

**Tillbridge Solar Project
EN010142**

**Volume 9
Statement of Common Ground with Other Solar
Developers
Document Reference: EN010142/APP/9.21**

The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

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Statement of Common Ground

This Statement of Common Ground has been prepared and agreed by Tillbridge Solar Limited, Gate Burton Energy Park Limited, Cottam Solar Project Limited and West Burton Solar Project Limited.

[REDACTED], Director on behalf of Tillbridge Solar Limited

Date: 27 March 2025

Signed

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Director, on behalf of Gate Burton Energy Park Limited

Date: 27 March 2025

Signed:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Head of Projects UK, on behalf of Cottam Solar Project Limited

Date: 27 March 2025

Signed

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Head of Projects UK, on behalf of West Burton Solar Project Limited

Date: 27 March 2025

Signed

[REDACTED]

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this Document

- 1.1.1 This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared to support the application ("the Application") for the Tillbridge Solar Project ("the Scheme") made by Tillbridge Solar Limited ("the Applicant"). The Application was submitted to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero ("the Secretary of State") for a Development Consent Order (DCO) ("the Order") under section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 ("PA 2008") and accepted for examination on 8 May 2024.
- 1.1.2 This SoCG does not seek to replicate information which is available elsewhere within the Application documents. All documents are available in the deposit locations and/or on the Planning Inspectorate's website at <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010142/documents>.
- 1.1.3 SoCGs are an established means in the planning process of allowing all parties to identify and focus on specific issues that may need to be addressed during the examination. This SoCG has been produced to confirm to the Examining Authority (ExA) where agreement has been reached between the parties and where agreement has not (yet) been reached. The SoCG will be progressed during the pre-examination and examination periods to reach a final position between the Parties and to clarify if any issues remain unresolved. This SoCG will be revised and updated as appropriate and/or required by the ExA at relevant examination deadlines.

1.2 Parties to this Statement of Common Ground

- 1.2.1 This SoCG has been prepared between (1) the Applicant; (2) Gate Burton Energy Park Limited; (3) Cottam Solar Project Limited; and (4) West Burton Solar Project Limited (jointly referred to as the Parties).
- 1.2.2 The Applicant is a joint venture between Tribus Clean Energy Limited and Recurrent Energy, a subsidiary of Canadian Solar, who are both experienced developers of renewable energy projects.
- 1.2.3 Gate Burton Energy Park Limited is the promoter for Gate Burton Energy Park, Cottam Solar Project Limited is the promoter for the Cottam Solar Project and West Burton Solar Project Limited is the promoter for the West Burton Solar Project.
- 1.2.4 This SoCG covers the following matters:
- Overlapping issues;
 - Any comments on the 'Joint Report on the Interrelationships between Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects' **[EN010142/APP/7.6(Rev2)APP-215 to 217]**;

- c. Any principal concerns of Gate Burton, Cottam or West Burton expressed in other submissions; and
- d. Any other matters on which agreement might aid the smooth running of the Examination and assist the Examining Authority's recommendation to the Secretary of State.

1.3 The Scheme

- 1.3.1 The Order, if granted, would authorise the construction, operation (including maintenance), and decommissioning of ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) arrays. The Scheme will also include associated development to support the solar PV arrays.
- 1.3.2 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.
- 1.3.3 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.
- 1.3.4 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.

1.4 Terminology

- 1.4.1 Section 3 summarises the issues that are 'agreed', 'not agreed' or are 'under discussion'.
- 1.4.2 These terms are used as follows:
 - a. "Agreed" indicates where the issue has been resolved;
 - b. "Under discussion" indicates where these points will be the subject of on-going discussion wherever possible to resolve, or refine, the extent of disagreement between the parties;
 - c. "Not Agreed" indicates a final position where the Parties have agreed to disagree.

2. Record of Engagement

- 2.1.1 A summary of all meetings and correspondence that has taken place between the Parties in relation to the Application is outlined in
- 2.1.2 **Table 1.** This includes email correspondence between the Parties to discuss sharing of information, arrangement of meetings and where appropriate to comment on draft documentation.
- 2.1.3 **Table 1** reflects the key meetings and emails of note.
- 2.1.4 Other more regular fortnightly and monthly meetings that are not included in **Table 1** have also been and will continue to be held between the Parties to discuss the joint approach on a variety of topic areas, notably environmental mitigation, planning, landowner and Cable Route Corridor design coordination.

Table 1: Record of Engagement

Date	Attendees	Key topics discussed
15/02/2022	Gate Burton, Cottam and West Burton undertakers and their land reps.	Discussion on project status and landowner engagement for early non-intrusive surveys.
In person meeting 22/02/2022	Gate Burton, Cottam and West Burton undertakers	High level meeting to discuss Gate Burton, West Burton and Cottam projects.
17/03/2022	Gate Burton, Cottam and West Burton undertakers and their land reps.	Discussion on survey access agreements with landowners and access logistics.
23/03/2022	Gate Burton, Cottam and West Burton undertakers	Discussion on Cable Route Corridor width and next steps for survey work.
29/03/2022	Gate Burton, Cottam and West Burton undertakers and their ecologists	Shared cable corridor: discussion on Phase 1 Habitat Surveys, potential of Terrestrial invertebrate/reptile surveys habitats and flora surveys and breeding bird surveys. Also discussed Great Crested Newt Pond buffers.
05/04/2022	Gate Burton, Cottam and West Burton planning and environment teams	Review of proposed layout of West Burton and Cottam Solar Farms and the likelihood of cumulative effects and how cumulative effects could be assessed effectively.
28/04/2022	Gate Burton, Cottam and West Burton ecology teams	Discussion on the buffer zones for ecology surveys on shared Cable Route Corridor

Date	Attendees	Key topics discussed
In person meeting 05/05/2022	Gate Burton, Cottam and West Burton undertakers and their comms teams	Discussion on approach to statutory consultation.
24/05/2022	Gate Burton, Cottam and West Burton undertakers and their ecologists	Discussion on minimising effects of the shared connection corridor regarding ecology.
21/06/2022	Gate Burton, Cottam and West Burton undertakers and planning teams	Discussion on Cable Route Corridor Heads of Terms.
01/09/2022	Low Carbon (Gate Burton), Island Green Power and Lanpro (Cottam and West Burton)	Discussion on joined up approach to intrusive cable route surveys.
Hybrid Meeting 13/09/2022	Low Carbon and Pinsent Masons (Gate Burton), Island Green Power (Cottam and West Burton)	Workshop to discuss shared Cable Route Corridor, protective provisions, various powers in overlapping area and continued cooperation ahead of finalising respective DCO applications. Hybrid meeting but held at Pinsent Masons London office.
30/09/2022	Gate Burton, Cottam, West Burton, Tillbridge planning teams and client; PINS, LCC, WLDC	Quadripartite meeting with the four project developers and the PINS. Discussing interplay between the four projects.
10/10/2022	Gate Burton, Cottam and West Burton Heritage Teams	Discussion on shared route within Cable Route Corridor including results of evaluation and mitigation strategies.

Date	Attendees	Key topics discussed
16/12/2022	Gate Burton, Cottam and West Burton Heritage Teams	Finalising aligned mitigation strategies for all three schemes.
In person meeting 03/01/2023	Gate Burton, Cottam and West Burton undertakers and their lands teams	Joint in person meeting with cable route landowner.
05/01/2023	Gate Burton, Cottam and West Burton Heritage Teams	Reviewing finalised aligned mitigation strategies for all three schemes.
27/03/2023	Tillbridge, Cottam and West Burton teams	Discussion about the potential for collaboration including survey data sharing.
In person meeting 13/04/2023	Gate Burton, Cottam and West Burton undertakers and their lands teams	Joint in person meeting with cable route landowner.
Joint Site Walkover 26/04/2023	Gate Burton and Tillbridge landscape teams	Walkover of Cable Route Corridor and overall review of landscape and visual interrelations between Gate Burton and Tillbridge Solar Project.
26/05/2023	Tillbridge, Cottam, West Burton and Gate Burton technical teams	Technical discussion about cable corridor interaction with other projects.
02/06/2023, 08/06/2023 09/06/2023, 14/06/2023, 20/06/2023, 30/06/2023	Gate Burton, Cottam, West Burton and Tillbridge teams	Discussion on sharing information around cable route options to the south of Marton. Discussion on joint meeting with the Canal and Rivers Trust.
13/06/2023	Cottam, West Burton and Tillbridge teams	Discussion of ecology and heritage data.

Date	Attendees	Key topics discussed
15/06/2023, 21/06/2023, 28/06/2023, 05/07/2023, 10/07/2023, 15/08/2023, 16/08/2023, 27/09/2023	Cottam, West Burton and Tillbridge teams	Discussion of Cottam, West Burton and Tillbridge site and cable route interactions
13/06/2023	Gate Burton, Cottam, West Burton and Tillbridge land referencing teams	Joint approach on cable route landowners.
30/06/2023	Gate Burton, West Burton, Cottam and Tillbridge Highways Engineering Teams	Discussion about access differences and commonality for accesses in the shared Cable Route Corridor.
30/06/2023	Gate Burton, Cottam, West Burton and Tillbridge	Joint approach on extra cable route surveys.
14/07/2023	Gate Burton, Cottam, West Burton and Tillbridge and Canal and Rivers Trust	Joint approach on protective provisions.
18/07/2023	Gate Burton, Cottam and West Burton	Discussion on access into Cottam Substation.
20/07/2023	Gate Burton, Cottam, West Burton and Tillbridge	Discussion around the cables near Cottam Substation.
18/08/2023	Gate Burton, Tillbridge	Discussion on cable route landowners.

Date	Attendees	Key topics discussed
23/08/2023	Gate Burton, Cottam, West Burton, Tillbridge, EDF and Uniper	Site walkover to look at constraints around Cottam Substation.
01/09/2023	Gate Burton, Cottam and West Burton	Cable route discussion.
04/09/2023	Gate Burton, Cottam, West Burton and Tillbridge technical teams	Technical discussion around Cottam Substation.
11/09/2023	Gate Burton, Cottam, West Burton and Tillbridge	Cable route and Cottam Substation discussion.
12/09/2023	Gate Burton, Cottam and West Burton	Cumulative Effects Comparison table.
20/09/2023	Gate Burton, Cottam and West Burton heritage teams	Discussion on cable route surveys.
02/10/2023	Gate Burton, Cottam, West Burton, Tillbridge and Uniper	Update meeting between the developers and Uniper.
03/10/2023	Gate Burton, Cottam, West Burton, Tillbridge and EDF	Update meeting between the developers and EDF.
24/10/2023	Gate Burton, Cottam, West Burton, Tillbridge, EDF, Uniper	Joint developer, EDF and Uniper catch up.

Date	Attendees	Key topics discussed
16/11/2023	Gate Burton, Cottam, West Burton, Tillbridge, Network Rail	Joint developer meeting with Network Rail to discuss cable crossings.
15/12/2023	Gate Burton, Cottam, West Burton, Tillbridge, Network Rail	Joint developer meeting with Network Rail to discuss cable crossings.
18/12/2023	Gate Burton, Cottam, West Burton, Tillbridge	Meeting to discuss cable formations.
19/12/2023 09/01/2024 23/01/2024 20/02/2024 05/03/2024 04/04/2024 14/05/2024 11/06/2024 16/07/2024 20/08/2024	Gate Burton, West Burton, Cottam, Tillbridge, EDF, Uniper	Joint developer, EDF and Uniper catch up.
27/06/2024	Gate Burton, Cottam, West Burton and Tillbridge	Sharing the current versions of the Order limits for each project.
31/07/2024	Gate Burton, Cottam, West Burton and Tillbridge	Meeting to discuss dis-used railway crossing.
<u>02/09/2024</u>	<u>Gate Burton, West Burton, Cottam, Tillbridge</u>	<u>Sharing details of Tillbridge change request application.</u>

Date	Attendees	Key topics discussed
<u>26/11/2024</u>	<u>Gate Burton, West Burton, Cottam, Tillbridge</u>	<u>Updated cooperation agreement shared with all parties for comment.</u>
<u>25/03/2025</u>	<u>Gate Burton, West Burton, Cottam, Tillbridge</u>	<u>Email exchange with Tillbridge sharing the updated Report on Interrelationship with other NSIPs and the final SoCG with Low Carbon and Island Green Power for comment and signature.</u>

3. Areas of Discussion between the Parties

3.1.1 Table 2 below details the areas of discussion and matters that are agreed between the Parties.

Table 2: Areas of discussion between the Parties

Ref.	Relevant Application Document	Description of Matter	Status	Likelihood of Resolution
1.1	Joint Report on Interrelationships between Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects [EN010142/APP/7.6(Rev2)APP-215 to 217]	The Applicant submitted the Joint Report on Interrelationships between Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects [EN010142/APP/7.6(Rev2)APP-215 to 217] with the DCO Application. To aid the ExAs on all projects, the developers of the Tillbridge, Gate Burton, Cottam and West Burton schemes have agreed to produce this joint report which has been, to be revised and submitted at the various deadlines for each project.	Agreed	Resolved N/A
1.2	Cooperation Agreement [EN010142/APP/7.6(Rev2)APP-215 to 217]	The Applicant, Gate Burton, West Burton and Cottam have entered into a cooperation agreement to ensure various obligations on each party in relation to their cooperation throughout the Examination(s) of each DCO application. This cooperation agreement is provided in Appendix C of the Joint Report on Interrelationships between other Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects [EN010142/APP/7.6(Rev2)APP-215 to 217] .	Agreed	Resolved N/A
1.3	Further Cooperation Agreement	The Parties have agreed to the principle of a further cooperation agreement that will relate to the discharge of requirements and detailed design stages. Discussions are ongoing between the	Under discussion A agreed in	High. Discussions to continue after

Ref.	Relevant Application Document	Description of Matter	Status	Likelihood of Resolution
		Parties regarding this further cooperation agreement <u>and will continue after Examination</u> .	<u>principles</u> to production of a further cooperation agreement	<u>Examination</u> High
1.43	Draft DCO [EN010142/APP/3.1(Rcv7)A PP-014]	The Applicant <u>has</u> proposes to include <u>d</u> protective provisions for the benefit of Gate Burton, Cottam and West Burton within the Draft DCO [EN010142/APP/3.1(Rcv7)APP-014] and reciprocal protective provisions have been included in the DCOs of Gate Burton, Cottam and West Burton for the benefit of the Applicant. This agreement is set out in the cooperation agreement and is being progressed by each project.	Agreed	<u>Resolved</u> N/A