

BEACON FEN ENERGY PARK

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN010151

Statement of Common Ground (~~Draft~~Final) with National Gas Transmission PLC and National Grid Gas PLC

Document Reference: 8.5

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Quality information

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ED	JM	CT	CT

Revision History

Revision	Revision date	Details	Authorised	Name	Position
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<u>2</u>	<u>09/02/2026</u>	<u>Deadline 87 Updates</u>	<u>16/02/2026</u>	<u>Jessica Gough</u>	<u>Project Development Manager</u>

Abbreviation	Description
AC	Alternating Current
AIS	Air Insulated Switchgear
AMS	Archaeological Mitigation Strategy
Applicant	Beacon Fen Energy Park Ltd
BBC	Boston Borough Council
BESS	Battery energy storage system
CCTV	Closed circuit television
DC	Direct Current
DCO	Development Consent Order
EA	Environment Agency
GIS	Gas Insulated Switchgear
HV	High Voltage
IDB	Internal Drainage Board
LCC	Lincolnshire County Council
Low Carbon	Low Carbon Limited
MW	Megawatts
<u>NGET</u>	<u>National Grid Electricity Transmission</u>
NGG	National Grid Gas plc
NGR	National Grid Reference
NGT	National Gas Transmission plc
NKDC	North Kesteven District Council
NPSs	National Policy Statements
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
Order	The Beacon Fen Energy Park Order
PCU	Power Conversion Unit
PINS	Planning Inspectorate
Proposed Development	The entire development to be constructed and operated within the Site, as set out in Schedule 1 of the draft DCO
PRoW	Public Right of Way
PV	Photovoltaic

Abbreviation	Description
Site	The entire Order Limits or red line boundary located approximately 6.5 km northeast of the village of Sleaford and 2.5 km north of Heckington
SoCG	Statement of Community Consultation
SoCG	Statement of Common Ground
SoS	Secretary of State

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1. Introduction

1.1 Overview

- 1.1.1 This Statement of Common Ground ('SoCG') with National Gas Transmission Plc and National Grid Gas Plc (collectively 'National Gas') (**Document Ref: 8.5**) has been prepared on behalf of Beacon Fen Energy Park Ltd (the 'Applicant'). It relates to the application (the 'Application') for a Development Consent Order (a 'DCO'), that has been submitted to the Secretary of State (the 'SoS') for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (the '2008 Act').
- 1.1.2 The Applicant is seeking development consent for a ground-mounted solar photovoltaic ('PV') electricity generation and battery energy storage system ('BESS'), together with associated grid connection infrastructure (the 'Proposed Development'), at an area sited approximately 6.5 km northeast of the village of Sleaford and 2.5 km north of Heckington (the 'Site'). The Proposed Development would have a generation capacity of approximately 400 megawatts ('MW') of electricity, with a 600MW BESS.
- 1.1.3 The Site corresponds to the entire Order Limits and represents the entire land area required for construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. It is made up of the Solar Array Area (comprising the solar PV and BESS infrastructure) the Cable Route Corridor (comprising an electrical connection from the Solar Array Area to the Bicker Fen National Grid 400kV substation) and the Bespoke Access Corridor (for a bespoke access from the A17 to the Solar Array Area). This is termed the Bespoke Access Road.
- 1.1.4 The Proposed Development falls within the definition of a 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project' ('NSIP') under Section 14(1)(a) and Sections 15(1) and (2) of the 2008 Act, as it is an onshore generating station in England that would have a generating capacity greater than 50MW electrical output. As such, a DCO application is required to authorise the Proposed Development in accordance with Section 31 of the 2008 Act.
- 1.1.5 The DCO, if made by the SoS, would be known as 'The Beacon Fen Energy Park Order' (the 'Order').
- 1.1.6 NGT are a statutory undertaker as defined for the Order application. NGT has apparatus under, in, upon, over, along or across the land within the Order Limits and wishes to protect its rights and interests in land and its apparatus during and after the construction of the Proposed Development.

1.2 The Applicant

- 1.2.1 The Applicant is a subsidiary of Low Carbon Ltd ('Low Carbon'). Low Carbon is a privately-owned global renewable energy company.

1.3 The Site

- 1.3.1 The Site represents the entire Order Limits and is located east of Sleaford in Lincolnshire. It extends to approximately 758ha and comprises of three

functional areas: the Solar Array Area, the Cable Route Corridor and the Bespoke Access Corridor.

Solar Array Area

- 1.3.2 The Solar Array Area is approximately 529ha in size and located to the north of Heckington, centred at the National Grid Reference ('NGR') 514682 347825. The Solar Array Area is located wholly within the administrative areas of North Kesteven District Council ('NKDC') and Lincolnshire County Council ('LCC').
- 1.3.3 The Solar Array Area predominantly comprises agricultural land in arable use, divided by ditches with sparse tree cover that is limited to small woodland blocks and scattered hedgerow trees. A small reservoir is located in the south-west of the Solar Array Area.
- 1.3.4 The Solar Array Area is bound to the south, west and north by local highways, and bound to the east by the Car Dyke. Public Right of Way ('PRoW') Ewer/12/1 extends across the north-eastern corner of the Site, close to the northern Site boundary. There are no other PRoW within the Solar Array Area.
- 1.3.5 Villages in proximity to the Solar Array Area include:
- Howell immediately to the south-west, with Heckington c. 1.7km beyond;
 - Ewerby Thorpe immediately to the west, with Ewerby c. 1.1km beyond;
 - Anwick c. 2.7km to the north-west;
 - North Kyme c. 2.4km to the north; and
 - South Kyme c. 1.5km to the east.

Cable Route Corridor

- 1.3.6 The Cable Route Corridor is approximately 183 ha in size and extends c. 13km south-east from the Solar Array Area to Bicker Fen substation, at NGR TF 19684 38599. The Cable Route Corridor is located wholly within the administrative area of LCC. The majority of the Cable Route Corridor is located within the administrative area of NKDC, however the southern section is located within BBC's administrative area.
- 1.3.7 Land use within the Cable Route Corridor is predominantly agricultural. A number of local highways cross the Cable Route Corridor, and the A17 crosses east to west within the north-west section of the Corridor. The railway linking Heckington west to Sleaford and east to Swineshead intersects the mid-section of the Corridor. There are a number of PRoW within the Cable Route Corridor, including one alongside the South Forty Foot Drain which also crosses the Cable Route Corridor.

Bespoke Access Corridor

- 1.3.8 The Bespoke Access Corridor is approximately 45.4 ha in size comprising predominantly agricultural land and extends approximately 3km south-west from the Solar Array Area to the A17. The Bespoke Access Corridor is located wholly within the administrative areas of LCC and NKDC.
- 1.3.9 The Bespoke Access Corridor has been refined during the pre-application stage, informed by results from environmental surveys and consultation feedback.

- 1.3.10 Asgarby Road and Heckington Road cross the Bespoke Access Corridor and there are four PRow located within the route.

1.4 The Proposed Development

- 1.4.1 The main components of the Proposed Development are summarised below and defined in Schedule 1 to the **Draft DCO (Document Ref: 3.1)**.

Solar Array Area

- 1.4.2 The Solar Array Area consists of solar PV panels and modular ground-mounting structures. The height of the panels considered will be up to 3.9m above ground level in fields to the east and 3.5m above ground level in fields to the west, south and an isolated field in the north. The proposal is for a fixed (i.e., static) panel orientation, facing due south which is commonly seen on existing UK solar farms, and angled 10° to 45° from horizontal. Supporting infrastructure includes inverters, combiner boxes, transformers and switchgear converting the Direct Current ('DC') to Alternating Current ('AC') and stepping up the voltage so it can be exported to the National Grid. An inverter, transformer and switchgear comprised together is termed a Power Conversion Unit ('PCU').
- 1.4.3 A 600MW BESS adjacent to the On-Site Substation is included in the Proposed Development within the Solar Array Area. This will allow the electricity generated by the panels to be stored on site at times when grid demand is low, then exported at times of higher demand. The BESS containers and switch rooms are anticipated to be up to 8m x 3m in size, with a height of up to 4.5m.
- 1.4.4 Low voltage onsite electrical cabling is required to connect the PV modules and BESS to the inverters, and the inverters to the onsite transformers. Higher voltage cables are required between the transformers and the switchgear and from switchgear to the substation.
- 1.4.5 A new onsite substation is proposed and would have up to four High Voltage (HV) transformers with a maximum footprint of no more than 40,000m² (e.g. 250m x 160m (or 200m x 200m)) and a height of up to 13m). The substation will include a 33kV switchroom, control and storage buildings that would house office space and welfare facilities, as well as operational monitoring and maintenance equipment and equipment for reactive compensation and/or harmonic filtering. The design control building and office/welfare will be defined as part of detailed design.
- 1.4.6 The perimeter fence would likely comprise a standard post and wire, deer fencing up to 3m tall around the Solar Array Area. Security fencing, up to 3.4m will be installed around the Onsite Substation compound and, possibly, other infrastructure / compounds. Acoustic fencing, up to 4m tall, may be required around the BESS, subject to the detailed design and layout.
- 1.4.7 Mounted internal-facing closed circuit television (CCTV) systems will likely be deployed around the perimeter of the operational areas of the Site; anticipated to be 5m high. The CCTV cameras would have fixed view sheds and will be aligned to face along the fence. Motion detection security lighting will be used

around the electrical infrastructure and potentially at other pieces of critical infrastructure.

- 1.4.8 During construction, temporary construction compounds will be required, as well as temporary roadways, to enable access to all the land within the Site. Localised earthworks to form suitable development platform for the substation and BESS will also be required.
- 1.4.9 There will be one primary access on the western edge of the Solar Array Area and a secondary access to the north, both of which will allow large vehicles (including first responder access to the BESS and on site substation). Tertiary operational access primarily for smaller vehicles is provided to the north west and south.
- 1.4.10 PRoW Ewer/12/1 is being extended in a south and westerly direction as a permissive path terminating in the vicinity of Ewerby Thorpe, and will be in place for the operational duration of the Proposed Development. The exact route of the permissive path will be determined via the discharge of a requirement in the **Draft DCO (Document Ref: 3.1)**, but it is anticipated to run in a south easterly direction along Car Dyke and then heading south west on the north side of Hodge Dike. An undetermined number of footbridges (unlikely to be more than 8 in number) to cross existing watercourses will be required and will require the usual water course crossing agreements to be sought with the relevant Internal Drainage Board in parallel with the discharge of the requirement.

Cable Route

- 1.4.11 The Cable Route running between the Solar Array Area and the Bicker Fen 400kV Substation will be constructed through trenched methods and, where required, trenchless methods.
- 1.4.12 During construction, temporary construction compounds will be required approximately every 1-3 km, as well as temporary roadways, to enable access to all land. It is anticipated that there will be 6 main compounds that are distributed at approximately equal distances along the cable route to facilitate proper construction management. Smaller temporary compounds may also be located anywhere within the final working area.
- 1.4.13 The Cable Route Corridor perimeter will include replacement planting of vegetation and hedgerows lost during the construction of the Cable Route and will be re-instated where possible subject to easement restrictions.

Bespoke Access Road

- 1.4.14 A dedicated access from the A17 to the Solar Array Area is required. It will be constructed in advance of and to facilitate construction of the development within the Solar Array Area. During construction, temporary construction compounds will be required which may be anywhere along the route.
- 1.4.15 The Bespoke Access Road will likely be the last component of the Proposed Development to be removed as it will be used to facilitate decommissioning of the Solar Array Area. Whilst it is assumed in the **Environmental Statement ('ES') (Document Ref 6.1 – 6.4)** that the road will be removed (unless otherwise stated in the relevant chapter), it is possible that engagement with the landowners at that time will establish a preference for it to be retained.

Optionality has been deliberately retained in the Application to facilitate such a scenario.

- 1.4.16 There will be no permanent lighting installed and access will be controlled through gates at all stages.
- 1.4.17 Vegetation and hedgerows lost during the construction of the Bespoke Access Road will be re-instated following decommissioning subject to the road being removed.

In any or all of the above areas

- 1.4.18 Along with the above, in any or all of the three areas, the Proposed Development will include the following (subject to certain requirements):
 - Access tracks of between 3.5m to 9m width for construction access and routine maintenance when operational. Access tracks located adjacent to drainage ditches will incorporate the necessary ecological, Environment Agency (EA) and/or Internal Drainage Board (IDB) buffers where required;
 - Boundary treatments, means of enclosure, security measures, and paths;
 - Landscaping and reinstatement planting and Biodiversity Net Gain related habitats;
 - Flood resilience measures including swales and storm water attenuation, and works to existing irrigation systems;
 - Utility diversions;
 - Bunds, embankments, protective works to buildings, maintenance and improvement of streets; and
 - Construction related (and decommissioning related) work sites.

Bicker Fen Substation Works

- 1.4.19 The extension of Bicker Fen substation will include a new generation bay, a new generation bay control room and a perimeter access road. A new generation bay will also include electrical equipment required for connection to the transmission system.
- 1.4.20 National Grid Electricity Transmission plc ('NGET') have requested that there be optionality within the design of the extension to Bicker Fen substation. The two design options that have been assessed in the **ES (Document Ref: 6.1 – 6.4)** and included in the Application are: Air Insulated Switchgear ('AIS') and Gas Insulated Switchgear ('GIS').

1.4.20/1.4.21 A Change Request was accepted by the Examining Authority into examination in a procedural decision dated 19 December 2025 (PD-015). This relates to a change to the proposed extension to the Bicker Fen Substation following from continued engagement between the applicant and NGET. The new design of the proposed extension includes the construction of a new overhead line (OHL) tower of up to 56.2 metres (m) in height with 4 legs, each supported on a square excavation of up to 7m by 7m wide and up to 5m deep. In addition, it also includes new 400kV cabling and associated works. This henceforth forms part of the Application.

Draft Development Consent Order

~~1.4.21~~1.4.22 The Proposed Development is described in detail in Schedule 1 to the **Draft DCO (Document Ref: 3.1)**, and the areas in which each component (the 'Work Numbers') may be constructed are shown on the **Works Plans (Document Ref: 2.4)**.

~~1.4.22~~1.4.23 The Proposed Development is split into 10 Work Numbers as follows:

- Work No. 1 – a ground mounted solar photovoltaic generating station with a gross electrical output capacity of over 50 megawatts;
- Work No. 2 — a battery energy storage system compound and associated works (including fire safety infrastructure);
- Work No. 3 — development of an onsite substation and associated works;
- Work No. 4 — works in connection with electrical cabling and associated compounds;
- Work No. 5 — works to the existing Bicker Fen National Grid substation to create a new generation bay, new overhead line and cabling and substation extension;
- Work No. 6 — various ancillary works relating to the Solar Array Area, including cabling, fencing, security features, access tracks, watercourse crossings and landscaping and biodiversity mitigation measures;
- Work No. 7 — construction and decommissioning compounds in connection with Work Nos. 1, 2 and 3;
- Work No. 8 — works to create the Bespoke Access Road;
- Work No. 9 — areas of habitat management; and
- Work No. 10 — works to facilitate access to Work Nos. 1 to 9.

~~1.4.23~~1.4.24 In addition, Schedule 1 to the **Draft DCO (Document Ref: 3.1)** lists other associated works (referred to as "further associated development") which may be carried out in connection with the construction of Work Nos. 1 to 10.

1.5 The Development Consent Order Process

- 1.5.1 As a NSIP, the Applicant is required to seek a DCO to obtain planning and other powers to construct, operate and maintain the generating station, in accordance with Section 31 of the 2008 Act. Sections 42 to 48 of the 2008 Act govern the consultation that an applicant must carry out before submitting an application for a DCO and Section 37 of the 2008 Act governs the form, content and accompanying documents that are required as part of a DCO application.
- 1.5.2 An application for development consent for the Proposed Development will then be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate ('PINS') acting on behalf of the SoS. Subject to the Application being accepted (which will be decided within a period of 28 days following receipt of the Application), PINS will now examine it and make a recommendation to the SoS, who will then decide whether or not to make (grant) the DCO.

1.6 Purpose of this Document

- 1.6.1 This document is intended to summarise clearly the agreements reached between the Applicant and the parties on matters relevant to the examination

of the Application, in order to assist the Examining Authority to understand the progress of negotiations between the parties. It has been prepared having regard to the guidance in *Planning Act 2008: Pre-examination stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects* and *Planning Act 2008: Examination stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects* (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, April 2024).

~~1.6.2 Once finalised, the SoCG will be submitted to the Examining Authority who will decide whether to accept it into the examination of the Application.~~

~~1.6.3~~ 1.6.2 It is intended that the SoCG will provide information for the examination process, facilitating a smooth and efficient examination and managing the amount of material that needs to be submitted. ~~Updates to this document will be made periodically (and on request) during the examination, with a view to submitting a final signed version of the SoCG at the end of the examination.~~

1.7 Role of key stakeholders

1.7.1 This SoCG refers to communications and correspondence between a number of key stakeholders. The role of each stakeholder is summarised in Table 1.1 below.

Table 1.1 – Role of key stakeholders

STAKEHOLDER	ROLE
Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited	The Applicant
DWD Property and Planning Limited ('DWD')	Planning consultants for Applicant
National Grid Gas Plc ('NGG')	Section 42(a) consultee and the relevant public gas transporter
National Gas Transmission Plc ('NGT')	Section 42(a) consultee and operator of a high pressure gas pipeline (7 feeder Hatton / Gosberton) ref no. 691 with which the access route from the A17 to the South Forty Foot Drain will intersect.
Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer LLP ('HSF Kramer')	Solicitors for the Applicant
Ardent Management Limited ('Ardent Management')	Land referencing consultants for the Applicant

~~1.7.2 It can be taken that any matters not specifically referred to in the 'Matters Agreed during Pre-Examination Stage' or 'Matters not yet agreed during Pre-Examination Stage' sections of this SoCG are not of material interest or relevance to the EA representations and have, therefore, not been considered in this SoCG.~~

~~1.7.3~~ 1.7.2 This SoCG has been produced to confirm to the Examining Authority where agreement has been reached between the parties, where agreement has not been reached (and that is the parties' final position) and where discussions are still ongoing.

1.8 Status of this Version

1.8.1 This SoCG is intended to be prepared in consultation with National Gas, and as such the Applicant is providing this ~~draft~~ final version of the SoCG to the relevant parties for comment on the matters outlined in Section 3 and Section 4.

~~1.8.2 One or more further versions (revised drafts) are anticipated to be agreed between the parties during the examination period and submitted to the Examining Authority to assist the examination of the Application.~~

~~1.8.3~~ 1.8.2 The document is structured as follows:

- Section 2 – summarises the consultation undertaken with NGT and correspondence sent by each party prior to examination;
- Section 3 – sets out the matters agreed between the parties during pre-examination stage; and
- ~~Section 4 – sets out the matters agreed between the parties during examination stage; and~~
- ~~Section 4 – sets out the matters currently still subject to discussion between the parties.~~

2. Summary of Consultation

2.1.1 The below **Table 2.1** contains a record of pertinent correspondence between the Applicant, NGT and NGG.

Table 2.1 – Summary of Correspondence

DATE	FORM OF CORRESPONDENCE	NOTES
17/01/2024	Letter and email from Ardent Management (on behalf of Applicant) to NGG and NGT	Advising commencement of the statutory consultation period on 22/01- January 20/24 and providing project information, including the PEIR and non-technical summary. NGG did not provide a response and NGT provided a response on 01/03/2024 with comments.
29/02/2024	Letter from DWD (on behalf of Applicant) to NGG	Targeted extension of consultation for certain consultees: small extensions to the order limits for construction vehicle oversails and access widening.
04/12/2024	Letter and email sent from HSF Kramer to NGT	Outlining the proposed protective provisions to be included within Schedule 11 to the Draft DCO (Document Ref: 3.1) and providing the standard Part 1 provisions to NGT. Follow up email sent by HSF Kramer on 12/12/2024.
03/01/2025	Response from NGT's land agent	Email of response confirming NG E T were appointing solicitors who would share bespoke protective provisions with HSF Kramer.
14/01/2025	NGT letter response to Applicant	Letter regarding assessment of the proposed works being located in proximity to a High Risk zone for NGT apparatus.
<u>07/11/2025</u>	<u>Letter from the Applicant to NGT</u>	<u>Notification of the Change Request.</u>
29/01/2025	Ongoing engagement between NGT's solicitors and HSF Kramer- <u>Present</u>	NGT's solicitors requested an undertaking on 29/01/2025 which was duly provided by HSF Kramer on 01/05/2025. On 27/05/2025, NGT's solicitors provided proposed bespoke protective provisions, which were returned to NGT's solicitors by HSF Kramer on 30/07/2025. <u>Correspondence between the parties has continued with the most recent update being an email to HSF Kramer on 15/01/2026. Further comments were received from NGT's solicitors iteratively on 31/07/2025, 11/08/2025 and 29/08/25 and an updated draft was shared by HSF Kramer on 30/09/25 in response. This is currently being considered by NGT. <u>confirming agreement to the form of protective provisions and that these would be placed on the face of the</u></u>

DATE	FORM OF CORRESPONDENCE	NOTES
		next iteration of the Draft DCO (Document Ref: 3.1) (this was done at Deadline 7).
<u>05/02/2026</u>	<u>Meeting between the Applicant and NGT</u>	<u>Meeting to discuss the Change Request and potential implications for NGT assets.</u>

3. Matters agreed during Pre-Examination Stage

3.1.1 The below **Table 3.1** contains a list of ‘matters agreed’ between the parties ~~correct at the date of the submission of this SoCG into the~~ during the Pre-Examination stage, along with a concise commentary of what the item refers to and how it came to be agreed between the two parties.

Table 3.1 – List of matters agreed during Pre-Examination Stage

MATTER	COMMENTARY
Adequacy of consultation	The Applicant has consulted with National Gas through the pre-application and pre-examination stage and undertaken statutory (and targeted statutory) consultation in accordance with the requirements as set out in Section 42 of the 2008 Act and notified National Gas of the acceptance of the Application in accordance with Section 56 of the 2008 Act.
General suitability of construction access intersecting with gas pipeline	It is agreed that the only location in which the Order Limits intersect with a National Gas pipeline is at the access to the Cable Route Corridor via the Triton Knoll access track. It is considered that the track would, in principle, be suitable for construction on the basis that construction activity associated with Triton Knoll would have been significantly more intensive and the track was considered suitable for similar activity proposed for the Heckington Fen Solar Park. The Applicant notes that suitability of this construction access and any further mitigation measures that may be required to be implemented will be investigated further at the detailed design stage and prior to any affecting construction activity occurring, as set out within the OCEMP (Document Ref: 6.3.7) .
Principle of Protective Provisions	An adequate form of bespoke protective provisions for NGT will be included within the Draft DCO (Document Ref: 3.1) . In December 2024, the Applicant’s solicitors commenced engagement with NGT in relation to agreeing a bespoke set of protective provisions. In accordance with <i>Guidance on the Planning Act 2008: Content of a Development Consent Order required for NSIPs</i> (Paragraph 012 Reference ID 04-012-20240430, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, 2024) the Applicant has included a set of draft protective provisions in Part 4 of Schedule 11 to the Draft DCO (Document Ref: 3.1) whilst engagement on the precise drafting of the protective provisions is ongoing.
Guidance for developing solar farms near to gas transmission pipelines	The Applicant agrees that any work in proximity to NGT assets will be undertaken with consideration to the relevant guidance, in particular: • <i>Requirements for the Siting and Installation of Solar Photovoltaic Installations in the Vicinity of Buried Pipelines</i> (UKOPA/GP/014 Ed 1, UKOPA Good Practice Guide, 2023); • <i>Avoiding Danger from Underground Services</i> (HS(G) 47, Health and Safety Executive, 2014); • <i>HSE’s Land Use Planning methodology</i>; and

MATTER	COMMENTARY
	<i>Dial Before You Dig Specification for Safe Working in the Vicinity of NGT Assets (NGT, 2024), as relevant.</i>
Works within National Gas Easement corridors	The Applicant recognises that NGT infrastructure within the Site is protected by deeds of grant/ easement (where relevant) which provide NGG and NGT full rights of access to retain, maintain, repair and inspect its assets. The Applicant agrees to seek NGT consent, agreement or approval where required in accordance with the draft terms of the protective provisions set out in Part 4 of Schedule 11 to the Draft DCO (Document Ref: 3.1) prior to any works or crossings of any easement (if required). As required in accordance with the terms of the draft protective provisions, the Applicant agrees to submit a works plan to NGT including a written method statement, prior to the commencement of any works within 15m of NGT assets.
Works restrictions and adequate clearances	The Applicant notes NGT's requirement to maintain a clearance of at least 600mm above or below NGT pipelines. The Applicant will consult with NGT's Plant Protection team prior to works in the vicinity of NGT gas assets and notes that any appropriate measures (if required) will be detailed within the Construction Environment Management Plan, production, approval and implementation of which is secured by a requirement in the Draft DCO (Document Ref: 3.1). The Applicant notes the NGT requirement that if any excavations planned within 3 metres of NGT High Pressure Pipeline (or 10 metres of an Above Ground Installation) or if any embankment or dredging works are proposed then the position and depth of the pipeline will be established on site through testing in the presence of a NGT representative. As required in accordance with the terms of the draft protective provisions set out in Part 4 of Schedule 11 to the Draft DCO (Document Ref: 3.1), prior to the commencement of any works within 15m of NGT assets, the Applicant agrees to submit a works plan to National Gas including a method statement and information detailing those proposed works. NGT may require reasonable modifications to the above. A safe working method will be agreed prior to any work taking place in order to minimise the risk of damage and ensure the final depth of cover does not affect the integrity of the pipeline. As required in accordance with the draft terms of the protective provisions set out in Part 4 of Schedule 11 to the Draft DCO (Document Ref: 3.1), works must be executed in accordance with the approved plans and NGT will be entitled to watch and inspect the execution of those works. Any protective works to be carried out must be done so to the satisfaction of NGT prior to the commencement of any specified works for which protective works are required.

4. Matters agreed during Examination Stage

4.1.1 The below **Table 4.1** contains a list of 'matters agreed' between the parties correct at the date of the submission of this SoCG into the Examination, along with a concise commentary of what the item refers to and how it came to be agreed between the two parties.

Table 4.1 – List of matters agreed during Examination Stage

MATTER	COMMENTARY
<u>Specific protective provisions</u>	NGT require sufficient protection for existing apparatus and possible interference with the same from the Proposed Development within the Order Limits. NGT, the Applicant and HSF Kramer have continued to engage constructively and have now reached agreement on form and specific drafting of the bespoke protective provisions to be included in Part 4 of Schedule 11 to the Draft DCO (Document Ref: 3.1).
<u>Bicker Fen Substation extension</u>	Following receipt of the final draft of the SoCG, NGT raised concern that they did not receive a copy of the consultation letter issued by the Applicant on 7 November 2025. The Applicant confirmed that the notification letter was posted to the NGT Company Secretary. The Applicant and NGT met on 5 February 2026 to discuss the Cehange Rrequest and whether mitigation to protect NGT apparatus is required. NGT noted that as per UKOPA/GPG/042 'Guidance on the issues to be considered by Promoters, Designers and Planners of new developments in the vicinity of high pressure pipelines' (July 2023), any new project within 1000m of a buried pipeline may impact on a pipeline's integrity and safe operation, and therefore developers must confirm that there would be no electrical interference with the NGT asset. This assessment must also consider the cumulative effects on NGT apparatus from nearby solar developments. Noting that the Proposed Development's Order Limits have been fixed for some time, the Applicant has retained sufficient flexibility to microsite the cable route should this be needed or to incorporate localised mitigations. Given the distance of the NGT apparatus from the closest point of the cable route (560m) and the significant distance of the apparatus from the solar array area (where most of electrical infrastructure is located), the risk of electrical interference is anticipated to be low and is unlikely to lead to material changes to the design. Notwithstanding the above, the Applicant confirms that due to the cumulative impacts of nearby electrical infrastructure, electrical interference modelling will be required at delivery stage and will be undertaken prior to the detailed design being fixed in accordance with the plan approval stage provided for in the agreed form protective provisions. NGT is agreeable to this approach.

5. ~~Matters not yet agreed during Pre-Examination Stage~~

5.1.1 ~~The below Table 4.1 contains a list of matters which are still under discussion between the parties, correct as at the date of the submission of this SoCG into the Examination, along with a concise commentary of what the item refers to.~~

~~Table 4.1—List of Matters not yet agreed during Pre-Examination Stage~~

MATTER	COMMENTARY	LIKELIHOOD OF RESOLUTION
Specific protective provisions	Whilst the parties agree in principle with the inclusion of bespoke protective provisions in the Draft DCO (Document Ref: 3.1) for the protection of NGT, the specific drafting of the bespoke protective provisions in Part 4 of Schedule 11 to the Draft DCO (Document Ref: 3.1) are not yet agreed. NGT, the Applicant and HSF Kramer will continue to engage constructively and regularly and seek to reach agreement on form of protective provisions to be included in the Draft DCO (Document Ref: 3.1) . NGT require sufficient protection for existing apparatus and possible interference with the same from the Proposed Development within the Order Limits.	Likely

INSERT SIGNATURE

Signed: NAME

On behalf of: ~~[Stakeholder Organisation]~~ National Gas Transmission Plc

Date:

INSERT SIGNATURE

Signed: NAME

On behalf of: Beacon Fen Energy Park Ltd

Date: