



DECOMMISSIONING METHOD STATEMENT

**Proposed solar farm and battery energy storage system on land
adjacent to the A614, Worksop, S80 3PA**

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Project Quality Control Sheet

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1 General

This Decommissioning Method Statement is in connection with the planning application for a solar farm and battery energy storage system on land adjacent to the A614, Worksop, S80 3PA.

The Decommissioning Method Statement outlines the decommissioning process of the solar farm and battery energy storage system at the end of its operational lifetime.

The site will be reinstated as closely as practicable to its original condition. The logistical impacts of decommissioning are expected to be similar in timescale and load to the construction phase. The decommissioning of the solar farm is anticipated to occur over a 24 week period. However, this timescale is to be used only as a guide as unforeseen events may delay or hasten the operation.

The decommissioning phase will occur circa 40 years after operation has started and an appropriate traffic management plan will be developed prior to decommissioning work commence.

2 Component Removal

After decommissioning has taken place, no elements of the solar farm or battery energy storage system will be left on site, either above or below the ground. All of the infrastructure will either be recycled, reused or disposed of at an appropriate landfill.

The decommissioning of each element of the proposed scheme is set out below.

2.1 Equipment Dismantling and Removal of Above Ground Components

Component	Description
Modules	All wiring, cables and electrical interconnections will be disconnected All racks and supporting structures, including the ground support structures will be dismantled and removed. Components may be kept onsite temporarily prior to removal to optimise the minimum transport loads.
Solar Panels	Solar panels will be separated from the mounting frames. Package panels will be sent to a recycling centre or resold, if still operational.



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MV Power Station	<p>The MV Power Station containers are expected to be broken down off site with salvageable parts resold or recycled.</p> <p>The concrete bases will be broken down and removed from the site.</p> <p>The land will then be back filled and reseeded with an appropriate seed mix.</p>
PCS/Transformers	<p>The transformers and PCS are expected to be broken down off site with salvageable parts resold or recycled.</p> <p>The concrete bases will be broken down and removed from the site.</p>
Battery Container	<p>The batteries and associated wiring, cables and electrical interconnections will be disconnected decommissioned prior to removal.</p> <p>The battery containers are expected to be broken down off site with salvageable parts resold or recycled.</p> <p>The concrete bases will be broken down and removed from the site.</p> <p>The land will then be back filled and reseeded with an appropriate seed mix.</p>
Private switchgear	<p>The private switchgear building is expected to be broken down off site with salvageable parts resold or recycled.</p> <p>The concrete base will be broken down and removed from the site.</p> <p>The land will then be back filled and reseeded with an appropriate seed mix.</p>
Storage & Welfare container	<p>The storage container will be resold or recycled.</p> <p>The concrete base will be broken down and removed from the site.</p> <p>The land will then be back filled and reseeded with an appropriate seed mix.</p>
Access Tracks	<p>It will be identified whether any of the internal access tracks shall be left in place for the benefit of the land owner</p> <p>If tracks are to be removed the aggregate will be excavated utilising a front-end loader.</p> <p>All areas of land which have become compacted will be tilled in order for restoration.</p>



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Fencing	<p>The fencing will be removed from the site, any holes left from the removal will be back filled.</p> <p>This will be resold or recycled</p>
CCTV and Comms Pole	<p>All wiring, cables and electrical interconnections will be disconnected</p> <p>The CCTV cameras, mounting poles and the Communications pole will be dismantled and removed</p>

2.2 Equipment Dismantling and Removal of Below Ground Components

Component	Description
Underground Cables	<p>Underground cabling which runs between the inverters and the substation will be removed in their entirety by pulling and/or trenching</p> <p>This will be resold or recycled</p>
Foundations	<p>Concrete foundations will be removed.</p> <p>This will be conducted with the use of an excavator.</p> <p>Once removed, the concrete will be placed into a crusher to be broken down into aggregate material.</p>

2.3 Equipment Dismantling and Removal of Other Components

Component	Description
SUDS	<p>The swales utilised to control surface water run-off will either be in-filled with new top soil, or left on site if they are beneficial to the land owner</p>



3 Site Access

As set out in the Transport Statement submitted with the application, traffic movements associated with decommissioning are expected to be similar to those associated with the construction of the proposed development, and an appropriate traffic management plan for this period will be developed at a suitable time. This is expected to incorporate similar traffic management measures to those set out in the Construction Traffic Management Plan provided in the Transport Statement, including in terms of how vehicles will access the site (this being via the existing farm entrance from the A614 Blyth Road), working hours, and limits to vehicle types, with these ensuring that there would be no significant impact on highway operation or road safety

A temporary wheel wash will be located on site for all vehicles exiting the site onto the public highway to avoid depositing mud onto the road.

4 Working Hours

Decommissioning work will be undertaken seven days a week. No activities audible from the boundary of the nearest noise sensitive receptor will take place on Sundays during the decommissioning period or at times outside:

- Monday to Saturday: 08:00 – 18:00

HGV's will access and egress the site only between:

- Monday to Friday: 07:00 – 19:30
- Saturday: 08:00 – 17:30

No movements will take place on Sundays or bank holidays.

Any works required outside these hours will be agreed in advance with the Council.



5 Restoration Measures

At present, the land contained within the site is utilised for agricultural purposes. Crop production takes place within the field in which the solar panels and battery energy storage system will be installed. In order for crop production to continue on site after decommissioning has taken place, the land will be reinstated as closely as practicable to its original condition.

If required, a sub-soiler can be utilised to reduce any areas which may be suffering from compaction. This will break up the soil which will then be re-seeded with an appropriate seed mix.

A site restoration scheme will be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority, no later than 12 months prior to the end of the planning permission. The scheme will include a programme of works to remove the solar panels, battery and related equipment, and shall be fully implemented within 12 months of the expiry of the permission.