland
- Tree Category C - Low Quality
- C Category - Hedgerow, Group, Woodland
- Tree Category U - Unsuitable for Retention
- Default Root Protection Area to BS:5837:2012
- Adjusted Root Protection Area to BS:5837:2012
- Shrub Mass / Offsite Tree
- Site Security Fencing - Provides tree protection
- Tree Protection Barrier to BS:5837:2012



Note: The original of this drawing was produced in colour - a monochrome copy should not be relied upon.



Project: Tophams Solar Farm, Bygrave
Description: Tree Survey and Protection Plan
Status: For Planning
Scale: 1:2,000 @A1
Job Number: BLA XX
Drawn I Checked DP MP
Date: 11/04/2025
Revision: 01

APPENDIX 2: SITE MONITORING FORM

Tree Protection Site Monitoring Form

Client and site name:		LandArb ref:
Date:	Inspector:	Site manager:
Tree protection barriers in locations as shown on approved details? Yes / No Notes:		
Tree protection barriers constructed in accordance with approved details? Yes / No Notes:		
Details of any incursions into Root Protection Areas (RPAs)? Yes / No Notes:		

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Condition of retained trees?

Notes:

Actions. Details of any remedial action required?

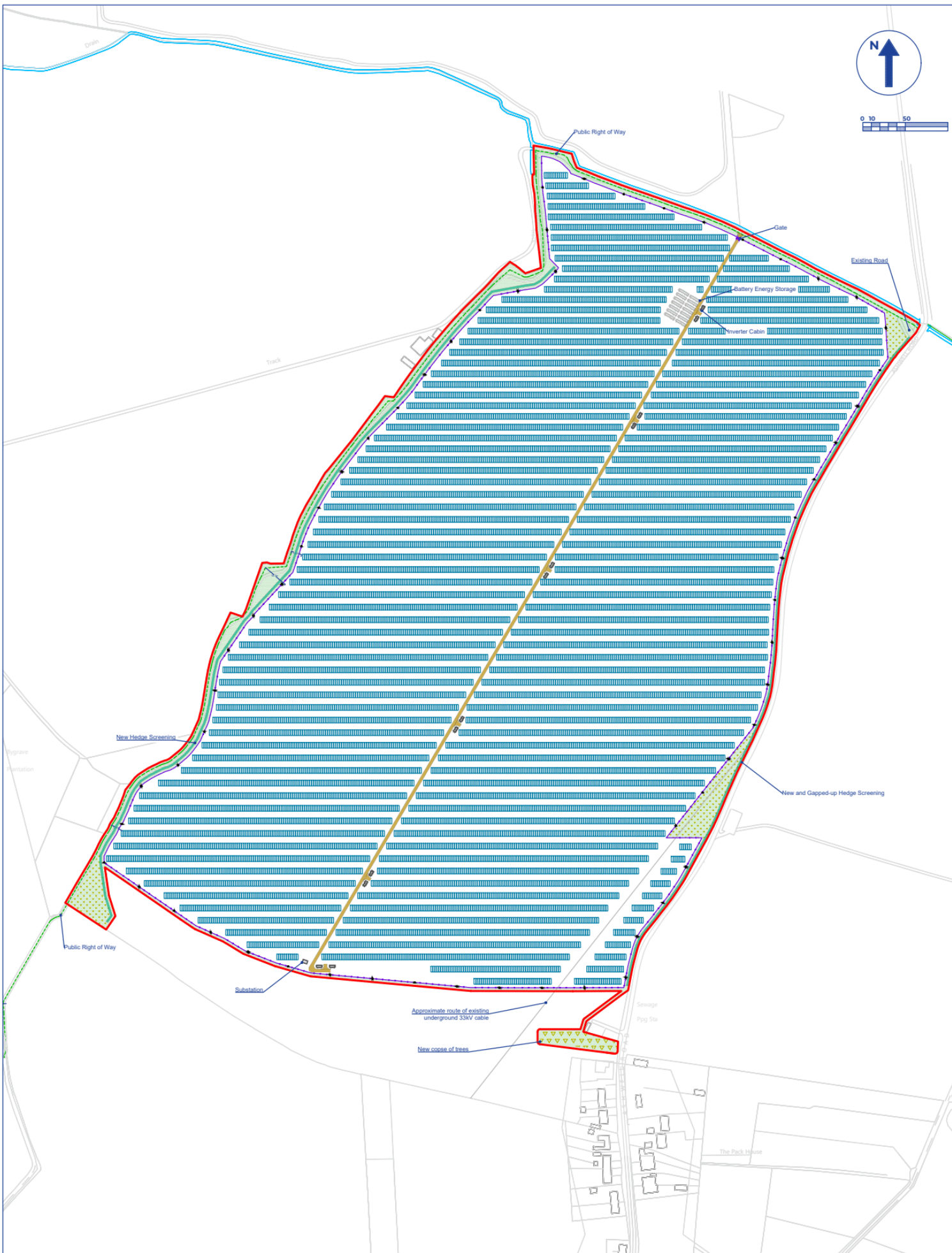
Other comments

Next inspection due date

Email copies to Tree Officer, Site manager?

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APPENDIX 3: SITE LAYOUT



Scale:	1:4000 (A3)
Redline:	53.62 ha / 132.5 acres
	TD 14/08/2022 4:30 PM 0502 2102 304
	
Filename:	UKF092 EXT.dwg

Drawing Title:	UKF092_14 Land Use Plan
Site:	
Date:	04/04/2022

Key			
Planning Application Site Area		PRoW	
Area Outside of Solar Development		New Hedge Screening	
Battery Energy Storage		Planting	
Inverter Cabin		Tree Planting	
Fence			

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