

Appendix 1: Landscape Masterplan

NOTES

LANDSCAPE PROPOSALS

The existing landscape character of the Site and its immediate surroundings is defined by the large arable fields bounded by field drains, isolated blocks of woodland and limited hedgerows/trees. The landscape proposals would build on these existing landscape features and would seek to enhance biodiversity, increase screening of the Proposed Development and allow continued agricultural use through grazing.

PROGRAM

Grass seeding shall be carried out March - June or September - October, when weather and ground conditions are suitable for germination.

Tree and shrub planting shall be carried out October - February, when weather and ground conditions are suitable.

GRASSLAND

Most of the Site will be sown with a low intensity sheep grazing mix specifically designed for solar farms. The seed mix would be the same as that successfully used and grazed for several years at AGR's existing solar farms. The seed mix would comprise long lasting and slow growing cultivars of the species listed on the detailed Landscape Masterplan drawings (2920-01-21 to 23).

The sowing of grass seed mix would be at a rate of 25kg per hectare in 2 passes perpendicular to each other. Prior to seeding the soil would be cultivated to a fine tilth and made level, stones and other materials larger than 50mm in any direction that are brought to the surface shall be removed. Once seeded the areas would be rolled to aid germination. Once the seed has germinated the areas would be mechanically cut at 4 weeks and then every two weeks until the grass sward is established and ready for grazing. Every 10 years the areas would be over sown to boost the sward vigour for continued grazing.

SPECIES RICH GRASSLAND

All other areas that would not be grazed would be seeded with species rich grassland and wildflowers to enhance the overall biodiversity value of the Site.

Species rich grassland would be sown in all areas outside the perimeter fence and along hedge margins as indicated on Planning Drawing 2920-01-03. The seed mix would comprise a mixture of fine-leaved grasses and wildflowers that are relatively slow to establish, but after the first establishment year provide a show of flowers which will provide interest for insects, birds and mammals. The species composition for the species rich grass mix is listed on the detailed Landscape Masterplan drawings (2920-01-21 to 23).

The sowing species rich grass would be at a rate of 25kg per hectare in 2 passes perpendicular to each other. Prior to seeding the soil will be cultivated to a fine seed bed and rolled before and after sowing to aid germination. Stones and other materials larger than 50mm in any direction that are brought to the surface will be removed. Once the seed has germinated the areas will be mechanically cut regularly to control weeds. Once established the areas will be cut once or twice a year after flowering.

HEDGEROWS

Hedgerow planting is proposed along the site boundaries along with gapping up of existing hedgerows to provide screening of the development, habitat connectivity and wildlife corridors.

Hedge planting will be undertaken in a double staggered row approximately 30cm apart at 5 plants per linear metre. Species composition and sizes are listed on the detailed Landscape Masterplan drawings (2920-01-21 to 23). Hedges plants will be planted in a pre-prepared trench, deep and wide enough to fit the roots once spread out. Trenches will be backfilled with site-won topsoil. The line of the hedge will be kept clear of grass and weed competition during the aftercare period by hand pulling or chemical means until established.

Hedge plants will be protected against browsing by the use of gro-cones and fencing.

Any losses of hedge plants will be replaced during the following planting season.

WOODLAND

Native woodland planting is proposed along the western and northern boundaries of the site to provide screening for properties and the enhance existing habitats.

Trees and shrubs will be planted at 3m centres in groups of 3-16 of each species with groups randomly mixed, in L or T shaped notches of a suitable size to fit plant roots once spread out.

All plants will be mulched and protected against browsing by use of rabbit spirals, gro-cones and fencing.

Each tree and shrub station will be clear of grass and weed competition by chemical means until established. Any losses will be replaced during the first winter after planting, and thereafter if necessary sufficient to achieve minimum 85% stocking overall with no badly understocked gaps of more than 4 adjacent losses.

- Application Boundary
- Photovoltaic Panels
- Deer / Stock Fence 2.1m
- Acoustic Fence 5m
- Solar Inverter / Transformer Station
- Solar Storage Building
- Solar Control Building
- Solar Switchgears Building
- Battery Storage Container
- Inverter / Transformer Station
- Control Building
- Switchgears Building
- Access Track
- Low Maintenance Pasture
- Species Rich Grassland
- Hedgerow
- Woodland Shelterbelt
- Existing ditch retained and enhanced
- Existing public right of way
- Existing pylon
- Proposed ditch crossing

Drawing 2920-01-21
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Drawing 2920-01-22
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Drawing 2920-01-23
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