

**Tillbridge Solar Project
EN010142**

**Volume 9
Statement of Commonality**

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Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this Statement of Commonality

- 1.1.1 This Statement of Commonality (“this Statement”) has been prepared to support the examination of an application (“the Application”) made to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero for a Development Consent Order (DCO) under section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008) (Ref. 1) for the proposed Tillbridge Solar Project (“the Scheme”). The Application for the Scheme was submitted on 10 April 2024 and subsequently accepted for examination by the Planning Inspectorate on 8 May 2024.
- 1.1.2 This Statement has been prepared to provide the Examining Authority (ExA) with an overview of the current position of matters under discussion between the Applicant, prescribed consultees, statutory undertakers and interested parties included within the Statements of Common Ground (SoCGs).
- 1.1.3 This Statement will be updated throughout the examination process, to reflect the current progress that is being made with the various SoCGs. Once sufficient progress has been made on agreement of matters between parties, this Statement will also discuss any areas of commonality to enable suitable resolution of any remaining issues.

1.2 Description of the Scheme

- 1.2.1 The Tillbridge Solar Order, if granted, would authorise the Applicant to construct, operate (including maintenance), and decommission ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) arrays. The Scheme will also include associated development to support the solar PV arrays.
- 1.2.2 The Scheme is made up of the Principal Site, the Cable Route Corridor and works to the existing National Grid Cottam Substation. The Principal Site comprises the solar PV arrays, electrical substations, grid balancing infrastructure, cabling and areas for landscaping and ecological enhancement.
- 1.2.3 The associated development element of the Scheme includes but is not limited to access provision; a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), to support the operation of the ground mounted solar PV arrays; the development of on-site substations; underground cabling between the different areas of solar PV arrays; and areas of landscaping and biodiversity enhancement.
- 1.2.4 The Scheme also includes a 400kV underground Cable Route Corridor of approximately 18.5km in length connecting the Principal Site to the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS) at the existing National Grid Cottam Substation. The Scheme will export and import electricity to the NETS.

1.3 Format of SoCGs

- 1.3.1 Each SoCG adopts a standard format in order to provide clarity to other parties and the ExA, as follows:
- Section 1 provides an introduction to the SoCG, its purpose, and the terminology used within the document.
 - Section 2 outlines the engagement the Applicant and the relevant prescribed consultee, statutory undertaker or interested party have had with regard to the Scheme, summarising when engagement took place, and the nature of engagement.
 - Section 3 summarises issues that are 'agreed', 'in discussion' or 'not agreed'.

2. List of Statements of Common Ground

- 2.1.1 Following the acceptance of the Application for examination, the Applicant began preparing SoCGs with various prescribed consultees, statutory undertakers and interested parties. SoCGs with other parties were also requested by the ExA through publication of their Rule 6 letter dated 17 September 2024 [PD-005] and Rule 8 letter dated 24 October 2024 [PD-008].
- 2.1.2 The parties with which the Applicant is preparing SoCGs are listed in **Table 2-1** below.

Table 2-1 List of Parties for SoCGs

List of Parties for SoCGs

Prescribed Consultees

Natural England (NE)

Canal and River Trust (CRT)

Environment Agency (EA)

National Highways (NH)

Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board (TVIDB)

Historic England (HE)

Scunthorpe & Gainsborough Water Management Board (SGWMB)

Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board (UWIDB)

Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust (LWT)

Network Rail (NR)

Statutory Undertakers

Anglian Water (AW)

List of Parties for SoCGs

Local Authorities

West Lindsey District Council (WLDC)

Lincolnshire County Council (LCC)

Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC)

Bassetlaw District Council (BDC)

Other Interested Parties

Other Solar Developers (OSD) – Gate Burton Energy Park, Cottam Solar Project and West Burton Solar Project

7000 Acres (7000A)

3. Summary of Current Position

- 3.1.1 This section provides the current position of each SoCG at Deadline 2. As final versions of the SoCGs are agreed throughout the examination process, they will be submitted alongside this Statement.
- 3.1.2 The current position of the SoCGs and, where necessary, further detail to aid the ExA's understanding, is provided in **Table 3-1**. The positions used in the table are:
- a. **Final Signed SoCG all matters agreed** – The final version of the SoCG has been signed by both parties and all matters are agreed.
 - b. **Final Signed SoCG with matters outstanding** – The final version of the SoCG has been signed by both parties, but there remain some areas of discussion or disagreement. Both parties agree these issues will not be resolved during the examination.
 - c. **Draft SoCG** – The SoCG has been drafted by the Applicant and shared with the other party. Comments have been provided and discussions are ongoing.
 - d. **SoCG drafted and shared with other party** – The SoCG has been drafted by the Applicant and shared with the other party but is awaiting comments to be provided.
 - e. **SoCG not submitted for Examination Deadline** – The SoCG has not been submitted by the Applicant for the current examination deadline.

Table 3-1 Current Position of SoCGs

Doc Ref	Party	Position at Deadline 1: 29 October 2024	Position at Deadline 2: 14 November 2024	Position at Deadline 3: 10 December 2024	Position at Deadline 4: 28 January 2025	Position at Deadline 5: 25 February 2025	Position at Deadline 6: 1 April 2025	Position at Deadline 7: 8 April 2025
Prescribed Consultees								
9.18	Natural England	Draft SoCG	Position as at Deadline 1. Targeting Deadline 3 for next version.					
9.20	Canal and River Trust	Draft SoCG	Position as at Deadline 1. Targeting Deadline 3 for next version.					
9.16	Environment Agency	Draft SoCG	Position as at Deadline 1. Targeting Deadline 3 for next version.					
9.22	National Highways	Final signed SoCG all matters agreed						

Doc Ref	Party	Position at Deadline 1: 29 October 2024	Position at Deadline 2: 14 November 2024	Position at Deadline 3: 10 December 2024	Position at Deadline 4: 28 January 2025	Position at Deadline 5: 25 February 2025	Position at Deadline 6: 1 April 2025	Position at Deadline 7: 8 April 2025
9.14	Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board	Draft SoCG	Position as at Deadline 1. Targeting Deadline 3 for next version.					
9.17	Historic England	Final signed SoCG all matters agreed						
9.13	Scunthorpe and Gainsborough Water Management Board	Final signed SoCG all matters agreed						
9.12	Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board	Final signed SoCG all matters agreed						
9.19	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust	Final signed SoCG all matters agreed						
9.25	Network Rail	SoCG not submitted for examination deadline	SoCG drafted and shared with NR					

Doc Ref	Party	Position at Deadline 1: 29 October 2024	Position at Deadline 2: 14 November 2024	Position at Deadline 3: 10 December 2024	Position at Deadline 4: 28 January 2025	Position at Deadline 5: 25 February 2025	Position at Deadline 6: 1 April 2025	Position at Deadline 7: 8 April 2025
Statutory Undertakers								
9.15	Anglian Water	SoCG drafted	Position as at Deadline 1. Targeting Deadline 3 for next version					
Local Authorities								
9.8	West Lindsey District Council	SoCG drafted and shared with WLDC	Position as at Deadline 1. Targeting Deadline 3 for next version					
9.9	Lincolnshire County Council	SoCG drafted and shared with LCC	Position as at Deadline 1. Targeting Deadline 3 for next version					
9.10	Nottinghamshire County Council	Draft SoCG	Position as at Deadline 1. Targeting Deadline 3 for next version					

Doc Ref	Party	Position at Deadline 1: 29 October 2024	Position at Deadline 2: 14 November 2024	Position at Deadline 3: 10 December 2024	Position at Deadline 4: 28 January 2025	Position at Deadline 5: 25 February 2025	Position at Deadline 6: 1 April 2025	Position at Deadline 7: 8 April 2025
9.11	Bassetlaw District Council	SoCG drafted and shared with BDC	Position as at Deadline 1. Targeting Deadline 3 for next version					
Other Interested Parties								
9.21	Other Solar Developers	Draft SoCG	Position as at Deadline 1. Targeting Deadline 3 for next version					
n/a	7000 Acres	SoCG not submitted for examination deadline	SoCG not submitted for examination deadline. Targeting Deadline 3 for first draft.					

4. Commonality

- 4.1.1 This section provides a summary of the key issues covered in each SoCG and demonstrates where there is a commonality in the topics or matters.
- 4.1.2 The topics covered below in **Table 4-1** are presented in such a way to show the current position of the Applicant and the Parties in relation to those specific topics within the SoCGs. The positions are set out in **Plate 4-1**.

Plate 4-1: Key to colour coding used in the commonality table

	Matter agreed with other Party
	Some matters agreed, some matters not agreed
	Some matters agreed, some matters subject to further discussions
	Matters subject to further discussion
	Matters not able to be agreed
	Matters not relevant to other Party

- 4.1.3 Where a matter is not relevant to the other Party, it is not included within the SoCG and therefore is coloured grey in **Table 4-1**.

Table 4-1 Table of Commonality at Deadline 2

Ref.	Interested Party	draft DCO	Protective Provisions	Cooperation Agreement	Book of Reference	Climate Change	Cultural Heritage	HRA	BNG	Water Environment (inc. Flood Risk)	Landscape and Visual	Noise and Vibration	Socio-Economics and Land Use	Transport and Access/PROW	Human Health	Soils and Agriculture	Construction	Ecology/Biodiversity	Planning Policy	Minerals and Waste	Air Quality	Glint and Glare	Ground Conditions	Safety	Cumulative Assessment
9.18	Natural England																								
9.20	Canal & River Trust																								
9.16	Environment Agency																								
9.22	National Highways																								
9.14	Trent Valley IDB																								
9.17	Historic England																								
9.13	Scunthorpe and Gainsborough WMB																								
9.12	Upper Witham IDB																								
9.19	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust																								
9.15	Anglian Water																								
9.8	West Lindsey District Council																								
9.9	Lincolnshire County Council																								
9.10	Nottinghamshire County Council																								
9.11	Bassetlaw District Council																								

Ref.	Interested Party	draft DCO	Protective Provisions	Cooperation Agreement	Book of Reference	Climate Change	Cultural Heritage	HRA	BNG	Water Environment (inc. Flood Risk)	Landscape and Visual	Noise and Vibration	Socio-Economics and Land Use	Transport and Access/PROW	Human Health	Soils and Agriculture	Construction	Ecology/Biodiversity	Planning Policy	Minerals and Waste	Air Quality	Glint and Glare	Ground Conditions	Safety	Cumulative Assessment
9.21	Other Solar Developers																								
9.25	Network Rail																								

5. Additional Commentary

5.1 Deadline 1

- 5.1.1 In the Rule 8 letter dated 24 October [PD-008], the ExA requested that the Applicant submits SoCGs for the following parties:
- a. West Lindsey District Council;
 - b. Bassetlaw District Council;
 - c. Lincolnshire County Council;
 - d. Nottinghamshire County Council;
 - e. Scunthorpe & Gainsborough Water Management Board;
 - f. Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board;
 - g. Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board;
 - h. Natural England;
 - i. Historic England;
 - j. National Highways;
 - k. Environment Agency;
 - l. Canals and Rivers Trust;
 - m. National Grid Electricity Transmission;
 - n. Network Rail;
 - o. Cadent Gas;
 - p. Representatives or promoters of any other Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects, including as a minimum: Cottam, West Burton and Gate Burton; and
 - q. 7000 Acres.
- 5.1.2 The Applicant has also prepared an SoCG with Anglian Water, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, and Alison Wood and Nicholas Mapstone, and these have been submitted into the examination at Deadline 1.
- 5.1.3 The Applicant is in the process of preparing SoCGs and discussing their content with 7000 Acres, Cadent Gas, National Grid and Network Rail and is expecting to submit these at subsequent deadlines.

5.2 Deadline 2

- 5.2.1 The only updated SoCG submitted into the examination at Deadline 2 is the SoCG with Network Rail.
- 5.2.2 The Applicant has also removed references to the preparation of SoCGs with National Grid Electricity Transmission and Cadent Gas, on the basis that it no longer considers this is required, where:

- a. Protective provisions have now been agreed with Cadent Gas and will be included within the next submission of the draft DCO at Deadline 3. There are no other outstanding matters subject to negotiation between the parties.
 - b. Negotiations with National Grid Electricity Transmission on protective provisions for their assets are advanced. The Applicant does not consider there are any additional matters outside of those captured within those protective provisions which require reporting on within an SoCG.
- 5.2.3 The Applicant has also removed reference to the preparation of an SoCG with Alison Wood and Nicholas Mapstone as the Applicant understands that Mr Mapstone and Ms Wood do not wish to agree to enter into an SoCG.
- 5.2.4 The Applicant is in the process of updating all other SoCGs by Deadline 3, as set out within **Table 3-1**.

6. References

- Ref. 1 His Majesty's Stationary Office (HMSO) (2008) Planning Act 2008. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/contents> [Accessed 09/09/2024]