



South East Strategic Reservoir Option
Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Appendix 2.1 - Draft Code of Construction Practice

Date: October 2025

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1 Overview

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This document is a draft version of a Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) that will accompany the Development Consent Order (DCO) application for the South East Strategic Reservoir Option Project (hereafter referred to as the 'Project').
- 1.1.2 This draft version is provided as part of the information presented at Statutory Consultation as part of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEI Report). It is intended that the release of this draft CoCP will help explain how control measures and standards to be implemented throughout the construction works will be managed to mitigate effects on the local community and the environment. It is intended that the draft CoCP will also facilitate feedback and constructive engagement with stakeholders as the mitigation measures and controls are being developed for the DCO application.
- 1.1.3 While multiple construction works would run concurrently throughout the construction phase, the draft CoCP will act as the overarching document for all construction related activity. The stages of development of the CoCP are summarised in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1 Development Stages of the Code of Construction Practice

Project stage	Version of the CoCP
Design stage Statutory Consultation	Draft CoCP. This version. Produced in support of the PEI Report and Statutory Consultation.
Design stage DCO Submission	CoCP. Application version. Developed in support of the Environmental Statement. Submitted as part of the application for development consent.
Design stage DCO examination	CoCP. Final version. Legally certified under the DCO.
Construction	CoCP. Final version is legally required to be implemented via the contractor(s)' Environmental Management System and related management plans.

- 1.1.4 An updated version of the draft CoCP will be provided as part of a suite of documents which will be submitted as part of the DCO application, taking into account feedback from consultation, stakeholder engagement and environmental assessment work being undertaken to inform the Environmental Statement (ES).
- 1.1.5 The draft CoCP will be kept under review throughout the public examination of the application for development consent, taking into account submissions made during that process. The final version of the CoCP at the end of the examination will become certified when the DCO is made.
- 1.1.6 The final CoCP will outline the measures that will be implemented by the contractor(s) to mitigate potential effects on the local community and environment during construction. The measures set out in the final CoCP will be legally binding under the DCO. The contractor(s) responsible for the delivery of construction will be required to develop an Environmental

Management System (EMS) and related management plans to implement the measures during the relevant works.

1.2 Summary description of the Project

- 1.2.1 The Project is more than a reservoir; it will provide a place for people and nature.
- 1.2.2 As a place for people it will include multi-functional spaces to enable new opportunities for walking, cycling, birdwatching, and education through enhanced public access and connectivity with local communities, integrated with recreational facilities and visitor parking.
- 1.2.3 As a space for nature it will include creation of new aquatic and terrestrial habitats, which will connect to natural systems across and beyond the reservoir site to support nature recovery and natural flood management.
- 1.2.4 Key Project features are shown on PEI Report Figure 2.1: Project overview. The area within which the Project would be located is referred to as the draft Order limits. Within this draft CoCP, this area is referred to as the Site.
- 1.2.5 The Project comprises the following water resources infrastructure:
- Provision of a fully bunded raw (untreated) water storage reservoir with an operational capacity of 150 million cubic metres (Mm3).
 - A pumping station at the base of the proposed reservoir embankment on the north-east side of the reservoir.
 - The river tunnel to transfer flows between the pumping station and the River Thames via intake / outfall structures near Culham.
 - The reservoir tunnels to transfer flows between the reservoir and the pumping station.
 - Thames to Southern Transfer (T2ST) water treatment works (WTW).
 - Sections of pipeline to facilitate transfers from the reservoir to Southern Water via T2ST and Farmoor, and infrastructure to allow connection to future transfer projects.
- 1.2.6 The proposed non-water resources infrastructure includes:
- Main access road into the Site from A415 Marcham Road.
 - Diversion of the existing Steventon to East Hanney Road.
 - Public access and parking.
 - Minor improvements to highways outside of the Core Project Area, including the A34 Marcham Interchange.
 - Two recreational lakes.
 - Recreational facilities, including a Recreational Lakes Centre, Water Sports Centre on the reservoir embankment, Nature Education Centre and active travel provision.
 - A network of Project Priority Areas for Biodiversity (PAB) to provide habitat creation, enhancement or species relocation.
 - Watercourse diversions to both the east and the west of the reservoir.
 - Provision for the Wilts and Berks Canal, this would be provided as a water channel to allow for future provision of operational features such as locks.
 - Additional floodplain conveyance on the east bank of the River Thames and adjacent to the diverted watercourses in the Ock catchment.

- A groundwater drain encircling the reservoir.
- Provision of renewable energy infrastructure including floating solar, solar on structures and hydro-electric turbines. In addition, potential for ground mounted solar is being considered (but for the purposes of the PEI Report is assumed to be included) to replace three existing solar farms that would be lost as a result of the Project.
- Utility diversions, including the diversion of an existing 132kV overhead electricity cable, diversion of an existing gas main near Drayton Road and diversion of an existing gas main to the south of the reservoir embankment which would conflict with the proposed alignment of the Steventon to East Hanney Road diversion.
- Temporary rail sidings will also be required during construction and which will be removed upon completion. Some assets associated with the rail sidings may be adopted by Network Rail for ongoing use and maintenance during operation. An embanked area will be retained to provide landscape and habitat creation.

1.2.7 The Project would abstract and store water taken from the River Thames via intake/out fall structures near Culham, and potentially from a future Severn to Thames Transfer (STT) project. Water would be abstracted from the River Thames during high flow periods via tunnels and a pumping station and be stored in the reservoir.

1.2.8 Water from the reservoir would be released into the River Thames under gravity via the new tunnels and intake/outfall structure during periods of low water flows in the River Thames or during periods of high demand for abstraction further downstream, thereby providing additional resilience during drought conditions. The reservoir would also facilitate the transfer of water to Farmoor (via the Farmoor Transfer) and Southern Water (via the T2ST WTW and pipeline) and provide the opportunity for a potential future transfer of potable water to the Swindon and Oxfordshire (SWOX) water resource zone.

1.2.9 Construction of the Project is expected to take place over three phases (early works, enabling works and main works). An early works phase would commence in 2027 subject to separate consents as required, with enabling works taking place after the DCO is granted (expected to be in 2028). The main works would commence from 2032 and are expected to be complete by 2043, taking approximately 12 years. The reservoir commissioning and filling would take place during the main works phase from 2039 to 2041. Water would be available for use from 2040.

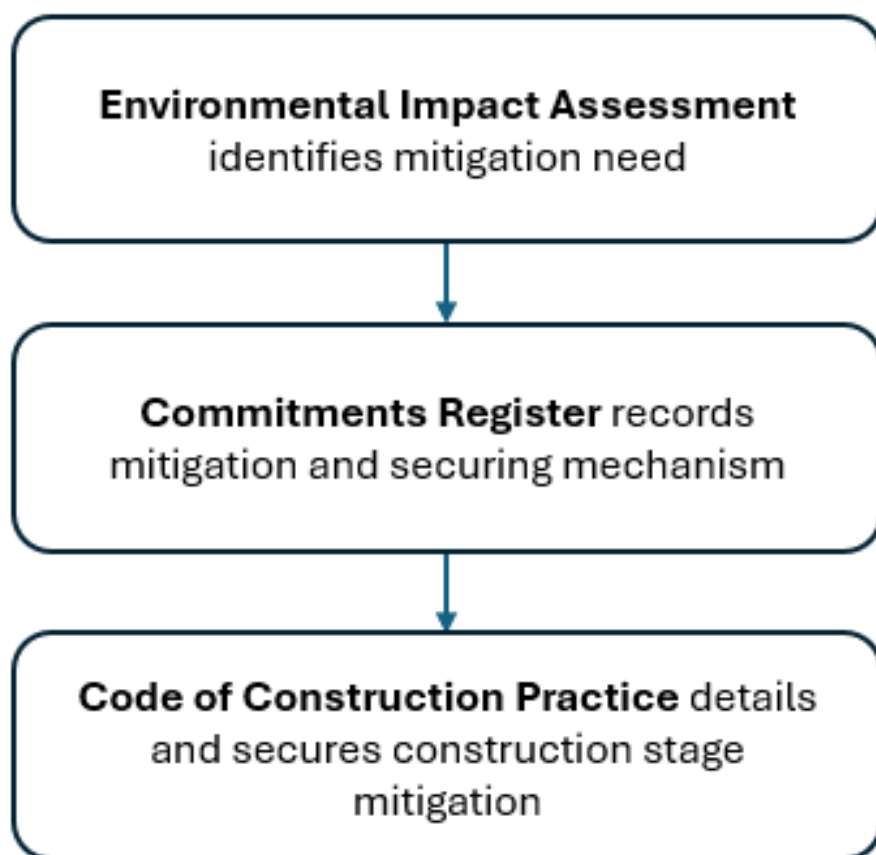
1.3 Relationship to the Environmental Impact Assessment

1.3.1 The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process involves systematic assessment of likely significant effects of the Project and identification of mitigation to avoid or reduce them. As the EIA for the Project proceeds, mitigation is being identified and is being documented within the Draft commitments register, which is provided as PEI Report Appendix 2.2: Draft commitments register.

1.3.2 Appendix 2.2: Draft commitments register lists the commitments to environmental mitigation identified in the EIA Scoping Report (Thames Water, 2024) and developed to support the assessment in the PEI Report. In due course the Commitments Register will include environmental mitigation identified in the ES and related assessment documentation to reduce adverse effects or to achieve good design objectives. Mitigation relevant to construction within the Commitments Register will be delivered through the CoCP, which will be secured under the terms of the DCO.

- 1.3.3 Those mitigation measures relied on in the assessments presented in the PEI Report have been transposed into this draft CoCP and can be identified with a cross reference to an identifier (e.g. [SGP01]) used in the PEI Report version of the Draft commitments register (Appendix 2.2: Draft commitments register). Plate 1.1 shows the relationship between the EIA process, Commitments Register and the CoCP.

Plate 1.1 Relationship of the CoCP to the EIA Process



1.4 Enforcement

- 1.4.1 Compliance with the provisions of the draft CoCP will be enforceable as a Requirement of the DCO in accordance with the provisions of section 161 of the Planning Act 2008.

1.5 Purpose of the draft CoCP

- 1.5.1 The draft CoCP sets out a framework for:
- The management of environmental mitigation measures and controls during construction
 - Communication and engagement with the local community and local authorities during construction.
- 1.5.2 It is intended that the final CoCP will comprise measures and controls that are applicable Project-wide, across all construction sites and compounds, and measures and controls to be applied in relation to certain activities or in specific locations.

1.6 Structure of the CoCP

1.6.1 This document comprises the following sections:

- Management Approach (Section 2): an overview of the identified environmental management systems to be implemented during construction
- Community relations and stakeholder engagement (Section 3): an overview of engagement with the local community, containing the mechanisms for communications, enquiries and complaints
- General requirements: including hours of work, 'good housekeeping', security and other measures (Section 4)
- Requirements by environmental aspects (Sections 0 to 17): an outline of the measures that will be employed to reduce disturbance from construction activities, as far as reasonably practicable.

1.6.2 The identified aspects above largely reflect the aspect headings used in the PEI Report. Other EIA aspects, such as Socio-economics and communities, and activities such as earthworks, are also referenced in a number of sections of this document.

2 Approach to environmental management

2.1 Roles and responsibilities

- 2.1.1 It is proposed that the majority of the Project would be delivered and funded via an Infrastructure Provider (IP). The exact scope of the IP's responsibilities is under development, but it is currently expected that the IP would be responsible for the detailed design, build, finance and potentially some maintenance activities of the reservoir, and that Thames Water would operate the reservoir as part of its network. However, components of the Project that form Southern Water infrastructure (i.e. T2ST WTW) would be delivered by contractors appointed to Southern Water and operated and maintained by Southern Water. At this early stage, there are uncertainties at present relating to responsibilities for implementation of the commitments within the draft CoCP. Responsibilities for the implementation of commitments may be with Thames Water, Southern Water (in relation to the relevant Southern Water infrastructure only) or the IP, and will be clearly set out in the final CoCP.
- 2.1.2 The parties responsible for the relevant components of the Project (i.e. Thames Water, Southern Water or the IP, referred to collectively for the purpose of the draft CoCP as the "Project") will be responsible for instructing and overseeing the activities carried out by the construction contractor(s). It should be noted that there may be multiple contractors working on the Project at any one time, these are referred to collectively for the purpose of the draft CoCP as the "Contractor".
- 2.1.3 To supervise the construction works, suitably qualified and experienced personnel will be employed. This will include professionally qualified environmental management staff, with relevant experience in the environmental aspects covered in the PEI Report, and later the Environmental Statement (ES), the draft CoCP and related management plans. They will be present on site during the main construction works, as appropriate, to advise the Contractor and the contract management team. The staff will further supervise and report on the implementation of appropriate environmental mitigation measures and safeguarding processes.

2.2 Employment and training

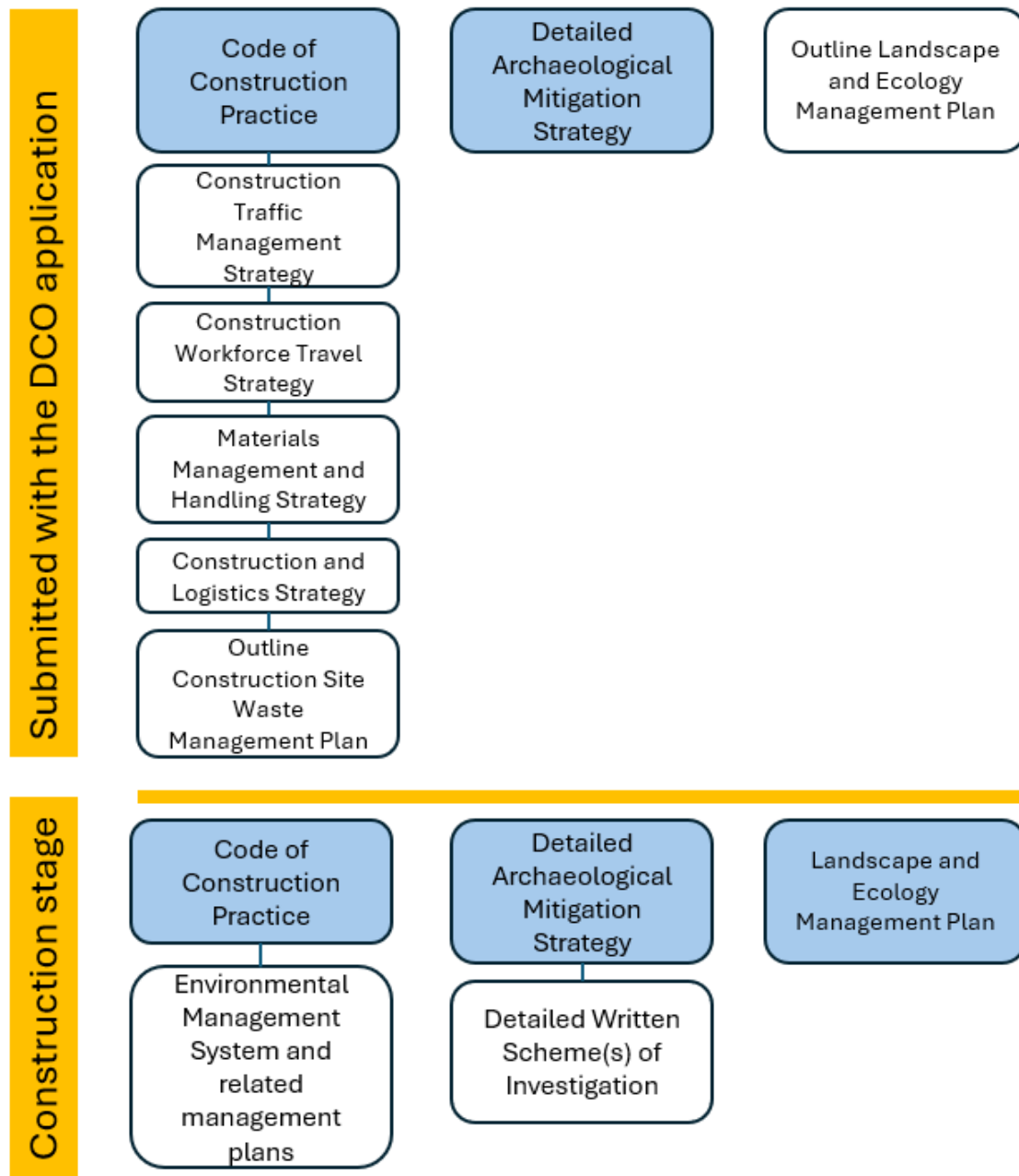
- 2.2.1 The Project will require the Contractor to appoint an appropriately qualified, competent, and suitably experienced workforce.
- 2.2.2 The Contractor will be responsible for the identification of training needs for their personnel enabling appropriate training to be provided, and suitably qualified and experienced professionals will be engaged for this purpose.
- 2.2.3 The training will include inductions, site briefings and toolbox talks to equip relevant staff and visitors with the necessary level of knowledge on health, safety, wellbeing, community relations and environmental aspects, and an ability to follow environmental control measures and to advise employees of changing circumstances as work progresses.
- 2.2.4 The Contractor will be required to set out proposed measures for engaging with the local labour markets, skills providers, educational institutes, and other relevant bodies, to

maximise employment benefits and training opportunities from the construction of the Project as far as practicable.

2.3 Environmental Management System

- 2.3.1 The Contractor will have an EMS that is certified to British Standard BS EN ISO:14001. The EMS will set out processes, practices and plans that enable the Contractor to demonstrate compliance with all relevant legislation, standards, regulations and consents. The EMS will be described within a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) produced by the Contractor after consent is granted. As part of the Contractor's EMS, management plans, strategies and method statements will be developed by the Contractor in accordance with the scope provided in this draft CoCP, risk assessment and industry good practice.
- 2.3.2 The CoCP will be submitted with the DCO application alongside a series of strategies which will form the basis for the development of the EMS and related management plans (see Plate 2.1). The approach outlined in the draft CoCP will be refined, as required, in the preparation of the final CoCP based on feedback from statutory consultation, ongoing engagement, survey activities and design development.
- 2.3.3 The Contractor's CEMP will establish:
- The Contractor's Environmental Policy
 - The procedures required to monitor and report requirements and the effectiveness of the measures outlined within this draft CoCP.
 - Staff competence, training and awareness requirements and how these are achieved and maintained
 - Processes for managing auditing and management reviews
 - Record-keeping arrangements.
- 2.3.4 Any references to industry and good practice guidance provided within this draft CoCP should not be considered an exhaustive review and any subsequent updates to this guidance over the course of the works should be considered as appropriate, and as further defined in the latest management plans.

Plate 2.1 Relationship of the CoCP to other management plans



2.4 Considerate Constructors Scheme

2.4.1 The Contractor will be required to sign up and adhere to the Considerate Constructors Scheme (refer to the Glossary for further information).

2.5 Interface management between adjacent construction sites

2.5.1 The Contractor will be required to implement measures to manage the environmental aspects of interfaces between relevant nearby construction sites. The construction sites will include the boundaries between sites under the responsibility of different Contractors

or, where reasonably practicable, other third-party Contractors working on construction projects adjacent to the Project which are unrelated to the Project.

2.6 Monitoring and reporting

- 2.6.1 The Contractor will undertake the appropriate monitoring and reporting as outlined for each environmental aspect (see Sections 6 -17) to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of the final CoCP, and any additional consent requirements.
- 2.6.2 The monitoring process will evaluate the effectiveness of mitigation measures and the potential impact of construction works associated with the Project. Consideration will also be given to those additional actions that may be necessary to enable compliance.

3 Community and stakeholder engagement

3.1 Community and stakeholder engagement [SGP-27]

- 3.1.1 An approach to community and stakeholder engagement during the construction phase will be developed by the Project and the Contractor, which will include an enquiries and complaints procedure.
- 3.1.2 The approach will include procedures to:
- Maintain effective community and stakeholder engagement throughout the construction phase to further develop existing relationships with the communities
 - Communicate with affected communities and other stakeholders prior to the commencement of the relevant construction activities about how the environmental effects will be managed and, where appropriate, mitigated
 - Relevant stakeholder engagement forums will be established to communicate with affected communities and other stakeholders prior to the commencement of relevant construction activities
 - Present information on the enquiry and complaints procedures.
- 3.1.3 The Contractor will provide appropriately experienced community relations personnel to implement the plan, to provide appropriate information and to be the first point of contact to resolve community issues.
- 3.1.4 The Contractor will take reasonable steps to engage with the community having due regard for wellbeing and mental health, and communicating in plain English. The approach will present strategies for communicating with diverse and hard-to-reach groups.

3.2 Communications

- 3.2.1 During the construction phase, a programme of relevant and ongoing communications will be prepared and implemented by the Contractor or a nominated representative following approval by the Project. This is expected to include:
- Updating the Project website and preparing newsletters with updates that are relevant to the local community and stakeholders
 - Establishing a telephone helpline together with an email address and postal address for enquiries and complaints during the construction phase. The relevant contact numbers, email and postal addresses will be displayed on signs around the construction site where reasonably practicable. Enquiries and complaints will be logged into a register and appropriate action will be taken in response to any complaints.

3.3 Notice of work

- 3.3.1 The Contractor will notify occupiers of nearby properties that will be impacted (in the reasonable opinion of the Contractor) in advance to inform them of the nature, location and anticipated duration of planned construction works.

4 General site management

4.1 Worksite security [SGP-47 and ED-15]

- 4.1.1 The Contractor will carry out site-specific assessments of the security and trespass risk at each site and implement appropriate control measures.
- 4.1.2 The following measures will be used by the Contractor, where appropriate, to prevent unauthorised access to the Site:
- Use of designed and appropriate temporary perimeter fencing or hoarding, for site security and public safety, and placed so that Public Rights of Way (PRoW) are maintained or appropriately diverted (in accordance with the relevant powers secured in the DCO). Temporary fences should be removed on completion of the construction work. Site lighting at site perimeters
 - Adequate security guards and patrols
 - CCTV and infrared surveillance and remotely monitored alarm systems where required
 - Consultation with neighbours on site security matters
 - Consultation with local crime prevention officers on security proposals for each site with regular liaison to review security effectiveness and response to incidents
 - Immobilisation of plant out of hours, removing or securing hazardous materials from site, securing fuel storage containers and preventing unauthorised use of scaffolding to gain access to restricted areas.

4.2 Working hours

- 4.2.1 As far as reasonably practicable, construction works will be carried out during the core working hours so as to minimise adverse noise and vibration impacts from relevant construction activities [SGP-26]. However, due to the nature and scale of the works, many activities are expected to be required to take place beyond these core hours, as set out below.

Core working hours, start up and close-down periods [SGP-26]

- 4.2.2 Core working hours are assumed to be:
- 8am – 6pm each weekday (excluding bank holidays)
 - 8am – 1pm Saturdays
 - 1pm – 6pm Saturdays (for the maintenance of equipment and plant).
- 4.2.3 To ensure a good practice approach and maximise productivity within the core hours, the Contractor will require a period of up to one hour before and up to one hour after core working hours for start-up and close-down of activities. This will include (but not be limited to) deliveries, movement to/from place of work, unloading, maintenance and general preparation work. This will not include operation of plant or machinery (except where required in relation to the additional working hours below), or materials being delivered to site that are likely to cause a disturbance to local residents or businesses unless

undertaken as part of the additional working hours noted below). These periods will not be considered an extension of core working hours.

Additional working hours

- 4.2.4 To ensure the safe operations, construction personnel safety, or for reasons of engineering practicability, the listed activities below will need to be conducted outside of the core working hours defined above. In many situations, this may result in a need to undertake works on a 24 hours/seven days per week basis.
- 4.2.5 Activities which may require working outside of core working hours, may include, but are not limited to, the following:
- Setting out activities such as marking out the dimensions of design onto the Site may require extended hours to ensure these can be undertaken safely when plant and equipment is not in use
 - Utility diversions and connections which may need to be completed at specific times of the day, for example to suit low periods of demand
 - Surveys (e.g. for wildlife or engineering purposes), habitat creation works, and species translocation may need to be carried out outside core working hours
 - Tunnel shaft sinking and associated tunnelling tasks are likely to require 24-hour working, seven days per week
 - The Rail Siding and Materials Handling (RSMH) facility could require 24-hour working during its establishment to carry out work during night-time rail possessions on the Great Western Mainline. The unloading and loading of trains may be carried out during the evening, night or early morning periods depending on the available timetable slots for trains accessing the Great Western Mainline, to be agreed with Network Rail
 - Highways-related works (e.g. for highways lane closures and lifting activities over live highways) may need to be carried out during suitable periods of low traffic use.
 - Earthworks activities, particularly those associated with the reservoir embankment, are season and weather dependent. The Contractor will seek to maximise undertaking earthworks activities during the drier season, working longer hours and additional weekend hours during the summer period (typically May-September) to take advantage of additional daylight
 - Reservoir earthworks would also pause during winter months if the weather were adverse. The main reservoir earthworks are likely to be carried out from March-November, although drier weather beyond this period may extend this reservoir earthworks period [SGP-32]. Earthworks associated with other Project components including the pumping station, tunnels, shafts and intake/outfall structure would take place all year round
 - Some activities commencing during core working hours may extend into evening and night-time hours for reasons of engineering practicability or because they involve activities that cannot be safely stopped once started. Such activities may include but are not limited to major concrete pours. Long concrete pours are anticipated to be required at the pumping station and for reservoir tower construction
 - Large or unusual unloading activities may also be carried out outside of core working hours to avoid congestion risks
 - Some activities will require 24-hour use of equipment such as generators or pumps.

- Commissioning and filling – Commissioning and filling activities would usually be carried out 24 hours a day and seven days a week where possible with monitoring and out of hours response required overnight and at weekends some cases.

4.2.6 Repairs or maintenance of construction equipment that is required to be carried out outside core working hours will normally be carried out on Saturday afternoons between 13.00 and 18.00. Only essential repairs or maintenance works will be undertaken on Sundays.

4.2.7 In the case of work required in response to an emergency or which, if not completed, would be unsafe or harmful to the works, staff, the public or the local environment, the relevant local authority will be informed as soon as reasonably practicable of the reasons for the works and their likely duration. This information will also be made available to the helpline. Examples of the type of work envisaged include unforeseen pollution incidents or repairs to security fencing.

4.3 Worksite layout and good housekeeping

4.3.1 To reduce the likelihood of an environmental incident or nuisance occurring, the following measures will be used, where relevant and practicable, at each phase of construction:

- Establishment of appropriate fencing to working areas to prevent unauthorised access
- The provision of waste management
- Effective preventative pest and vermin control and prompt treatment of any pest and vermin infestation, including arrangements for disposing of food waste or other attractive material. If an infestation occurs, the Contractor will take action to eliminate the infestation and prevent further occurrence
- Prohibition of open fires, and a requirement to take measures to control the risk of fires
- Removal or stopping and sealing of drains and sewers taken out of use; no discharge of site runoff to ditches, watercourses, drains, sewers or soakaways without the agreement of the appropriate authority
- Maintenance of wheel-washing facilities to stop mud tracking onto the highways or other containment measures
- Location of storage, machinery, equipment and temporary buildings to reduce environmental effects and, where practicable, outside flood risk areas
- The use of less intrusive noise alarms that meet the particular safety requirements of the Site, such as broadband reversing warnings, or proximity sensors to reduce the requirement for traditional reversing alarms
- Controls on lighting/illumination to limit visual intrusion or any adverse effect on sensitive ecology
- The location of the main site compound and/or workforce overnight accommodation to avoid overlooking residential property
- Management of staff congregating outside the Site prior to commencing or leaving work
- Security measures, such as closed-circuit television (CCTV) – the location and direction of view of security cameras or blocking software to prevent intrusion into residential properties will be considered [SGP-47]
- Avoidance of the use of loudspeakers or loudhailer devices
- Containing and limiting the visual intrusion of construction sites, as far as reasonably practicable

- Provision of maps showing sensitive areas and buffer zones where pollutants are to be stored or used
- Smoking areas at site offices/compounds or worksites equipped with containers for smoking wastes – these would not be located at the boundary of working areas or adjacent to neighbouring land
- PRow, including diversions, will be maintained for as long as reasonably practicable for pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians affected by the Project, and reasonable adjustments made to maintain or achieve inclusive access.

4.4 Hoardings, fencing and screening

4.4.1 The Contractor will be responsible for the appropriate provision of high quality, effectively designed and sustained perimeter security hoardings, fencing and screening and bunding where appropriate. These features will be progressively installed as the working area expands, and suitable for the location and activity taking place. Long-term security hoardings will be appropriately designed in each location and act as noise and dust control where appropriate.

4.4.2 The following measures will be used as appropriate:

- Adoption and maintenance of adequate screening, fencing and hoardings to an acceptable condition to prevent unwanted access to the construction site, provide noise attenuation, screening and ensure site security where required
- Maintenance of protective fencing and/or specialist fencing (e.g. reptile fencing and silt fencing) to protect environmentally sensitive features during the construction phase.
- Maintenance of existing walls, fences, hedges and earth banks for the purpose of visual and/or acoustic screening as far as reasonably practicable
- Consideration of the impact on the local landscape character and visual amenity of hoardings facing away from the Site
- Provision of site information boards with contact details such as out of hours contact details, the community helpline and details of the construction programme, at key locations
- Display of notices on site boundaries to warn of hazards on site, such as deep excavations and construction access
- Display of notices to confirm that businesses whose access or view may be impacted upon by construction works remain open, including details of access
- Provision of signage to indicate re-routed pedestrian/cycle paths
- Provision of information on routes to alternative community facilities.

4.5 Site lighting

4.5.1 To enable the safety and security of the construction sites, site lighting and signage will be provided by the Contractor prior to the commencement of construction in consultation with relevant authorities. This will be in accordance with a lighting strategy developed for the construction period.

4.5.2 The site lighting will only be implemented where there is a clear functional or safety requirement. The site lighting will provide the minimum illumination levels required to

enable a safe and secure construction site [SGP-51] and will use low energy consumption fittings.

4.5.3 Construction phase lighting strategy will be informed by the following guidance:

- Institute of Lighting Professionals, Guidance notes for the reduction of obtrusive light GN01:2021 (2021)
- The Institution of Lighting Professionals, Maintenance factor determination and its impacts on the performance and overall efficiency of LED luminaires GN11:2020 (2020)
- The Institution of Lighting Professionals, Guidance note 8: Bats and artificial lighting GN08:2018 (2018)
- BS 5489-1 (Code of practice for the design of road lighting) (BSI, 2020)
- North Wessex Downs AONB Position Statement on Dark Skies and Artificial Light (North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, 2021a)
- Dark Skies of the North Wessex Downs a Guide to Good External Lighting (North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, 2021b)
- Lighting Design Guidance for South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse (Vale of White Horse District Council and South Oxfordshire District Council, 2024)

4.5.4 Where necessary, and for health and safety, lighting to site or working area boundaries will be provided. Illumination will be sufficient to provide a safe route for the construction workforce and passing pedestrians.

4.5.5 Lighting will be designed, positioned and directed to account for the environmental conditions.

4.5.6 Monitoring of light obtrusion effects will include illuminance measurements to be recorded near sensitive habitats where considered necessary by the ecologist (e.g. bat roosts and foraging routes), and adjustments made to avoid spill light onto these habitats. Monitoring will be particularly relevant outside of hibernation periods, as identified by the ecologist.

4.6 Welfare facilities

4.6.1 Welfare facilities will be provided, as appropriate, for site personnel such as locker rooms, drying rooms, toilet and shower facilities [SGP-17].

4.6.2 The welfare facilities will be subject to the same environmental control measures as outlined within the draft CoCP for other construction works.

4.7 Worker accommodation

4.7.1 The provision of on-site workers' temporary living accommodation is being considered. Standards of temporary living accommodation will be subject to the same environmental control measures as are set out in this draft CoCP for other construction works and be positioned with consideration to known flood risk areas.

4.8 Worker Code of Conduct

- 4.8.1 The Project will require the Contractor to sign up to and adhere to a Worker Code of Conduct, to be cascaded through the workforce.
- 4.8.2 The Worker Code of Conduct will cover general behaviour expected of those involved in the construction phase, including their interaction with local communities, in line with the Project's values.
- 4.8.3 Particular provision will be included relating to construction workers using temporary workforce accommodation, car parking, use of local community and recreation facilities, prevention of anti-social behaviour and reducing risk of communicable diseases.

5 Accident and incident prevention and control

5.1 Emergency preparedness

- 5.1.1 As part of the Contractor's EMS, an Emergency Plan for the Site will be prepared. As far as reasonably practicable, the procedures will be standardised across the various work sites and will account for the anticipated hazards relevant to the site-specific layout. The Emergency Plan will contain phone numbers for the emergency services and the principal staff of the Contractor, in addition to the method for notifying statutory authorities and Thames Water.
- 5.1.2 The Emergency Plan will be developed in consultation with the emergency services and other relevant third parties, including the relevant water undertaker, as appropriate.
- 5.1.3 The Contractor will work with emergency services and key stakeholders, to ensure that emergency access roads, muster points, and parking for emergency services vehicles are appropriately considered and maintained during construction.
- 5.1.4 For the provision of site access points, the Contractor will ensure that the reasonable requirements of the relevant emergency services will be adopted to the extent that they are known. The Contractor must ensure that the access points are suitably designed and developed to account for the types of emergencies that could occur, and the extent and severity of their effects. The design and development should further account for the alteration of site access points throughout the duration of construction works.
- 5.1.5 The objectives of the Emergency Plan will be to:
- Avoid, contain and control any major accidents
 - Implement the measures necessary to protect people and the environment
 - Set out protocols for communicating with the public, emergency services and authorities concerned in the area in the event of a major accident
 - Provide for the restoration and clean-up following a major accident.
- 5.1.6 The Emergency Plan will consider major accidents to people and to the environment (e.g. pollution, fire, Unexploded ordnance (UXO) and infectious diseases), and will include the following as appropriate:
- The strategy for responding to major accidents both off and on site
 - Roles and responsibilities of the lead appropriately qualified and experienced personnel
 - Identification and provision of facilities required to enable effective response, including alternatives where the effects of a major accident could render them inaccessible or unusable
 - Identification and provision of suitable equipment and materials required to respond to an emergency, including a system of inspection and maintenance to ensure that they can be utilised effectively when required
 - Consideration of potential adverse effects resulting from emergency actions.
- 5.1.7 The Emergency Plan will set out a requirement for suitable drills and practice at appropriate intervals, and/or whenever a significant change to the arrangements is made.
- 5.1.8 The Contractor will monitor the effectiveness of the arrangements in place to manage the risk of potential major accidents and the associated mitigation.

5.2 Reservoir emergency plans

- 5.2.1 An emergency on-site plan according to Environment Agency guidance (Environment Agency, 2021) will be developed during the design and construction phase of the Project, before filling the reservoir [SGP-37]. This is a separate requirement to the emergency preparedness plan discussed in Section 5.1.
- 5.2.2 The on-site emergency plan will include emergency response protocols, escalation procedures, emergency drawdown measures and on-site plan determining the access routes and the location of equipment controls. It will ensure the right people can prevent, control and respond to any threat from the reservoir that could endanger life or property. On-site plans refer to emptying the reservoir in an emergency or undertaking temporary repairs and facilitating this through the associated procedure which is certified every five years by a reservoir Supervising Engineer.
- 5.2.3 The on-site emergency plan work in conjunction with off-site emergency plans. Off-site plans are coordinated by the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) involving reservoir operators. Guidance and templates (Defra, 2021) set out considerations such as flood risk, coordination of a response, vulnerable communities, infrastructure and recovery. The guidance also refers to data protection for sharing of reservoir flood mapping outlined in the National Protocol for the Handling, Transmission and Storage of Reservoir Inundation (Flood) Maps for England and Wales (UK Reservoir Safety Group, 2018). This data is used for both on-site and off-site plans.
- 5.2.4 Both of these plans will be produced in advance of the reservoir being filled for the first time.

5.3 Pollution prevention and incident control

- 5.3.1 The Contractor will develop and implement appropriate measures to control the risk of pollution resulting from construction works. This will include a Pollution Incident Control Plan (PICP), produced as part of the Contractor's EMS. The PICP will recognise the risk of pollution from construction works and will present proactive management practices to ensure that any pollution incident that may occur is controlled, reported to relevant parties and remediated. The plan will define the criteria for implementing the relevant measures [SGP-16].
- 5.3.2 The Contractor will prepare a PICP, containing the following measures as appropriate to manage the risk of pollution incidents:
- Ensure that site drainage plans and flood risk management plans are available on site and are kept up to date
 - Ensure that pollution shut-off valves are used in compounds with formal drainage
 - Ensure provision and maintenance of spill kits and staff competence and awareness in implementing plans and using pollution response kit
 - Provision of maps showing the locations of local emergency services facilities together with address and contact details, (e.g. police stations, fire authorities, medical facilities and other relevant authorities)
 - Provision of contact details for the relevant authorities, such as the Environment Agency, and the persons responsible on the construction site and within the Contractors' organisation for pollution incident response

- Provision of contact information for a competent spill response company which can be contacted at short notice for an immediate response, where appropriate
- Notification of appropriate emergency services, authorities, and personnel on the construction site
- Notification of relevant statutory bodies, environmental regulatory bodies, local authorities and relevant water and sewerage undertakers of pollution incidents
- A statement of appropriate information to be provided to the relevant local authority(ies) and the Environmental Agency, as appropriate, in the event of any incident.

5.3.3 In the preparation of the pollution incident response measures, as outlined within the PICP the Contractor will consult with the relevant statutory bodies and other relevant third parties. The measures will also comply with Defra and the Environment Agency's Guidance: Prevent groundwater pollution from solvents which provides good practice advice for preparing a PICP (2016a).

5.3.4 The Contractor will put in place arrangements to investigate and provide reports on any potential or actual significant pollution incidents, including, as appropriate:

- A description of the pollution incident, its location (and Ordnance Survey (OS) grid reference), the type and quantity of contaminant and the likely receptor(s)
- Contributory causes
- Adverse effects
- Measures implemented to mitigate adverse effects
- Any recommendations to reduce the risk of similar incidents occurring.

5.4 On-site and fire prevention and control

5.4.1 All construction sites and welfare facilities will have in place appropriate management controls to prevent fires. A fire risk assessment will be completed and implemented as part of the Contractor's EMS to manage risk throughout construction, including emergency procedures and measures for the safe storage and handling of fuel and plans for dealing with incidents, including the control of fire water. These will be kept updated as appropriate throughout the works. Any hot work activities will be completed under procedures outlined by the Contractor.

5.5 Unexploded ordnance (UXO)

5.5.1 The Contractor will review the Detailed UXO Risk Assessment prior to construction works, or the carrying out of surveying and investigative works. The Contractor will raise awareness of the risks associated with UXO through site induction processes and toolbox talks.

5.5.2 The Contractor will keep a watching brief in areas identified as having the potential for UXO.

5.5.3 The Contractor will prepare and implement the emergency response procedure in the Emergency Plan, including the preparation of notifications to the relevant local authorities, and relevant services. The emergency response procedures will be prepared in accordance with Unexploded ordnance, A guide for the construction industry CIRIA C681

(2009) or the appropriate equivalent guidance at the time of construction should this be superseded.

5.6 Control of infectious diseases

- 5.6.1 Relevant Government guidance on working safely during epidemics/pandemics will be implemented to prevent the spread of infectious disease during construction.

6 Water environment

6.1 Surface water and groundwater management [SGP-02, SGP-05]

- 6.1.1 Where works within the saturated zone (i.e. below the water table) cannot be avoided, measures will be introduced to protect water quality, level and volume, in accordance with the measures outlined in Section 10: Geology and soils. The Contractor will adhere to site good practice and the Environment Agency's Groundwater protection guidance (EA, 2017).
- 6.1.2 The Contractor will implement temporary construction surface water and groundwater drainage systems to manage the potential impacts arising from construction works. This will be facilitated by a construction stage sustainable water management system. Overall, the sustainable water management system will regulate discharges to any receiving watercourses to calculated greenfield rates [ED-41]. This system will be appropriately planned to reduce impacts on water quality and quantity for aquatic habitats [ED-48].
- 6.1.3 The Contractor will ensure effective sequencing of the works, including the construction of the eastern and western watercourse diversions, associated flood conveyance and the embankment groundwater drain. This will remove the reservoir embankment construction area from the functional floodplain and mitigate flood risk from groundwater as construction progresses [ED-01, ED-03].
- 6.1.4 The temporary construction drainage systems will include the provision of adequately sized attenuation and treatment facilities, where appropriate. The sizing of attenuation will take account of best practice and areas of existing flood risk and the relevant permitting requirements of the Environment Agency and/or the Lead Local Flood Authority.
- 6.1.5 Where operational phase drainage is to be constructed early and used to manage construction phase run off, appropriate storage and sediment control measures will be implemented to ensure it can effectively manage the expected sediment load.
- 6.1.6 The management of surface water across the construction site will take account of existing surface water catchments, and existing surface water receptors will be retained wherever practicable.
- 6.1.7 A series of treatment measures will be implemented across the Site to treat potentially polluting matter contained within surface water runoff. This will include measures to manage sediments (see below for further detail), hydrocarbons (generated by fuel oils), cement and other alkali-based construction materials and heavy metals.

6.2 Sediment control [SGP-03]

- 6.2.1 The Contractor will specify measures to reduce and manage sediment erosion, control sediment mobilisation and entrainment and manage sediment transport and deposition. This will include, but is not limited to, the following measures, as appropriate:
- Reduction of areas of exposed ground and stockpiles, as far as reasonably practicable, to reduce silty runoff
 - Adoption of geotextiles, where necessary, to shield stockpiles, and stockpiles left for more than three months will be seeded

- Installation of cut-off ditches around excavations, exposed ground and stockpiles to prevent sediment release
- Control of earth movement to reduce the risk of the contamination of silt and site runoff
- Control of mud at site entry and exit points using wheel-cleaning areas and road sweeps, as appropriate [SGP-22]
- Washing and cleaning of plant, equipment and machinery in designated areas within the construction site where runoff is isolated for treatment prior to discharge
- Installation of restriction and barriers, such as straw bale traps and gravel, for works adjacent to watercourses/water bodies, to prevent damage to riparian vegetation, and manage the pathway for untreated silt-laden runoff to enter the watercourse
- Adequate provision for the removal and treatment of sediment from site runoff, such as in settlement tanks/ponds and through use of flocculants.

6.3 Pollution prevention and control [SGP-03]

6.3.1 The Contractor will consult with the relevant regulatory bodies on the measures to be implemented to contain and manage surface water runoff from construction works.

6.3.2 The measures will aim to prevent deterioration of the water environment and other adverse impacts. Measures will include, but are not limited to, the following, as appropriate:

- Identification of the response procedures to be implemented in the event of works affecting groundwater levels or quality with subsequent adverse effects on abstractions, watercourses, water bodies or springs
- Procedures for managing construction works in areas of potentially contaminated land
- Procedures for managing intercepted groundwater that contains elevated concentrations of contaminants
- Procedures to limit adverse dust and air pollution effects
- Compliance with the BS 6031 Code of practice for earthworks, regarding the general control of site drainage (BSI, 2009)
- Adoption of oil interceptors at the construction compounds and site offices
- Adoption of pollution shut-off valves in compounds with formal drainage
- Adoption of bunds of non-erodible material or silt or sediment fences adjacent to sensitive receptors.

6.3.3 The Contractor will adhere to a range of measures to control and manage pollution, chemicals and oils which are to be documented within the Pollution Incident Control Plan [SGP-16]. This will include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Adherence to the Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) (England) Regulations 2001, as amended, and the Environment Agency's guidance on storage of oil
- Adherence to Environment Agency: Prevent groundwater pollution from underground fuel storage tanks (EA, 2016b)
- Compliance with Environment Agency guidance on Oil storage regulations for businesses; consultation with the relevant regulatory bodies regarding specific requirements in relation to establishing and operating concrete batching plants on site (2023b)
- Identification of emergency procedures to be put in place in the event of any pollution incidents specified in a pollution incident response procedure

- Use of stationary plant with secondary containment measures such as plant nappies and bunding to retain any leakage of oil or fuel, which will be emptied or replaced at regular intervals to prevent overflow
- Storage of spillage kits at key locations on site and at specific refueling or storage areas, suitable to the substances in use and being stored on site
- Training of staff to use spillage kits and record all spillage incidents.

6.4 Control and management of foul water [SGP-04]

- 6.4.1 The Contractor will manage and dispose of foul water and sewage effluents from site facilities. Where a foul sewer is not present or discharge to the foul sewer is not considered appropriate, the Contractor will need to adopt provisions to dispose of the liquid from site, such as via a tanker.
- 6.4.2 The Contractor will adhere to the following measures, as appropriate:
- Provision of temporary foul drainage facilities to contain foul water
 - Disposal of foul water off site by a licensed Contractor
 - Compliance with relevant guidance, such as Environment Agency guidance: Septic tanks and sewage treatment plants (EA, 2023c), and the Environment Agency's Groundwater protection guides (previously GP3) (EA, 2017)
 - Connection to the local foul sewer system as agreed with the relevant statutory undertaker, where appropriate
 - Where a foul sewer is not present or discharge to the foul sewer is not considered appropriate, appropriate treatment and discharge to a watercourse or soakaway with approval from the Environment Agency, where required.
- 6.4.3 Records of existing foul water assets including pipe network and other facilities will be obtained. Their location will be taken into account during relevant construction activities.

6.5 Private water supplies

- 6.5.1 A risk assessment will be undertaken by the Contractor for works with the potential to impact any identified private water supplies (any water supply and associated physical assets not provided by a water company where the water is consumed for domestic purposes or as part of a public or commercial activity).
- 6.5.2 Records of existing water supply assets including pipe network and other facilities will be taken into account during relevant construction activities.
- 6.5.3 In the unlikely event that water supply pipes become damaged during construction, these will be repaired or replaced as quickly as is reasonably practicable.

6.6 Excavations and dewatering

- 6.6.1 Where appropriate, the Contractor will undertake risk assessments for excavation work and dewatering impacts on surface water, groundwater and abstractions in line with permitting requirements.

6.7 Flood risk [SGP-05]

- 6.7.1 A number of flood risk management measures will be implemented as part of the Contractor's EMS to reduce significant impacts to flood risk. This will include, but is not limited to, the following, as appropriate:
- Removal of obstacles and debris from surface water runoff pathways
 - Development of a plan to identify suitable access and refuges in the event of severe weather events
 - Consultation between the Contractor and the Environment Agency and Lead Local Flood Authority
 - Awareness of relevant regulatory bodies flood risk management plans
 - Use of the Environment Agency's Floodline to provide a flood risk warning in flood risk areas within the Project.
- 6.7.2 The measures will be developed for the construction phase and will account for a broad range of aspects including all construction areas located within Flood Zone 2 and 3, areas vulnerable to surface water and groundwater flooding, and other flood risk sources such as sewer flooding and reservoir flooding.
- 6.7.3 The Contractor will ensure the effective planning of sites and the storing of materials in all flood risk plans. For all temporary and permanent works, a risk based precautionary approach will be adopted.
- 6.7.4 The placement of stockpiles, accommodation, temporary facilities, machinery and plant should be selected applying the sequential approach informed by flood zoning, mapped areas of existing surface water flooding and groundwater susceptibility.
- 6.7.5 Areas at elevated risk of flooding (i.e. areas within Flood Zone 3, 2) and mapped areas at risk from surface water flooding should be avoided. If any activities such as stockpiles, accommodation, temporary facilities, machinery and plant storage are considered for areas of elevated flood risk these areas should only be taken forward if mitigation, informed by detailed analysis can ensure that the area is safe from flooding with people and property protected to a standard of protection that matches the impact of inundation (to be discussed with the Environment Agency and Lead Local Flood Authority). This should take account of safe access and egress.
- 6.7.6 The Contractor will be required to report on flood risk to the Project. Reporting will summarise any applications for environmental flood risk permits and the status of the works, in addition to any flood risk management or mitigation measures to support temporary or permanent works proposals. The reporting should include a statement of the cumulative flood risk impacts of the temporary and permanent works.

6.8 Watercourse crossings [SGP-35]

- 6.8.1 Bridges and culverts will be designed to maintain flow and sediment continuity and species permeability which will maintain the overall function and integrity of the associated watercourses.

6.9 Water efficiency [ED-53]

- 6.9.1 The Contractor will adopt measures to improve water efficiency during construction, for both potable and non-potable end uses. The measures will draw on best practice. Where reasonably practicable, the measures will include the following:
- Embedding water efficiency measures into facilities such as temporary accommodation and welfare facilities
 - Implementing water meters and regularly taking readings
 - Implementing measures to identify, reduce and prevent leakage
 - Adopting efficient technologies for dust suppression, such as efficient nozzle technology to create a more efficient spray pattern and/or the use of wetting additives
 - On-site messaging to raise awareness and reinforce water efficient behaviour
- 6.9.2 The Contractor will employ water recycling techniques across all construction sites, where practicable, e.g. rainwater harvesting, greywater reuse, and wheel washes.
- 6.9.3 The Contractor will adopt measures that prioritise use of non-potable water sources, such as rainwater, for on-site non-potable purposes, such wheel washes and dust suppression.
- 6.9.4 The Contractor will undertake a water use profiling exercise in advance of undertaking all works. This will enable the Contractor to understand the volumes and quality of the water required, identify potential water sources and align them with the key water demands.

6.10 Monitoring

- 6.10.1 As part of the permitting process, the Contractor will consult the Environment Agency and relevant water and sewerage undertakers regarding water quality, flow and level monitoring to be undertaken for watercourses and groundwater that will be affected by construction works or the discharge of surface water runoff, which will include the following, as appropriate:
- Pre-construction monitoring to establish baseline water quality conditions for watercourses and groundwater
 - Monitoring during construction works to enable the effectiveness of mitigation measures to limit pollution risk to be monitored and any pollution incidents to be identified
 - Monitoring of watercourses or groundwater receiving surface water runoff during construction to enable the effectiveness of treatment and other sustainable drainage systems measures to be determined and to ensure that an unacceptable rise in groundwater levels does not occur.
- 6.10.2 The Contractor will carry out appropriate monitoring to identify:
- Pollution risks that are unacceptably high
 - Spillages and leakages
 - Potential non-compliance with the CoCP
 - Suspected pollution incidences
 - Remedial actions required.

7 Biodiversity

7.1 General measures

- 7.1.1 The Contractor will be required to manage impacts from construction on ecological resources, encompassing the following:
- Statutory ecological designations including Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
 - Non-statutory sites designated for nature conservation such as Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)
 - Habitats of Principal Importance (HPI) (Priority Habitats)
 - Legally protected and conservation notable species
 - Other habitats and features of ecological importance (ancient woodlands, veteran and ancient trees, linear/ecological corridors and water bodies).
- 7.1.2 The Contractor will apply appropriate measures to protect designated ecological sites from direct disturbance during construction, where practicable [ED-48].
- 7.1.3 Within the Order limits, the Contractor will take opportunities to further reduce habitat loss and protect and enhance biodiversity. Strategies to achieve this include the installation of appropriate exclusion measures to prevent accidental incursion; measures to avoid pollution of sensitive habitats such as watercourses.
- 7.1.4 Retained watercourses will have an exclusion zone in place for their riparian areas (10m 'Other rivers and Streams', 5m 'Ditches' (as per Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) definitions as measured from bank top) (Defra, 2023), excluding at crossings [SGP-46].
- 7.1.5 Specific detailed measures will be included within Method Statements in support of protected species mitigation licences, including for European protected Species issued under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 or the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 [SGP-06]. Where such licences apply to specific ecological receptors, or geographical locations, or timing of works and working methods, these must be adhered to or a licence modification otherwise sought.
- 7.1.6 The Contractor will ensure that exclusion zones are maintained in line with best practice and the context of the construction works to be undertaken.

7.2 Ecological management measures [SGP-06]

- 7.2.1 Ecological management measures will include the preparation, display of, and briefing to the workforce of the following, as appropriate:
- Plans showing the locations of all known areas of ecological interest that may be affected due to construction
 - Plans showing the location of invasive non-native species including those listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (UKWAS, 2014), as amended, such as Japanese knotweed [SGP-08]
 - Plans showing the location of any fences/barriers to be erected for the purpose of controlling animal movements during and after construction

- Plans showing the location of any ecological features that are to be created/installed prior to construction
- Procedures to be adopted in the event of unanticipated discovery or disturbance of protected species or important habitats
- Procedures and any special measures to be implemented in the event of a pollution incident, where this occurs on or adjacent to a designated nature conservation site or where protected or notable species are known to be present, or other habitats and features of ecological importance.

7.2.2 Other measures for potential ecological impacts are addressed in other sections of this draft CoCP and are not repeated here. The Contractor must account for the requirements relating to:

- Lighting (see Section 4.5)
- Control of water quality and flow (see Section 6)
- Management of trees (see Section 9.3)
- Control of dust (see Section 13.2)
- Control of noise and vibration (see Section 14).

7.2.3 A suitably qualified and experienced Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) will be appointed by the Contractor during the implementation of the ecological mitigation measures relevant to construction.

7.2.4 General measures to be implemented by the Contractor will include, where reasonably practicable:

- Sensitive siting of compounds, materials and waste storage areas, haul routes and other measures to avoid retained semi-natural habitats and limit impacts on protected species
- Avoiding night-time working wherever practical, particularly in the vicinity of sensitive habitats such as woodland, hedgerows and watercourses
- Limiting the use of lighting, generators and other noisy equipment at night in the vicinity of retained sensitive habitats
- Covering excavations overnight or providing appropriate escape ramps for mammals, e.g. badgers, in the form of a sloped face to the excavation or a scaffold plank or similar
- Visually checking relevant excavations for the presence of wildlife each morning before works commence, taking advice from the ECoW if a protected species is found or suspected
- Supervised vegetation clearance and translocation of animals and plants to retained/enhanced areas in the draft Order limits and for translocation to occur once receptor habitats are established
- Keeping obvious mammal trails clear of obstructions where relevant and practicable
- Delaying or reducing severance impacts from vegetation removal by maintaining the feature intact as long as possible, keeping any gap to the minimum required for the purpose (where practicable) and considering filling gaps with brash or similar when work is not being undertaken (e.g. on a bat commuting route at night) so that it can continue to function as a wildlife corridor where it is appropriate and practicable to do so
- Careful and regular management of soil storage areas to maximise their future value in landscape planting and to dissuade badgers and other burrowing animals from colonising them in the interim (see Section 10: Geology and soils).

- 7.2.5 The programming of construction works will, as far as reasonably practicable, take into account seasonal constraints for a range of species and their habitats (e.g. bird nesting habitat, badger setts, amphibian and reptile hibernation, and bat breeding and hibernation roosts as applicable). Consideration will be given to impacts on nesting birds outside of, but adjacent to the construction zone. In addition, supervised and staged clearance of suitable reptile and amphibian habitats within the construction zone will occur at an appropriate time of year [SGP-07].

7.3 Biosecurity and control of invasive and non-native species [SGP-08]

- 7.3.1 A specialist invasive and non-native species Contractor will be appointed by the Contractor to implement appropriate measures for the treatment, handling, control and the removal of invasive, non-native species (both plants and animals) and injurious weeds, following ecological best practice guidance.
- 7.3.2 Prevention measures, such as biosecurity protocols, shall be implemented to reduce the spread of invasive non-native species during construction.

7.4 Monitoring

- 7.4.1 The Contractor will consult with the relevant statutory authority, in relation to any monitoring and survey works to be undertaken prior to construction.
- 7.4.2 Species specific monitoring requirements will be detailed within the relevant Natural England licence method statements. There will also be general monitoring of non-licensed species where relevant.
- 7.4.3 Habitat monitoring will be implemented to assess the success of the establishment of newly created habitats and the protection measures for retained habitats. This monitoring will be utilised to update the biodiversity net gain calculation throughout the Project life cycle. Any remedial works required will be carried out by the Contractor, so that the desired habitat condition criteria is achieved.
- 7.4.4 The Contractor will undertake suitable monitoring throughout the construction works. The Contractor will also hold responsibility for the implementation of mitigation measures to enable the effectiveness of these measures to be identified.

8 Historic environment

8.1 General provisions [SGP-09]

- 8.1.1 The Project and the Contractor will apply good practice in the management of impacts of construction works, including physical disturbance, on the following cultural heritage assets:
- Designated assets: Scheduled Monuments, including the 'site south-east of Noah's Ark Inn, Frilford Scheduled Monument' [ED-38]; listed buildings, including the Grade II listed Milestone at SU 4152 9217 along the A338 [ED-47]; registered parks and gardens; Conservation Areas and registered Historic Battlefields
 - Non-designated assets: archaeological and paleo-environmental remains including geological deposits that may contain evidence of the human past, historic landscapes and historic buildings and the built environment and locally designated assets.
- 8.1.2 These measures would include as relevant:
- Implementation of controls to avoid damage to buried remains which are to be preserved in situ, where reasonably practicable. This would include demarcation, fencing and signage of protected areas during construction, to avoid potential disturbance
 - Implementation of controls on the movement of construction vehicles and machinery in areas of heritage interest (e.g. archaeological remains and historic buildings at risk from accidental strike damage)
 - Development and implementation of a procedure for soil stripping and excavation before commencement of archaeological investigation works
 - Procedures to preserve archaeological remains in situ beneath earthworks.
- 8.1.3 Track matting or geotextile will be implemented, where practicable, to avoid or reduce the impacts to buried archaeological remains from the movement of plant or other construction vehicles [SGP-10].
- 8.1.4 The use of other measures could include, for example, temporary surface build-up from the existing ground surface to spread weight and reduce the risk of compaction in areas of known archaeology which would not be affected directly by construction activities [SGP-10].

8.2 Detailed Archaeological Mitigation Strategy

- 8.2.1 A Detailed Archaeological Mitigation Strategy (DAMS) will be provided as part of the DCO application. This will set out the scope, guiding principles and methodology for the planning and implementation of further archaeological evaluation and archaeological mitigation that is required as a result of the construction of the Project. The measures set out in the DAMS will likely comprise:
- Additional trial trench evaluation
 - Detailed archaeological excavation
 - Targeted archaeological monitoring during construction and operation
 - Protocols to be adopted for dealing with unexpected archaeological discoveries.

8.2.2 The DAMS will also include:

- An overview of principal roles and their responsibilities for the successful delivery of the measures
- Measures to deliver further site-specific Written Schemes of Investigation that will be prepared by the Archaeological Contractor in liaison with the relevant local authority Archaeology Advisor
- Measures for the monitoring of the archaeological works by the relevant local authority Archaeology Officer to ensure compliance with the DAMS
- Measures for meetings, progress reporting and for confirming the completion of archaeological works with the relevant local authority Archaeology Officer
- An outline public outreach strategy
- Measures for post-fieldwork reporting by the Archaeological Contractor which will be agreed with the relevant local authority Archaeology Advisor, such as interim reporting, post-excavation assessment, updated Project design and publication (including requirements for archiving with local museums or other public repositories).

9 Landscape and visual

9.1 General provisions [SGP-13]

- 9.1.1 Where reasonably practicable, the Contractor will employ appropriate measures to protect the landscape from construction activities, to manage and maintain landscape works provided as part of the Project and to protect visual amenity.
- 9.1.2 Construction-related impacts on landscape character and visual amenity will be controlled through the following:
- Protection of existing components of the landscape in the draft Order limits that are to be retained, including trees, hedgerows, and topographic features
 - Careful design and management of temporary construction components (e.g. compounds, fencing, haul roads)
 - The effective implementation of operational design measures, as early as reasonably practicable during the construction programme, which have a role in mitigating landscape and visual impacts.
- 9.1.3 Planting, seeding, wildflower seeding, and other landscape works will consider the recommendations of the latest version of relevant British standards (and subsequent revisions at the time of construction).

9.2 Measures to reduce potential impacts [SGP-11, SGP-13]

- 9.2.1 The Contractor will implement appropriate control measures to manage the impacts of construction-related impacts on landscape character and visual amenity. Control measures will include, but are not limited to, the following:
- Protection of existing trees, woodlands, hedgerows and other vegetation to be retained in order that these components continue to contribute to screening / integrating the development, and/or landscape character and visual amenity
 - Particular attention must be given to the protection of areas of ancient woodland, and trees categorised as ancient or veteran, and trees covered by Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) which are to be retained, all of which must be clearly and visibly marked as such in plans, on site, and highlighted to all operatives through tool-box talks by a specialist arboricultural consultant
 - The use of well-maintained temporary hoardings and fencing, designed in response to landscape character and visual amenity
 - Management of site lighting with consideration for visual amenity, landscape character, and to reduce visual disturbance
 - Handling of soils in accordance with the Materials Management and Handling Plan (MMHP) (see Section 10.5) [SGP-15]
 - Protection and appropriate storage of soils to be used for landscape purposes.
 - Well-maintained temporary earthworks, including excavations, borrow pits and soil stockpiles, designed in response to landscape character and visual amenity. This will include temporary landscape proposals, where appropriate, such as seeding of soil stockpiles.

- Provision of suitably qualified and experienced landscape specialists with responsibility for monitoring landscape works.

9.2.2 Where land is not required to facilitate construction, landscape design measures will be implemented as early as possible. The Project will require the Contractor to consider where measures can be implemented early and thereby programme the landscape works accordingly.

9.3 Protection of trees [SGP-11]

9.3.1 The Contractor will employ a specialist arboricultural consultant to oversee works relating to the management and protection of trees. The arboricultural consultant will confirm and visually indicate trees that are to be retained and which require protection, based on those identified within BS 5837:2012.

9.3.2 Measures to protect retained trees will include the following, as appropriate:

- Provision of appropriate protective fencing around Root Protection Areas (RPA) to reduce the risks associated with vehicles operating over root systems or beneath canopies
- Standard guidance for working within RPA, such as procedures to follow in the event significant roots are uncovered
- Measures to prevent compression of soils within RPA and undisturbed woodland soils, by vehicles and plant movement, storage of materials
- Processes for the selective removal of lower branches to reduce the risk of arboricultural damage by construction plant, machinery and vehicles
- Maintenance of vegetation buffer strips, where reasonably practicable
- All tree surgery activities conducted throughout the Project will comply with the recommendations in BS 3998; Tree work Recommendations (BSI, 2010), where appropriate.

Tree felling

9.3.3 Where there are no windthrow issues, tree felling will be kept to a minimum. Where appropriate, tree surgery, such as crown reduction and pollarding methods, will be employed foremost to felling to maintain the maximum biodiversity and landscape value and visual amenity. All tree surgery and felling activities must consider the legal protection given to species such as roosting bats and breeding birds. The Contractor will be responsible for undertaking tree felling and will consider the United Kingdom Forestry Standard (Forestry Commission, 2017).

9.3.4 The arboricultural consultant should coordinate with the Contractor, and the appointed ecologist, to establish the quantities of cut timber and brash that should be retained on site for habitat creation measures, such as the creation of log piles and hibernacula.

Clearance and reinstatement of sites upon completion [SGP-12]

9.3.5 Land which is temporarily required during construction will be reinstated to an equivalent, or better, condition after construction works are complete [SGP-34].

- 9.3.6 The Contractor will develop the Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) largely in accordance with the outline LEMP and species-specific mitigation strategies. The Contractor, or an appropriately qualified specialist Contractor, will undertake all works relating to the supply, storage, handling, planting, transplanting and maintenance of new planting, informed by the LEMP. This will be conducted in accordance with the following (and subsequent revisions at the time of construction):
- British Standards Institution, BS 4428: Code of practice for general landscape activities (excluding hard surfaces), BSI (1989)
 - British Standards Institution, BS 8545 Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape, BSI (2014c)
 - UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) (Forestry Commission, 2017)
 - United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) (2014).
- 9.3.7 When procuring trees and shrubs, consideration will be given to appropriate biosecurity measures to reduce the risk of pests and diseases being introduced to the immediate environment. All imported trees will have spent at least one full growing season on a UK nursery and have been subject to a full pest and disease programme. Evidence of this control programme, together with a complete audit trail of the imported trees, should be made available to the Project on request.

9.4 Monitoring

- 9.4.1 Monitoring of landscape works will be undertaken by suitably qualified and experienced specialists, during the works and maintenance/management period.

10 Geology and soils

10.1 General provisions

- 10.1.1 The Project and the Contractor will comply with appropriate environmental legislation and guidance available at the time of construction. For geology and soils this will be detailed in the Materials Management and Handling Strategy (MMHS).
- 10.1.2 A MMHP will be developed by the Contractor based on the principles of the MMHS to describe how excavated materials will be handled and reused on site. This will form part of the Contractor's EMS. It describes how the Contractor will investigate, assess, and remediate contamination in accordance with national standards and commitments.
- 10.1.3 The MMHP will provide measures in relation to the use of topsoil and subsoil [SGP-15]. The framework set out in the MMHS is to be applied to all excavated materials reuse, management and storage.

10.2 Land contamination assessment and remediation [SGP-43]

- 10.2.1 The Contractor will implement investigations, assessments and remediation in accordance with Land Contamination Risk Management (LCRM) (EA, 2023a). The Contractor will undertake sufficient investigation to inform remediation options appraisal for potentially contaminated areas.
- 10.2.2 The remediation options appraisal will be undertaken in accordance with the UK approach to sustainable remediation (SuRF) set out by Contaminated Land: Applications in Real Environments (CL:AIRE).
- 10.2.3 The Contractor will consult with the local authorities and the Environment Agency regarding assessment and remediation of contamination and appropriate protection measures.
- 10.2.4 Control methods will be implemented to manage the risk of harm to human health, prevent significant pollution of waters and prevent significant harm to environmental receptors.
- 10.2.5 The Contractor will implement a watching brief and develop a contamination discovery approach setting out actions to be implemented for unexpected contamination.
- 10.2.6 CL:AIRE (2016) confirms that all work with potential asbestos contaminated soils or materials is regulated by the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012 (CAR, 2012) and associated code of practice and classed as 'work with asbestos'. The Contractor will implement the relevant requirements set out in CARSOIL for all work with potential asbestos contaminated soils and Made Ground [SGP-31].
- 10.2.7 Piling or similar penetrative works in areas of land affected by contamination will be assessed by a foundation works risk assessment (FWRA) in accordance with the CL:AIRE Piling and Penetrative Ground Improvement Methods on Land Affected by Contamination: Guidance on Pollution Prevention (2025).
- 10.2.8 The Contractor will set out a ground contamination verification approach for collecting data associated with remediation and risk management, and unexpected contamination during

the works and will compile data. The Contractor will compile the ground contamination verification report as defined by the checklists in LCRM (EA, 2023a).

10.3 Reuse of excavated materials and soils [SGP-14]

- 10.3.1 The Contractor will seek to maximise the reuse of excavated materials and soils on site where practicable [ED-24].
- 10.3.2 The reuse of excavated soils and earthworks will be undertaken in accordance with the CL:AIRE Definition of Waste Code of Practice (DoW CoP) (2011). This will include appropriate investigations, assessments as described in Section 11.2 and either a remediation strategy or design statement before earthworks commence.
- 10.3.3 The Contractor will produce an overarching 'live' Materials Management and Handling Plan (MMHP) and a series of appropriate materials management plans (MMP) and verification reports as required by DoW CoP associated with the phasing of excavations, stockpiling and reuse of soils and excavated materials over the construction phase. The Contractor shall employ an independent Qualified Person (QP) and submit relevant declarations and verification reports to CL:AIRE.

10.4 Management of earthworks

- 10.4.1 The Site earthworks will require the management of topsoil, natural subsoils and agricultural soil resources and natural geology in accordance with the MMHP.
- 10.4.2 Where reasonably practicable, the Contractor will:
- Phase earthworks to limit the volume of soils requiring temporary stockpiling
 - Stockpile clean excavated materials in a manner which safeguards the underlying soils and groundwater, and agree the design storage in consultation with the Environment Agency prior to stockpiling.
 - Manage materials storage in accordance with good practice guidance
 - Hold contaminated materials in contained areas with impermeable bases and bunding to prevent infiltration and runoff of contaminated waters
 - Segregate stockpiled soil resources to separate topsoil from subsoil, and from other excavated materials such as bedrock and superficial deposits, to avoid mixing
 - Segregate, handle and treat (where necessary) waste and non-waste materials, including stockpiling independently to avoid mixing and cross contamination
 - Design stockpiles to reduce visual intrusion and spreading of dust
 - Handle excavated acceptable materials in an appropriate manner to ensure it remains suitable for use to reduce the environmental effects of the Project.

10.5 Soil resources and agricultural land [SGP-15]

- 10.5.1 The MMHP will incorporate requirements for soil management in accordance with Defra Code of Practice for sustainable use of soils on construction sites (Defra, 2009). This will include topsoil stripping and storage and topsoil reuse and amelioration, as well as treatments for the subsoil to ensure that a suitable soil profile is produced to provide the desired soil function.

- 10.5.2 Controls will be implemented to mitigate impacts on agricultural land, maintaining access, where relevant. The Contractor will:
- Identify the farms and types of farms adjacent to the construction site
 - Identify watercourses and, where known, field drainage layouts and outfalls into watercourses or ditches, fixed irrigation pipes and sources of irrigation water and fixed water supplies for livestock
 - Maintain details of the owners, occupiers and agents for land adjacent to the construction site
 - Maintain details of the husbandry associated with the areas of land adjacent to the construction site.
- 10.5.3 The Contractor will ensure liaison is maintained with affected landowners, occupiers and agents, as appropriate. The Contractor will be required to:
- Advise landowners, occupiers and agents, as appropriate, regarding the intended commencement of construction works in areas of the Site adjacent to agricultural holdings, and when any agricultural land used temporarily is intended to be returned to agricultural use
 - Advise landowners, occupiers and agents, as appropriate, regarding the provision of accommodation works
 - Advise the programme and access roads to be used
 - Take precautions in developing the construction programme to reduce disturbance.
- 10.5.4 Precautions will be taken to identify, protect and maintain existing land drainage, irrigation and livestock water supply systems as far as reasonably practicable.
- 10.5.5 The Contractor is required to comply with the relevant guidance issued by Defra and the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) regarding the prevention of the spread of soil-borne, plant and animal diseases (Defra and APHA, 2025).
- 10.5.6 During works on or adjacent to agricultural land appropriate measures will be implemented, in accordance with the Defra Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites (2009) or future editions of that.

10.6 Geology

- 10.6.1 A fossil response approach will be developed by the Contractor during the works. This will include measures to be implemented if a significant fossil is encountered during the construction phase. The approach will provide a guide as to what is defined as a significant fossil find, and the actions required. The Contractor will brief staff on the potential to encounter significant fossils and implement a watching brief. If a significant fossil is identified, action may include:
- Cessation of earthworks in the immediate vicinity of the significant find
 - Consultation with relevant stakeholders
 - Document the location and date and time of the find
 - Photograph the specimen
 - Record and describe the geology and depth of find.
- 10.6.2 The find will be reported to the Project, who will consult as appropriate with the local museum(s) and other relevant interested parties in conjunction with the Contractor.

10.7 Burial pits

- 10.7.1 Control methods will be prepared by the Contractor to be implemented in the event of encountering animal burial pits. Government guidance shall be adhered to including the provisions of Article 16 of the Animals (Miscellaneous Provisions) Order 1927 and a licence or the permission in writing of an Inspector employed by Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA).
- 10.7.2 A licence (AB110) will be obtained from the local APHA office to exhume a carcass. The following information will be provided from the Contractor:
- Relevant information regarding the company/ company representatives exhuming the carcasses
 - The location of the carcass/remains (if possible, including grid reference)
 - A written procedure setting out the exhumation protocol and cleaning and disinfection (C&D) procedures
 - Copies of Risk Assessment(s) (RAs) and Safe system(s) of Working relating to the exhumation
 - The name and approval number of the disposal site used for disposal of the Animal By-Products (ABP).
- 10.7.3 The exhumation will be carried out under the supervision of an Inspector appointed under the Animal Health Act and employed by APHA or the local authority.
- 10.7.4 The disposal must be at a Category 1 incineration or rendering plant. The Contractor will confirm that the destination premises is approved to receive, and will accept, the materials and if there are any other conditions that need to be met. The list of approved premises is available on GOV.UK.
- 10.7.5 The Contractor will maintain commercial documents required and keep these records for two years. The equipment in contact with pits and carcasses will be washed and sprayed with disinfectant. The Contractor will agree cleaning protocol with the APHA Inspector.

10.8 Monitoring

- 10.8.1 Monitoring plans will be prepared and implemented as part of the Contractor's EMS. This will include:
- Groundwater and surface water monitoring and analysis
 - Monitoring of these waters before, during and after construction.
- 10.8.2 The monitoring will include periodic measurements of water quality and potential relevant contaminants and it will be agreed with the Environment Agency and take account of the existing assessments, potential contamination sources and the nature of planned construction activities.

11 Materials and waste

11.1 General provisions

- 11.1.1 The Project and the Contractor will encourage resource efficiency (covering waste minimisation and reuse, recycling, and sustainable material specification, energy and water) throughout the construction of the Project.

11.2 Management of waste

- 11.2.1 The waste hierarchy, as outlined by the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011, as amended, will be used by the Project as the overarching framework for the management of waste from construction-related activities [ED-55].
- 11.2.2 The Contractor will act to reduce the waste generated from construction activities where reasonably practicable. This will include:
- The preparation of a Site Waste Management Plan (SWMP) substantially in accordance with the Outline Site Waste Management Plan that will be prepared as part of the DCO application, incorporating targets where relevant [SGP-33]
 - Identifying further opportunities to reduce waste
 - Measures such as careful storage of materials on site, minimisation of packaging and the use of re-usable packaging.

Identification and classification of waste on site

- 11.2.3 The Contractor's SWMP will identify the quantities and types of waste estimated to arise during the works. The identified waste will be classified in accordance with the statutory controls governing the management of inert, non-hazardous and hazardous wastes.
- 11.2.4 The Contractor will update and further refine the Outline SWMP and will implement the principles outlined in best practice guidance to reduce waste consigned to landfill.
- 11.2.5 The Contractor will also use the CL:AIRE DoW CoP to confirm the excavated material as a resource rather than a waste, where appropriate.
- 11.2.6 The Contractor will establish a system with the aim of ensuring that waste materials are separated into appropriate waste streams to maximise their reuse, recycling and recovery on and off site. On site hazardous excavated material or waste will be segregated and stored away from other materials. Appropriate storage receptacles will be used for the collection and storage of waste to facilitate the segregation.
- 11.2.7 The Contractor will select and appoint an appropriately licenced waste management company/companies to manage and transport waste in line with current waste legislation and policy.

Duty of care

- 11.2.8 All waste for disposal off site will be accompanied by appropriate legal duty of care documentation. The duty of care documentation will adhere to the relevant statutory

requirements for waste transfer and hazardous wastes, in accordance with the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011.

- 11.2.9 The Contractor will comply with all duty of care requirements to manage the potential effects of handling, storing, transporting and depositing excavated materials and demolition and construction wastes arising from the Project. The arrangements for registering the Project, consigning, handling and transporting hazardous wastes will be followed by Contractor in line with the duty of care and the specific consignment note procedures in accordance with Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2005.
- 11.2.10 The Contractor's employees will undergo appropriate training to undertake these responsibilities. Training will include, but not be limited to, waste management handling, storage, inspection and reporting.
- 11.2.11 The Contractor will be responsible for ensuring that all waste material is appropriately transported by registered waste carriers and recovered, treated or disposed of at permitted or designated sites.

Waste monitoring

- 11.2.12 To ensure compliance with the requirements of the CoCP, in addition to statutory controls, the Contractor will conduct frequent and timely audits and inspections of waste management activities.
- 11.2.13 The Contractor will be responsible for recording all waste loads leaving the Site. The record will provide a suitable audit trail for compliance purposes and will enable monitoring and reporting of waste types, quantities, management and disposal methods.

11.3 Material resources

- 11.3.1 The Contractor will use resources efficiently to maximise the environmental and built-environment benefits from the use of surplus resources arising during construction, and reduce the adverse environmental effects and risks associated with disposal off site.
- 11.3.2 The Project and the Contractor will also identify opportunities to achieve cut and fill balance during the construction works of the Project.

12 Traffic and transport

12.1 General provisions

- 12.1.1 The Contractor will carry out the works in such a manner as to minimise inconvenience to the public arising from increased traffic flows and disruption from construction traffic, so far as reasonably practicable, this includes the use of rail to transport bulk construction materials to the Site [ED-05].
- 12.1.2 There is a potential need for localised highways improvements (e.g. junction improvements, improvements to pedestrian crossings, signing and marking improvements) to reduce the effects of the Project on the wider transport network during construction. These will be implemented by the Contractor once the required improvements are confirmed.
- 12.1.3 The realigned Steventon to East Hanney road will come into operation whilst the construction of the reservoir and other infrastructure is ongoing and before the closure of the existing road [ED-19].
- 12.1.4 Impacts from construction traffic on the local community (including all local residents and businesses and their customers, visitors to the area, and users of the surrounding transport network) will be managed through measures contained in a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) [SGP-19].
- 12.1.5 The Contractor will consult with members of the stakeholder engagement forum (see Section 3.1) regarding traffic management and other traffic related measures to be implemented in accordance with the draft CoCP. The membership of this forum will include relevant local authorities, Parish Councils, National Highways and Network Rail (*list to be confirmed*).
- 12.1.6 Road safety audits will be carried out where relevant to reduce any impacts on road safety, in accordance with the DMRB GG 119 Road Safety Audit (Highways England, 2020) [SGP-01].

12.2 Construction and logistics

- 12.2.1 A Construction and Logistics Strategy will be developed to accompany the DCO application. This will outline the approach to coordination of the workforce, equipment, materials and waste during the construction phase. This will be developed by the Contractor into a Construction and Logistics Plan, largely in accordance with the strategy.

12.3 Construction traffic management [SGP-19, SGP-20, SGP-21]

- 12.3.1 The CTMP will be produced and implemented by the Contractor, based on the Construction Traffic Management Strategy. This will include management, safety and control measures to reduce the impact of the construction traffic covering:
- Highway safety
 - Management of vehicle deliveries to the construction site
 - Management of rail network use for deliveries to the construction site

- Management of routes used by construction vehicles
- Management of PRow diversions and closures
- Practices to reduce the number of construction vehicle movements
- Abnormal indivisible loads (AALS)
- Protection of the public highway.

- 12.3.2 The CTMP will be developed and implemented in line with Construction, Logistics and Community Safety (CLOCS) guidance (CLOCS, 2024). This will address construction vehicle safety, driver competence and compliance with environmental standards, as well as any safety hazards, particularly on local roads approaching the construction sites. The CTMP will align with the logistics approach to be outlined in the Construction and Logistics Plan.
- 12.3.3 The impact of road-based construction traffic will be reduced by implementing and monitoring clear controls on vehicle types, hours of site operation, parking and routes for large goods vehicles.
- 12.3.4 Where site accesses and at-grade crossings of public roads are required for construction vehicles, the Contractor will provide traffic management measures as required and design these measures to ensure safety to users and avoid unnecessary delay to vehicles on the public highway.
- 12.3.5 In relation to large goods vehicles and AILs (for instance, vehicles carrying large items of plant or equipment), management measures will be developed, covering:
- Timing traffic movements
 - Local routes to be used by lorries generated by construction activity
 - Weighbridge requirements and locations
 - Measures to deal with AILs, such as notifications and escorting.
- 12.3.6 Public access to existing routes for cyclists, pedestrians and vehicle users will be maintained, where reasonably practicable. Where this cannot be maintained, appropriate diversions will be put in place ahead of closures, where feasible, with advanced notice provided to users [SGP-49].

12.4 Construction workforce travel

- 12.4.1 A Construction Workforce Travel Plan (CWTP) will be produced and implemented by the Contractor, based on the Construction Workforce Travel Strategy. The aim of the plan is to reduce the impact of workforce travel on local residents and businesses for each construction phase covering:
- The need for a travel plan coordinator and a description of their responsibilities
 - Key issues considered in the CWTP for each compound/construction site or group of sites
 - Anticipated workforce trip generation and how it may change during the construction programme, noting any plans for workforce accommodation
 - Typical travel plan measures that the Contractor will implement to reduce the impact of construction workforce on the transport network
 - The approach to setting targets to reduce individual car journeys by the construction workforce
 - The approach to surveying workforce travel patterns
 - The approach to monitoring and reviewing the CWTP.

12.5 River Thames navigation

12.5.1 The Contractor will develop measures to reduce disruption to the River Thames and vessels that use the waterway, such as:

- Undertake a Navigational Risk Assessment of construction and emergency scenarios, to confirm findings of that prepared for the DCO application and to inform method statements
- Provide appropriate notice to mariners for construction works
- Install appropriate signage whilst works are taking place in the River Thames
- Engagement with the Environment Agency and other relevant stakeholders.

13 Air quality

13.1 Air quality management – general provisions

13.1.1 The Contractor will be required to control and limit dust, air pollution, odour and exhaust emissions during the construction works as far as reasonably practicable and in accordance with best practicable means (BPM).

13.1.2 As part of the EMS, the Contractor will prepare site-specific air quality management measures before works commence on site. This will include, but not be limited to:

- An inventory and timetable of activities which may give rise to emissions or dust
- General site management and good housekeeping procedures
- Controls and measures to reduce the effect of potential nuisance caused by the construction works
- Additional dust and air pollution monitoring measures.

13.1.3 These measures will be developed with reference to good practice publications, such as:

- Guidance on the Assessment of dust from demolition and construction, Institute of Air Quality Management, January 2024 v2.2 (IAQM 2024) (Holman et al., 2014)
- Air Quality Monitoring in the Vicinity of Demolition and Construction Sites, Institute of Air Quality Management, October 2018 v1.1 (IAQM 2018) (IAQM, 2018).

13.2 Dust control measures [SGP-23]

13.2.1 The Contractor will develop and implement good practice dust mitigation management measures. These control measures will include, where reasonably practicable:

- Plan the Site layout to ensure that machinery and dust-causing activities are situated away from sensitive receptors, as far as reasonably practicable
- Use of water for dust/particulate matter suppression/mitigation, using non-potable water where possible and appropriate, and avoiding site runoff
- Providing a wheel washing system for vehicles entering and leaving the Site. Water-assisted dust sweepers will be used on access and local roads to remove any material tracked out of the Site
- There will be an adequate area of hard surfaced road between the wheel wash facility and the Site exit, wherever site size and layout permits
- Bonfires and the burning of material will not be permitted on site
- Effectively covering and securing skips
- Construction vehicles will be required to be covered by a fixed cover or sheeting (which must be appropriately effective at preventing the spillage of materials and dust) and use alternative dust suppression measures if required (including the use of rail and road delivery vehicles) within the Site and when removed from Site.

13.2.2 Haul routes will be provided through the works for use by construction vehicles to access the works. The construction and maintenance of haul routes, will include the following measures, as appropriate:

- Installation of hard surfaced haul routes or other appropriate measures to reduce dust generation
 - Methods to clean and suppress dust on haul routes from highway network (including watering) and in designated vehicle waiting areas. The frequency of cleaning will be suitable for the purposes of suppressing dust emissions from the Site
 - Inspection of all on-site haul routes regularly and instigation of necessary repairs to the surface as soon as reasonably practicable
 - Provision of areas of hard standing at site access and egress points to be used by any waiting vehicles
 - Enforcement of speed limits on haul roads for safety reasons and for the purposes of suppressing dust emissions
 - Remove any haul routes when no longer required as soon as reasonably practicable.
- 13.2.3 Task-based dust control will be included in Contractors' method statements, including, but not limited to:
- Use of enclosures for small areas and misting for larger areas
 - Consideration for weather forecasts and adjustment to tasks and control measures as necessary
 - Ensuring that excavated materials will be carefully placed and not dropped from height.
- 13.2.4 Where a risk of dust pollution from demolition activities is identified, this will be managed using effective dust suppression as far as reasonably practicable. This may include measures such as pre-wetting of structures before demolition or the use of dust screens or barriers.
- 13.2.5 Dust pollution associated with grouting activities will be limited using the following measures, as appropriate:
- Dust extractors, filters and collectors on silos
 - The mixing of grout or cement-based materials will be undertaken using a process suitable for the prevention, as far as reasonably practicable, of dust emissions.
- 13.2.6 Dust pollution associated with processing and crushing rock, for use as aggregate or other materials within the works, and for conveying material, processing, crushing, cutting and grinding will be limited through the use of the following measures, as appropriate:
- Drop heights from equipment, conveyors, loading shovels, hoppers and other loading or handling equipment will be reduced, and fine water sprays will be used on such equipment wherever appropriate
 - Use of cutting, grinding or sawing equipment fitted or in conjunction with suitable dust suppression techniques where reasonably practicable
 - The enclosure of conveyer transfer points, and damping of conveyor loads
 - Enclosed conveyers where crossing roads, other public areas and property not owned by the Project
 - The application of water sprays to damp down in dry weather.
- 13.2.7 The Contractor will implement measures to reduce dust pollution through the effective storage of materials. Measures include, but are not limited to the following:
- Stockpiles and mounds will be covered, seeded or fenced to prevent wind whipping if appropriate.

13.3 Vehicle and plant emissions [SGP-24]

13.3.1 Measures will be implemented by the Contractors to limit emissions from construction plant, machinery and vehicles on site as follows, as appropriate:

- The use of electric, hydrogen or Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) fuel will be considered and used where appropriate
- All vehicles and plant will be switched off when not in use, with a no-idling policy in place
- The Contractor will be provided with a specification that all HGVs used on and off site should meet Euro VI emission standards as a minimum requirement
- Low emission vehicles and plant to be fitted with catalysts, diesel particulate filters or a similar device
- Minimise plant equipment use through planning or prefabrication
- All Project vehicles (including off road vehicles) will hold current Ministry of Transport (MOT) certificates, where required due to the age of the vehicle, or to be tested to an equivalent standard, and will comply with exhaust emissions regulations for their class
- Setting of on-site speed limits
- The movement of construction traffic and materials around the Site will be kept to the minimum reasonable for the effective and efficient operation of the Site and construction of the Project. This will be managed through the Construction and Logistics Management Plan
- Construction vehicles will be registered on the Fleet Operator Recognition scheme (FORS scheme)
- Vehicle, plant and equipment maintenance records will be kept on site, and these will be made available to the Project on request. Daily pre-works inspections will be undertaken.

13.4 Odour

13.4.1 The Contractor shall adopt appropriate good practice measures to avoid creating a statutory nuisance or significant loss of amenity due to odour generation from contaminated materials excavated during the Project. These will be captured within the Contractor's EMS.

13.4.2 The Contractor shall consider the need for controls to be in place for odour impacts on days with extreme heat that might exacerbate odour from construction activities.

13.5 Monitoring

13.5.1 Regular site inspections will be carried out to monitor the effectiveness of measures to prevent dust and air pollutant emissions, these will be captured in the Contractor's EMS.

13.5.2 Relevant local authorities will be consulted on the monitoring procedures to be implemented, which could include the following measures, as appropriate:

- Daily on-site and off-site inspections, where receptors (including roads) are nearby, to monitor dust and record inspection results and logs to be available to the local authority on request

- Regular dust soiling checks of surfaces such as street furniture, cars and window sills within 100m of the draft Order limits boundary
- Frequent site inspections by the person accountable for air quality and dust issues on site, with regular checks and continual visual assessment by site workers when activities with a high potential to produce dust are being carried out, or during prolonged dryer windy conditions
- Inspection procedures for areas adjacent to the construction site to visually assess any dust and air pollution which may be generated
- Reference to inspection and maintenance schedules for construction vehicles, plant and machinery, and the records maintained for the works undertaken
- Inspection procedures relating to the level of traffic movements, use and condition of haul routes.

- 13.5.3 On request and where applicable, the Contractor will provide local authorities with reports of the monitoring and the inspection log produced.
- 13.5.4 All dust, odour and air quality complaints will be recorded in a complaints log and the causes identified. The Contractor will take appropriate measures to reduce emissions in a timely manner and record the measures taken.
- 13.5.5 Where practicable, monitoring of dust and particulate matter during the construction of the Project will be undertaken following the current best practice guidance (currently IAQM 2018).

14 Noise and vibration

14.1 General provisions [SGP-25]

- 14.1.1 Best practicable means (BPM) will be adopted and demonstrated at all times to ensure that noise and vibration is managed at neighbouring residential properties and other sensitive receptors (such as local businesses and quiet areas designated by the local authority) arising from construction activities.

14.2 Measures to reduce potential noise and vibration impacts

- 14.2.1 BPM are defined in Section 72 of the Control of Pollution Act (CoPA) 1974 and Section 79 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 as those measures which are '*reasonably practicable having regard among other things to local conditions and circumstances, to the current state of technical knowledge and to financial implications*'.
- 14.2.2 The Contractor will have a duty to avoid, reduce, control and/or manage construction noise and vibration through BPM, including:
- Control at source – for example, the selection of quiet and low vibration equipment
 - Control on site – for example, location of equipment on site, control of working hours
 - Control off site – if necessary, a scheme of noise insulation¹.
- 14.2.3 The recommendations of the British Standards Institution, BS 5228 Code of practice for noise and vibration control on construction and open sites parts 1 (2014a), and 2 (2014b), will be implemented as appropriate.
- 14.2.4 The steps proposed to be taken to reduce noise resulting from any construction engineering works (as defined in CoPA 1974) will be demonstrated as part of any Section 61 consent application in accordance with BPM.

Noise and vibration management

- 14.2.5 The Contractor will be responsible for preparing and implementing management and monitoring processes as part of the EMS, which will include to ensure as a minimum:
- Integration of noise and vibration control into construction method statements
 - Preparing details of site hoardings and screens that will be put in place to provide acoustic screening during construction, together with an inspection and maintenance schedule for such features
 - Developing a noise and vibration monitoring protocol covering noise and vibration monitoring locations as well as publishing all monitoring required to ensure compliance with all acoustic commitments and consents
 - Preparing and submitting Section 61 consent applications (where required); and
 - Implementing management processes to ensure ongoing compliance, improvement and actions to avoid any potential non-compliances with the noise and vibration management measures.

¹ To be defined in the relevant Section 61 consent application.

- 14.2.6 Noise-generating activities that could disrupt community facilities will be identified in the construction programme and their scheduling will consider the needs of potentially affected community facilities. For example, this may be scheduling construction/demolition activities close to schools outside school hours or during school holidays or outside of exam periods.
- 14.2.7 Where receptors may be exposed to high levels of construction noise, where appropriate, localised solid site hoarding is proposed to screen the properties from construction noise. At some locations it may not be feasible to install long-term hoarding due to the presence of individual accesses or the short-term duration of the activity. In such cases, the use of localised screening around high noise sources will be considered and confirmed in the relevant Section 61 application.

Section 61 consents

- 14.2.8 The Contractor will seek prior consent from the relevant local authority under Section 61 of the Control of Pollution Act 1974 for relevant works. The Contractor will identify such activities as part of the EMS.
- 14.2.9 Site specific management and mitigation requirements for noise and vibration will be defined in the Section 61 consent applications. Applications will be made to the relevant local authority for a Section 61 consent at least 28 days before the relevant work is due to start or earlier if reasonably practicable, unless otherwise agreed with the relevant local authority.
- 14.2.10 Unless otherwise agreed with the relevant local authority, Section 61 consent applications may include:
- Plans showing the location of the construction works
 - A full description of the construction works, covering details of their duration and proposed hours of work
 - A robust rationale for works which need to be undertaken outside core working hours
 - A method statement
 - Type of plant and specification of equipment to be used
 - The steps to reduce noise and vibration in line with BPM
 - Noise and vibration sensitive locations (for example, residential properties, schools and other teaching facilities, hospitals and residential nursing homes, and/or other buildings which house vibration sensitive equipment) and anticipated noise monitoring points
 - A set of predicted noise, and where relevant, vibration levels.
- 14.2.11 Details of activities, noise and vibration mitigation measures, prediction methods, location of sensitive receptors and noise and vibration levels will be discussed with the relevant local authorities, both prior to construction work and throughout the construction phases.
- 14.2.12 Any application for a Section 61 consent will require noise (and where appropriate vibration) assessments to be undertaken and BPM measures set out to manage noise associated with construction of the Project.
- 14.2.13 The Contractor will carry out noise (and vibration where appropriate) predictions for Section 61 applications. Unless otherwise agreed with the relevant local authority, noise levels will be predicted in accordance with the methods set out in BS 5228-1 (BSI, 2014a). All construction noise levels will be predicted or measured at a distance of 1m from any affected eligible facade which has windows to bedrooms or living rooms.

- 14.2.14 All applications for consent will include a statement advising how and when local residents, businesses or other organisations likely to be affected by the works will be notified of the start date, nature and duration of the works, along with details of a complaints hotline.
- 14.2.15 In the event that works for which Section 61 consent has been applied for have to be rescheduled or modified (e.g. method or working hours) for reasons not envisaged at the time of submitting the Section 61 consent application, the Contractor will apply for a dispensation or variation from the appropriate local authority, before commencing those works, at the time specified within the Control of Pollution Act 1974.
- 14.2.16 The Contractor will seek to agree with local authorities a common format and model consent conditions for Section 61 applications or any dispensations and variations to an existing consent.

14.3 Monitoring

- 14.3.1 The Contractor will undertake and report on noise and vibration monitoring, including physical measurements, observational inspections and audits (at regular intervals), and real-time noise and vibration monitoring.
- 14.3.2 Monitoring data will be provided regularly to, and will be reviewed by, the Project, and will be made available to the relevant local authorities.
- 14.3.3 Monitoring data will be provided by the Contractor to the Project at minimum on a monthly basis. Where continuous real-time monitoring of noise levels is required (as identified through discussions with the local authorities under the Section 61 process), more frequent sharing of monitoring data will take place, and real-time alerts in case of noise threshold exceedances will be implemented.

15 Human health

15.1 Occupational healthcare [SGP-17]

- 15.1.1 The Contractor will ensure that there is provision for occupational healthcare, either on site or in appropriate locations, during core and extended working hours. Outside of working hours, a contact number will be available to direct construction workers to the appropriate health/social care provider.
- 15.1.2 Additional requirements and surveillance for occupational health care and first aid provision will be determined based on a systematic identification of the occupational health and safety risks arising as a result of the construction activities.
- 15.1.3 Construction workers will receive training on the health consequences of risk-taking behaviour which could lead to accidents or environmental incidents. Briefings will also include requirements in place for the control of communicable diseases, as required.

16 Greenhouse gases

16.1 General provisions [SGP-28]

- 16.1.1 The Contractor will develop and implement measures to reduce energy consumption and manage carbon emissions during construction as part of the Contractor's EMS. This will include the following:
- The approach to reduce sources of construction energy use (fuel/electricity) and associated carbon emissions
 - The approach to procuring energy from renewable and/or zero or low emission sources
 - The approach to energy, carbon dioxide (CO₂) and fuel use monitoring and reporting from relevant site activities such as construction activities and from transportation
 - Consideration of the procurement, maintenance and use of energy efficient construction techniques and carbon efficient construction plant.
- 16.1.2 Measures will also consider both the embodied and operational carbon associated with construction works. Measures will be set out in the Contractor's EMS and will include the following, where practicable:
- Specification of materials with lower embodied GHG emissions within Contractor's contracts (e.g. where practical, materials with higher recycled content and locally sourced materials will be selected to reduce transport emissions), including where feasible, materials designed for end of component reuse
 - Responsible management of excavated materials, to avoid release of carbon
 - Commitments to reduce water use and disposal
 - Consideration of, and use where appropriate, of renewable/zero or low carbon fuels for construction vehicles, plant and machinery e.g. electric vehicles and plant
 - Provision of suitable levels of thermal insulation to the appropriate areas of site accommodation to reduce energy demand for heating
 - Efficient transportation of construction materials and waste transport through use of the rail siding and materials handling facility
 - Promotion of modes of sustainable transport in line with the CWTP (see Section 12.4).
- 16.1.3 The Contractor will adopt measures to reduce energy consumption and improve efficiency of energy use during construction. This includes all energy sources for transport, heating and power. Where reasonably practicable, the measures will include the following:
- Training in fuel efficient driving techniques and efficient plant use i.e. using appropriately sized plant and machinery, and switching off when not operational
 - Avoidance of oversized generators for plant and temporary buildings
 - Separate generators for peak time versus low time demand
 - Nominating individuals with responsibility for site energy management
 - Planning for early energy grid connection to reduce use of mobile diesel energy generation.

17 Climate resilience

17.1 General provisions [SGP-38]

- 17.1.1 The Contractor will pay due consideration to the impacts of extreme weather events and related conditions during construction. Where appropriate, measures will include, for example:
- Proactive management of working patterns and automation to avoid worker exposure to extreme temperatures [ED-53]
 - Training of personnel (see Section 4.2) and prevention and monitoring arrangements to manage extreme weather events
 - Health and safety plans to prevent worker exhaustion due to heat supportive measures for working in high temperatures might include the provision of personal protective equipment (PPE) and facilities (e.g. cool rooms and shade)
 - Incident health and safety data management systems to be integrated with weather data, with a mechanism to record if or how incidents were caused or amplified by extreme weather
 - Inspections of material stockpiles, structures, embankments and work areas during and following extreme weather events
 - Preparation of and adherence to the water management approaches (see Section 6.7) to manage flood risk during construction.
- 17.1.2 The Contractor will include a risk assessment of severe weather impacts as part of method statements where relevant. This will include a consideration of climate change projections, and consideration of receptors and construction-related works/activities potentially sensitive to severe weather events.
- 17.1.3 The Contractor will use an approved short to medium-range weather forecasting service (such as the Met Office) to inform short- to medium-term programme management, environmental control and impact mitigation measures. The Contractor will register with the Environment Agency's Floodline Warnings Direct service in areas of flood risk.
- 17.1.4 The Contractor will, as far as reasonably practicable, use construction materials with superior properties that offer increased tolerance to extreme weather events.

Glossary and abbreviations

Term	Definition
AIL	Abnormal Indivisible Loads. These are loads which cannot be divided into two or more loads to be transported by road.
BPM	Best practicable means
BS	British Standard
BSI	British Standards Institution
CCS	Considerate Constructors Scheme
CCTV	Closed-circuit television
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan. This will document the Contractor's EMS on site.
CIE	The International Commission on Illumination
CIRIA	Construction Industry Research and Information Association's
CL:AIRE	CL:AIRE is a UK based charity that promotes the sustainable reuse of land affected by contamination. It serves as a central hub for knowledge sharing, technical guidance, and industry collaboration in the field of land remediation and environmental management.
CoCP	Code of Construction Practice
Considerate Constructors Scheme	The Considerate Constructors Scheme is a not-for-profit, independent organisation founded to raise standards in the construction industry. The Code of Considerate Practice commits construction sites, companies, and suppliers registered with the Scheme to care about appearance, respect the community, protect the environment, care about safety and value their workforce. https://www.ccscheme.org.uk/
CO ₂	Carbon Dioxide
CTMS	Construction Traffic Management Strategy
CTMP	Construction Traffic Management Plan
CWS	County Wildlife Sites
CWTS	Construction Workforce Travel Strategy
CWTP	Construction Workforce Travel Plan
DAMS	Detailed Archaeology Mitigation Strategy
DCO	Development Consent Order
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DoW CoP	CL:AIRE: Definition of Waste Code of Practice
DWS	District Wildlife Sites
ECoW	Ecological Clerk of Works

Term	Definition
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMS	Environmental Management System
Flood Zone 2	Flood Zone 2: Medium probability Land having between a 1 in 100 and 1 in 1,000 annual probability of river flooding; or. Land having between a 1 in 200 and 1 in 1,000 annual probability of sea flooding.
Flood Zone 3	Flood Zone 3: High probability Land having between a 1 in 100 or greater annual probability of river flooding (>1%), or a 1 in 200 or greater annual probability of flooding from the sea (>0.5%) in any year.
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
HGV	Heavy goods vehicle
Highway Interventions	Junction and road improvement works included in the Project for which consent is being sought as part of the application for development consent
IAQM	Institute of Air Quality Management
Contractor	Contractor appointed by the Project responsible for the planning, managing and coordination of the construction works (and shall also include any sub-contractors appointed by the Contractor to carry out any part of the main construction works)
LCRM	Land Contamination Risk Management
LWS	Local Wildlife Sites
Major accident	In the context of this assessment, means an uncontrolled event caused by a man-made activity or asset that may result in immediate or delayed serious damage to human health, welfare and/or environment and requires the use of resources beyond those of the Project or its Contractors to manage. It should be noted that malicious intent is not accidental.
MMP	Materials Management Plan, as defined by CL:AIRE is a document that outlines how excavated materials (both waste and non-waste) will be managed during a development project, specifically for on-site reuse or transfer between sites.
MMHS	Materials Management and Handling Strategy
MMHP	Materials Management and Handling Plan
mm/s	Millimetres per second
OS	Ordnance Survey
PM10	Particulate Matter smaller than 10 micrometres
PPG	Pollution Prevention Guideline These Environment Agency documents have been withdrawn, but still constitute relevant advice on good practice. Where stated, they should be referred to in the absence of alternative guidance documents.
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment

Term	Definition
PPV	Peak particle velocity
Project	All works for which consent is being sought as part of the application for development consent.
PRoW	Public Rights of Way
Qualified Person	A qualified person (QP) is someone independent of the Project who is registered as a QP with CL:AIRE and therefore has the status for DoW CoP project Declaration sign-off. They must have the necessary attributes as defined in the DoW CoP including being suitably qualified and experienced to be able to carry out the review of the specified documents which support the proposed use of materials at a specified site. Their role is to ensure that best practice is consistently and demonstrably applied and be confident in signing the Declaration which serves as a notification to the Environment Agency that a site is to be developed using the CoP.
Relevant Sewerage Undertaker	Refers to Thames Water Utilities Limited (company number 02366623, whose registered office is at Clearwater Court, Vastern Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 8DB) and any successor to it as a sewerage undertaker within the meaning of Part 1 of the Water Industry Act 1991
Relevant Water Undertaker	Refers to Thames Water Utilities Limited (company number 02366623, whose registered office is at Clearwater Court, Vastern Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 8DB) and any successor to them as a water undertaker within the meaning of the Water Industry Act 1991.
RPA	Root Protection Areas
Site	All land within the draft Order limits (refer to the definition of the Site in Chapter 2: Project description of the PEI Report)
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage System
SWMP	Site Waste Management Plan
UKWAS	United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard
UXO	Unexploded ordnance

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