



Botley West Solar Farm

Statement Of Commonality

EN010147/APP/11.6

22 July 2025

Revision P01

Approval for issue

Jon Alsop

22 July 2025

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Prepared by:

RPS
101 Park Drive,
Milton Park, Abingdon,
Oxfordshire, OX14 4RY
United Kingdom

Prepared for:

Photovolt Development Partners GmbH,
on behalf of SolarFive Ltd.

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1 Statement of Commonality: Introduction and Purpose

- 1.1 Photovolt Development Partners (PVDP), on behalf of SolarFive Ltd (the “Applicant”), submitted its application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the Botley West Solar Project (the “Project”) on 15 November 2024 (the “DCO Application”). The DCO Application was accepted for examination by the Planning Inspectorate on 13 December 2024.
- 1.2 Botley West is a solar farm located in parts of the administrative areas of West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC), Cherwell District Council (CDC) and Vale of White Horse District Council (VWHDC) and is within the county of Oxfordshire. Its renewable electricity generation output will be critical in helping deliver the Government’s commitments.
- 1.3 The Project has a total area of approximately 1,418 ha (see Location Plan **[AS-024]**, with the installation of solar panels across approximately 839 ha. The site location and size emerged following a site search undertaken by the Applicant, itself influenced by a number of planning, environmental, commercial and engineering factors. These factors are set out in Chapter 5: Alternatives considered of the Environmental Statement **[APP-042]**.
- 1.4 A detailed description of the Project is provided within the Planning Supporting Statement submitted **[as updated at Deadline 1]**.
- 1.5 This Statement of Commonality has been prepared to provide the Examining Authority (ExA) with the current position regarding the Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) between the Applicant and prescribed consultees, statutory undertakers and other interested parties (“other parties”).
- 1.6 The SoCG are working draft documents. They each comprise a record of consultation held with the relevant SoCG organisation to date as appropriate, and are designed to evolve, representing the ongoing nature of these discussions throughout the Examination period.
- 1.7 The Applicant is working to agree and submit final agreed versions of the SoCG before or at Deadline 7 of the Examination period.

2 Statements of Common Ground: Structure

- 2.1 To ensure consistency in the approach taken to documenting matters agreed, matters subject to further negotiation or matters not agreed, each of the SoCGs adopts a broadly standard format (unless expressly requested otherwise by Other Parties) in order to provide clarity to the Other Parties and ultimately the ExA.
- 2.2 Each SoCG has the following structure in addressing the following areas of common ground in relation to the Applicant Project Team's engagement with the respective organisations to date:
- Relevant submission documents and plans
 - Record of relevant correspondence to date
 - Matters that are agreed
 - Matters yet to be agreed
 - Matters that are not agreed

3 Statements of Common Ground : List

- 3.1 The organisations which the Applicant has prepared an SoCG with up to DL3 are listed in Table 1.

Table 1 - List of SoCGs under preparation

Stakeholder
Cherwell District Council
Civil Aviation Authority
Environment Agency
Historic England
London Oxford Airport
National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc
Natural England
Oxfordshire County Council
Vale of White Horse District Council
West Oxfordshire District Council
Wildlife Trust (BBOWT)

4 Statements of Common Ground: Summary of current position

4.1 This section provides a clear status as to the current position of each SoCG. Table 3 below provides a high-level position and where necessary includes further detail to aid understanding. The high-level positions used in the table are:

1. SoCG in draft – The SoCG has been drafted by the Applicant, incorporating previous dialogue and feedback from the Other Party where appropriate, and to confirm it has been shared with the Other Party. Discussion is ongoing to reach a 'Final Signed SoCG all matters agreed' or 'Final Signed SoCG with matters outstanding'.
2. Final signed SoCG with all matters agreed – The final SoCG has been signed by both Parties and all matters are agreed.
3. Final Signed SoCG with matters outstanding – The final SoCG has been signed by both parties and there remain matters outstanding that the Applicant and the Other Party agree will not be resolved during the Examination.

Table 2 - Current Position of SoCGs

Document Reference	Party	Current Position
EN010147/APP/11.7/1	Cherwell District Council	SoCG in draft
EN010147/APP/11.7/2	Civil Aviation Authority	SoCG in draft
EN010147/APP/11.7/3	Environment Agency	SoCG in draft
EN010147/APP/11.7/4	Historic England	SoCG in draft
EN010147/APP/11.7/5	London Oxford Airport	SoCG in draft
EN010147/APP/11.7/6	National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc	SoCG in draft
EN010147/APP/11.7/8	Natural England	SoCG in draft
EN010147/APP/11.7/10	Oxfordshire County Council	SoCG in draft
EN010147/APP/11.7/12	Vale of White Horse District Council	SoCG in draft
EN010147/APP/11.7/13	West Oxfordshire District Council	SoCG in draft
EN010147/APP/11.7/14	Wildlife Trust	SoCG in draft

5 Statements of Common Ground: Commonality

- 5.1 This section of the Statement provides a summary of principal technical topics covered in the SoCGs and demonstrates where there is commonality in the topics or matters.
- 5.2 The table is presented in layout ad format to show topics covered within the various SOCGS and how these are relevant to each Other Party and a position for each topic as follows:

	Matter agreed
	Matter which the Applicant understands to be agreed, and is seeking to confirm as such in the final SoCG to submit at Deadline 7
	Matter subject to further discussion
	Matter not agreed
	Matter not relevant

Table 3 - Record of Matters of Specific Agreement to date

SoCG	Matter													
	Agricultural Land	Aviation (inc. Glint & Glare)	Ecology		Heritage		Hydrology	Landscape	Noise & Vibration		Planning Policy	Public Rights of Way	Substation	Transport
Cherwell DC														
Civil Aviation Authority														
Environment Agency														
Historic England														
London Oxford Airport														
National Grid Electricity Transmission														
Natural England														
Oxford CC														
Vale of White Horse DC														
West Oxfordshire DC														

Wildlife Trust												
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