



Dean Moor Solar Farm

Draft Statement of Common Ground with Historic England

on behalf of **FVS Dean Moor Limited**

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Prepared by: Stantec UK Ltd
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DEAN MOOR SOLAR FARM
DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND WITH HISTORIC ENGLAND
PLANNING INSPECTORATE REFERENCE EN010155
PREPARED ON BEHALF OF FVS DEAN MOOR LIMITED

The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms
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1 Introduction

1.1 Status of the Statement of Common Ground

1.1.1 This draft Statement of Common Ground ('dSoCG') has been produced for FVS Dean Moor Limited ('the Applicant') to support the application for a prepared in respect of the Development Consent Order (the 'DCO application') to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero ('SoS') for Dean Moor Solar Farm ('the Proposed Development') located between the villages of Gilgarran and Branthwaite in West Cumbria (the 'Site'), which is situated within the administrative area of Cumberland Council ('the Council')..

1.1.2 This dSoCG has been prepared by (1) the Applicant and (2) Historic England (HE). It is agreed that this dSoCG is an accurate description of the matters raised by Historic England and the current status of each matter. A high-level overview of the engagement undertaken since September 2023 is summarised in section 3.

1.2 Purpose of this document

1.2.1 The dSoCG 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. In the planning process, SoCGs are an established means of allowing all parties to identify and focus on specific matters that may need to be addressed during the Examination. The dSoCG is a 'live' document that will be updated by the parties as matters progress.

1.3 Terminology

1.3.1 In the matters table in Section 3 of this dSoCG, '*Matter agreed*' indicates where issues are resolved. '*Matter under discussion*' indicates where points will be the subject of ongoing discussion wherever possible to resolve, or refine, the extent of disagreement between the parties and '*Matter not agreed*' indicates agreement on the matter could not be reached following significant engagement.

2 Current Position

2.1 Position of Historic England and the Applicant

- 2.1.1 The Applicant and HE have had positive engagement on the Proposed Development, which has centred around the methodology and conclusions within the relevant chapters and appendices of the Environmental Statement (ES) in relation to the assessment of heritage assets. There are currently no matters which are under discussion or have not been agreed. The Applicant has discussed the methodology and necessary updates to ES Chapter 6 and the HEDBA in response to the ExA's questions on these topics (5.0.1, 5.0.2, and 5.0.6). As these documents are to be submitted at Deadline 2, this version of the dSoCG has not been informed by HE's review of the updated HEDBA and Chapter 6. However, agreement has been reached on the updates required to address these questions, which is reflected within this dSoCG, and the outcomes of the review will be reflected in future iterations of the dSoCG as necessary.
- 2.1.2 Within their Relevant Representation [[RR-016](#)], HE raised matters relating to the guidance referenced within the Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment (HEDBA) (ES Appendix 6.1) [[APP-112-APP-115](#)], and clarifications around views from the Far Branthwaite Edge, Dairy and Barn Grade II Listed Building [NHLE: 1138216]. The Applicant has responded to these points within the 'Applicant Response to Relevant Representations' (ARRR) [[REP1-002](#)] and has agreed to provide clarification within the HEDBA and ES Chapter 6 – Cultural Heritage [[APP-037](#)] where appropriate to provide revised referencing and clarity in the use of guidance.
- 2.1.3 The shared position set out below within Table 2.1 '*Matters agreed*' is the agreed position. However, the wording may be refined following further engagement between the parties, and these updates will be presented in the next version of this dSoCG.

2.2 Matters agreed

2.2.1 Table 2.1 below details the matters agreed with HE.

Table 2.1 Matters agreed

Ref	Topic	Shared position	Application Ref
HE.1	Technical recommendations on the approach to ES Chapter 6 - Cultural Heritage	<p>The Applicant has taken on board the feedback provided by HE to improve the clarity and consistency of ES Chapter 6, and its referencing, such that these aspects of HE feedback are fully resolved by the revisions.</p> <p>HE comments related to the inclusion of 'out of date' guidance within Chapter 6 has been discussed and agreed as appropriate to include additional context to the Historic HEDBA to explain how this guidance relates to a methodology that remains in use, and how it has been used in the HEDBA in a manner that is appropriate despite the original source material being superseded.</p> <p>The Applicant response to HE's RR comments on this matter is included within the 'ARRR [D1.1]', and the HEDBA and ES Chapter 6 have been updated to provide revised referencing and clarity in the use of guidance. A technical note has been produced which discusses the EIA methodology.</p> <p>Following these updates, it is agreed that there are no outstanding issues related to guidance within ES Chapter 6 – Cultural Heritage and supporting appendices.</p>	<p>ES Ch6 - Cultural Heritage [APP-037]</p> <p>ES Appx 6.1 Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment [APP-112-APP-115]</p>
HE.2	The potential for archaeological remains on the Proposed Development Site	<p>It is agreed that the assessment of the HEDBA, which is reinforced by the findings of the geophysical survey, support a judgement that the probability of significant archaeological remains across the Site is low, not least due to the extensive history of open cast mining and other development across large areas of the Site. It is also agreed that despite this, further investigation is required in the form of additional fieldwork, including trial trenching, to inform a fuller understanding of the Site's archaeological baseline.</p> <p>The Archaeology Management Strategy (AMS), which includes an outline Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), has been agreed with the Council's archaeologist. The AMS provides an appropriate foundation for fieldwork to be undertaken in advance of</p>	<p>ES Ch6 Cultural Heritage [APP-037]</p> <p>ES Appx 6.1 - Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment [APP-112-APP-115]</p> <p>ES Appx 6.2 - Geophysical Survey Report [APP-116]</p> <p>ES Appx 6.3 Archaeological</p>

Ref	Topic	Shared position	Application Ref
		<p>construction on the Site, and sets out pathways to secure any further mitigation (exclusion, design alternatives, working methods, and a watching brief to be implemented during construction) depending on fieldwork outcomes.</p> <p>The AMS has been produced by a CiFA accredited archaeological consultant in collaboration with the Council's archaeologist in accordance with industry standards and includes commitments to recording and reporting in accordance with best practice. Subject to the Council's acceptance of the AMS, HE accepts the approach to archaeological investigation and mitigation in-principle.</p>	<p>Mitigation Strategy [APP-117]</p> <p>ES Appx 5.1 Construction Environmental Management Plan [APP-108]</p>
HE.3	The potential for positive effects on archaeology	The archaeological fieldwork secured by a DCO Requirement, and the publication of outcomes, will mitigate the impacts on known or unknown archaeological remains and there is a potential for positive effect through the addition of knowledge to the local Historic Environment Record (HER).	<p>ES Ch6 Cultural Heritage [APP-037]</p> <p>ES Appx 6.3 Archaeological Mitigation Strategy [APP-117]</p>
HE.4	The potential for positive effects on heritage assets	<p>The Large irregular stone circle and a round cairn on Dean Moor ('the Stone Circle and Cairn') Scheduled Monument (SM) (NHLE: 1014588, SMR no, 3048) is currently inaccessible to the general public and there is little public awareness or ability to experience the cultural heritage asset and its place in the local landscape.</p> <p>The Applicant considers that there is positive potential to better reveal the significance of the Stone Circle and Cairn through the introduction of a permissive path and information boards in the vicinity of the Stone Circle and Cairn, providing the potential to interact with the SM and an opportunity to engage with the designated heritage asset.</p> <p>It is agreed that the proposed public accessibility improvements will be beneficial for heritage interests.</p>	<p>ES Ch6 Cultural Heritage [APP-037]</p> <p>ES Appx 7.7 Outline Landscape Ecological Management Plan [APP-145]</p> <p>ES Appx 3.1 Outline Operational Management Plan [APP-107]</p>
HE.5	Conclusions as to effects on designated heritage assets (Stone Circle and Round Cairn and	While the Proposed Development has the potential for significant effects (in EIA terms) on designated heritage assets during all phases, the exclusion of development from more elevated areas affecting the Stone Circle and Round Cairn, and further setback from Grade II Listed Wythemoor Sough and Adjoining Barn and Stable (Wythemoor Sough) (NHLE: 1327185) coupled with the mitigation/enhancement planting provided by the LSP and OLEMP, mean that there will be less than substantial harm to these designated heritage	<p>ES Ch6 - Cultural Heritage [APP-037]</p> <p>ES Ch7 Landscape and Visual [APP-039]</p> <p>ES Figure 7.6 Landscape Strategy</p>

Ref	Topic	Shared position	Application Ref
	Wythemoor Sough and Adjoining Barn and Stable)	<p>assets.</p> <p>In response to ExAQ 5.0.2 regarding the evidence base to assess impacts on the Stone Circle and Round Cairn, the Applicant and HE have agreed that further photographs of the Stone Circle and Round Cairn would demonstrate its relationship with its landscape setting and the Site, and it was agreed that the inclusion of the additional photographs within the updated HEDBA would be an appropriate way in which response to the request for further visualisations. HE will review the updated HEDBA submitted at Deadline 2, with figures 17a, 17b, 17c, and 18a, and 18b now showing visual relationship between the Site and the receptor, and the wider landscape context within which the receptor is located. Based on the position agreed in the 14.08.25 meeting, it is expected that there remains to be agreement on this matter.</p>	<p>Plan [APP-088]</p> <p>ES Appx 7.7 Outline Landscape Ecological Management Plan [APP-145]</p>
HE.6	The effect of the Proposed Development on the English Lake District World Heritage Site	The conclusion of less than substantial harm to the English Lake District World Heritage Sites (WHS) is agreed. This has been discussed and agreed between the Applicant and the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA).	<p>ES Ch6 - Cultural Heritage [APP-037]</p> <p>ES Ch7 Landscape and Visual [APP-039]</p>

2.3 Matters under discussion

2.3.1 The Applicant and HE do not consider there to be any matters currently under discussion.

2.4 Matters not agreed

2.4.1 There are currently no matters which have not been agreed, or are not anticipated to be agreed during Examination, between HE and the Applicant.

3 Record of Engagement

3.1 Summary of consultation and engagement

3.1.1 The table below summarises communication in relation to progressing this dSoCG. The Applicant notes that there has been a variety of informal communication, such as telephone calls between the parties to discuss updates on the Proposed Development and various ad-hoc queries, which are not set out in the table below.

Table 3.1 Summary of consultation and engagement with Historic England

Ref	Date	Engagement Type & Record	Key topics discussed and key outcomes
HE.A	05.09.23	HE input into EIA Scoping Opinion [APP-097]	HE raised no comments on the EIA Scoping Report.
HE.B	12.04.24	HE Statutory Consultation Response	HE raised minor comments on statements made within the Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment, PEIR Chapter 6 – Cultural Heritage, and the Geophysical Survey Report.
HE.C	24.04.24	Online Meeting (Minuted) (ES Appx 6.4 Stakeholder Engagement [APP-118])	HE and the Applicant agreed the amendments to be made to address HE's minor comments in relation to the HEDBA and Chapter 6 – Cultural Heritage.
HE.D	12.06.25	Online Meeting (Minuted)	<p>Discussion of the draft SoCG submitted to HE by the Applicant. HE confirmed their view that the Proposed Development is unproblematic, no major issues are envisaged, and that the Site is low down on the hierarchy of sensitivity.</p> <p>HE confirmed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The assessment submitted is appropriate in regard to the stone circle; and ■ They agree that the context of the landscape is different to that of the original setting, and that this context has been dealt with sensitively

Ref	Date	Engagement Type & Record	Key topics discussed and key outcomes
HE.E	14.08.25	Online meeting (Minuted)	The Applicant met HE to discuss the SoCG and the updates to the HEDBA and ES Chapter 6 with clarifications regarding the Stone Circle. HE confirmed the Applicant's proposed response to satisfy the ExA's questions 5.0.1, 5.0.2, and 5.0.6.

4 Signatures

4.1.1 This Statement of Common Ground is agreed upon:

On behalf of Historic England:

Name:

Signature:

Date:

On behalf of the Applicant:

Name:

Signature:

Date:

