



# Frodsham Solar Statement of Commonality

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Purpose of this Document

1.1.1 This Statement of Commonality (the 'Statement') has been prepared on behalf of Frodsham Solar Limited (the 'Applicant') in respect of an application for development consent for the Frodsham Solar development (the 'Proposed Development'). An application for development consent for the Proposed Development was made on the 30<sup>th</sup> May 2025, and subsequently accepted for examination by the Planning Inspectorate on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

1.1.2 The Statement has been prepared to provide the Examining Authority (ExA) with a summary of the final position of all Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) prepared by the Applicant.

### 1.2 Document Structure

1.2.1 This Statement is structured as follows:

- i) **Section 1: Introduction** – provides an introduction to the document and sets out the structure of the Statement.
- ii) **Section 2: Statements of Common Ground** – provides a summary of the current status of all Statements of Common Ground, structured by examination deadlines.
- iii) **Section 3: Statement of Commonality** – provides a summary of the commonality between Statements of Common Ground, setting out matters that are 'agreed', 'under discussion', or 'not agreed'.

## **2.0 STATEMENTS OF COMMON GROUND**

### **2.1 Approach to Statements of Common Ground**

2.1.1 The Applicant began preparing SoCGs following acceptance of the application for examination. Each of the SoCGs being prepared has a consistent approach and structure, setting out:

- i) The role of the relevant organisation or interested party in the DCO process and a summary of consultation undertaken;
- ii) A summary of topics agreed, under discussion, or not agreed;
- iii) Matters of agreement and disagreement; and
- iv) A signing sheet, to be completed once the SoCG is considered final.

2.1.2 The Applicant has prepared SoCGs with the following organisations:

- i) Cheshire West and Chester Council;
- ii) Environment Agency;
- iii) Natural England;
- iv) National Highways; and
- v) Liverpool Bay CCS Limited in relation to the proposed Runcorn Carbon Dioxide Spur Pipeline.

### 3.0 STATEMENT OF COMMONALITY

#### 3.1 Approach to Statement of Commonality

3.1.1 This section of the Statement sets out the ‘commonality’ or agreement status for each of the main topics set out in the SoCGs. This is presented in Table 1 on the following page by topic and by Party to a SoCG.

3.1.2 It should be noted that Table 1 provides only an overarching summary by key topic area. Each SoCG contains a more detailed schedule of matters. In some instances, particularly in the SoCG with Cheshire West and Chester Council, a broad topic area includes both matters that have been agreed and matters that remain not agreed. In some instances, again in relation to the Cheshire West and Chester Council SoCG, the status of certain matters within the main SoCG is annotated to highlight that the status is subject to a comment. This is not reflected in Table 1. Accordingly, this Statement of Commonality provides a high-level indication only of the status of the principal topics relevant to the Examination.

3.1.3 The table includes colour coding to identify whether a matter is agreed, under discussion, or not agreed. Where a topic is not relevant to a Party, the relevant cell has been greyed out. The colour coding used is as per the key below:

Status	Colour Code
Matter agreed	Green
Matter under discussion	Yellow
Matter not agreed	Red
Matter not relevant to Party for purpose of SoCG	Grey

Table 1: Statement of Commonality

Topic (Right) Organisation (Below)	Draft DCO	Other Consents and Licences	Control Documents	Project Benefits	Land and Compulsory Acquisition	Green Belt	Landscape and Visual	Ecology and Biodiversity	Habitats Regulations Assessment	Flood Risk and Drainage	Water Quality and Resources	Land and Soils	Ground Conditions	Peat Resources	Cultural Heritage and Archaeology	Transport and Highways	Tourism and Recreation	Health and Amenity	Waste	Decommissioning	Cumulative Effects	Community Benefit Fund
Cheshire West and Chester Council	Green	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green	Red	Green	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Red	Green	Green	Red	Green
Environment Agency	Green	Green	Green	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Green	Grey	Green	Green	Green	Green	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Green	Green	Green	Grey
Natural England	Green	Green	Green	Grey	Grey	Grey	Green	Green	Green	Grey	Grey	Green	Grey	Green	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Green	Green	Grey
National Highways	Green	Grey	Green	Grey	Green	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Green	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Green	Grey
Liverpool Bay CCS Ltd	Yellow	Grey	Yellow	Grey	Yellow	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Green	Grey

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## 4.0 SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 This section of the Statement sets out a summary of the progress reached in achieving a final SoCG.

### 4.2 Summary of Progress

#### *Cheshire West and Chester Council*

4.2.1 The Applicant has undertaken extensive engagement with CWCC in the pre-application stage and through the examination stage. Both parties have acted in a positive and proactive manner to resolve issues arising. However, it has not been possible to reach an agreement on all matters. The principal areas of remaining disagreement relate to the consensus on ecological impact, in particular in relation to BNG and effects on the Mersey Estuary SPA. Stemming from this are matters which have not been agreed in relation to the DCO and Control Documents, and the approach taken to provision of recreational access across the Site, cumulative effects associated with the proposed Runcorn Spur CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline and the status of mitigation areas at the point of decommissioning.

#### *Environment Agency*

4.2.2 All matters have been agreed with the Environment Agency. There are no outstanding points of disagreement between the parties.

#### *Natural England*

4.2.3 All matters have been agreed with the Environment Agency. There are no outstanding points of disagreement between the parties.

#### *National Highways*

4.2.4 All matters have been agreed with the Environment Agency. There are no outstanding points of disagreement between the parties.

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***Liverpool Bay CCS Ltd***

- 4.2.5 The Applicant has been engaging with Liverpool Bay CCS Ltd throughout the Examination. The focus of discussions between the parties, and the main matters set out in the SoCG, relate to agreements on the routing of the pipeline, programming of both projects, ability to control environmental effects associated with the construction and operation of the two projects, land agreements, protective provisions and general cooperation.
- 4.2.6 On most issues, agreement has been reached. However, a few topics remain under discussion. These relate to the final wording of protective provisions, final land agreements, and commercial principles. Importantly, the parties agree to work cooperatively to enable the successful delivery of both projects, and there are no in-principle disagreements about whether both projects can or should proceed. Both parties consider that they can implement coordinated environmental protection measures to ensure that adverse effects of both projects are minimised and that neither project will adversely affect the integrity of the Mersey Estuary SPA, either individually or in combination and that conditions can be put onto the LBCCS planning permission to help achieve this.
- 4.2.7 A final draft of the SoCG has been submitted at Deadline 7 and this draft has been agreed by both parties. However, Liverpool Bay CCS Ltd has informed the Applicant that it is not in a position to sign a final SoCG prior to receiving comments from CWCC and Natural England on the pipeline application. The parties will continue to work together to seek a resolution of the remaining matters after the close of the Examination.