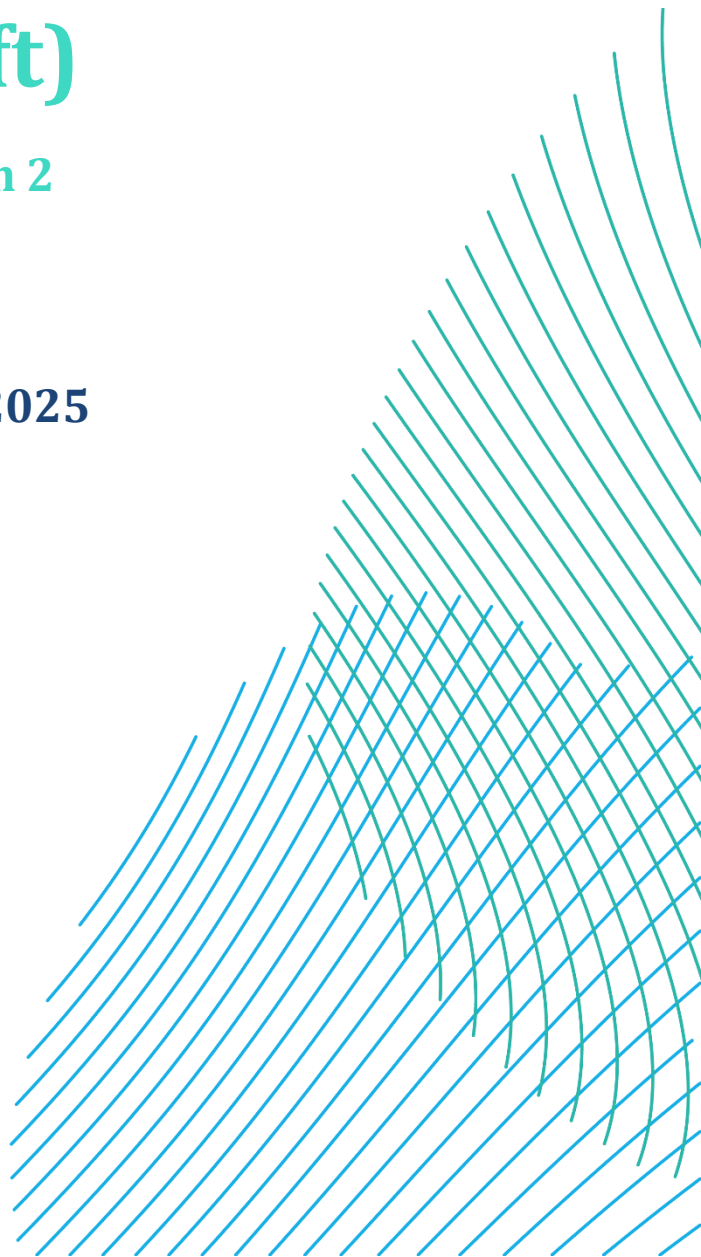




Statement of Common Ground with Historic England (draft)

Revision 2

October 2025



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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this document

- 1.1.1 This Statement of Common Ground (hereafter referred to as the 'SoCG') has been prepared to support the Examination of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application (the 'DCO Application') for Peartree Hill Solar Farm (the 'Proposed Development').
- 1.1.2 The DCO Application is for a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) for the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of a solar photovoltaic (PV) array electricity generating facility, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure which would allow for the generation and export of electricity.
- 1.1.3 The SoCG is a 'live' document that has been prepared collaboratively by the Applicant and the Consultee (Historic England).
- 1.1.4 The SoCG has been prepared in accordance with the Guidance for examination of DCO applications which was published in 2024 by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities¹.
- 1.1.5 This Guidance comments that:

"A statement of common ground is a written statement prepared jointly by the applicant and another party or parties, setting out any matters on which they agree, or indeed disagree. A SoCG helps to ensure that the evidence at examination focuses on the material differences between the main parties and therefore makes best use of the lines of questioning pursued by the Examining Authority".

¹ Planning Act 2008: Examination stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (April 2024)

- 1.1.6 The aim of this SoCG is to therefore provide a clear position of the progress and agreement made or not yet made between the Applicant and Historic England on matters relating to the Proposed Development. Where matters are yet to be agreed, the parties will continue to proactively work to reach agreement.
- 1.1.7 The SoCG will be updated as more information becomes available and as a result of ongoing discussions between the Applicant and Historic England.

1.2 Parties to this Statement of Common Ground

- 1.2.1 This SoCG has been prepared by (1) the Applicant and (2) Historic England.
- 1.2.2 Historic England are responsible for protecting the historic environment within England. There are multiple historic designations (Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens and Grade I and Grade II* Listed Buildings) that have the potential to be impacted by the Proposed Development.
- 1.2.3 Collectively, the Applicant and Historic England are referred to as ‘the parties’.

1.3 Terminology

- 1.3.1 Section 3 of this document sets out the relevant matters raised though discussion between the parties. It provides a summary of the position of each party and identifies the status of discussions on each matter:
- “Agreed” indicates where the issue has been resolved between the parties and is not anticipated to be subject to further discussions;
 - “Under discussion” indicates where a matter remains in active dialogue between the parties and a final position has not yet been reached;
 - “Not Agreed” indicates where the parties have established a final position that they cannot resolve the matter and will remain a point of difference.

2 Record of Engagement

2.1 Summary of consultation and engagement

- 2.1.1 The parties have been engaged in consultation and engagement throughout the development of the Proposed Development. Table 1 shows a summary of the meetings and correspondence that has taken place between the Applicant and Historic England in relation to the Proposed Development. This is limited to engagement which is materially relevant to the contents of this SoCG and does not seek to include every correspondence between the parties (e.g. that which was primarily administrative).

Table 1: Record of Engagement since August 2023

Date	Purpose of engagement	Description
August 2023	To seek pre-application advice on setting issues relating to Scheduled Monuments.	Email and letter (Historic England document reference PA01199523, dated 17 August 2023) correspondence regarding potential setting issues arising from the proximity of the Proposed Development to Meaux Abbey and Meaux Duck Decoy Scheduled Monuments.
27 November 2023	To reach agreement on the assessment study area and approach to assessment of designated heritage assets.	Email and letter (Historic England document reference PL00794572, dated 27 November 2023) from Historic England recommending a study area of 5km and outlining expectations for what should be included in the assessment.
January – February 2024	To discuss potential setting impacts on designated heritage assets and reach agreement on assets to be scoped into the setting assessment.	Email and letter (Historic England document reference PL00794572, dated 9 February 2024) correspondence to discuss the initial setting assessment.
1 March 2024		Online meeting to further discuss the above and to confirm the assets to be scoped into/ out of the setting assessment.
24 June 2024	To discuss Historic England's statutory consultation response.	Online meeting to discuss the assessments/ methodology to date, particularly regarding definitions of impact on significance.

Date	Purpose of engagement	Description
July 2024	To discuss potential community engagement opportunities.	Email correspondence to discuss a potential community engagement scheme in collaboration with Humber Field Archaeology and Albanwise Estate.
June 2025	To discuss appropriate mitigation in relation to the Applicant's proposal to create bird scrapes in Field E6	Email correspondence to discuss appropriate mitigation of any potential impacts to archaeological remains that may arise through the Applicant's proposal to create bird scrapes in Field E6 to the north of Meaux Duck Decoy.

3 Current Position

- 3.1.1 The table below provides a summary of the current position of the Applicant and Historic England in relation to specific matters that have been under discussion to date.
- 3.1.2 Where a matter is not represented in the table, it should be assumed that it is either: (i) agreed between the parties and has not been the subject of detailed discussion; or (ii) not relevant to the discussion between the parties.
- 3.1.3 As noted above, this is a 'live' document and there are some aspects that are still under discussion between the parties. The intention is to provide a final position in subsequent versions of the SoCG, addressing and identifying where changes have been made and where agreement has been reached between the parties.

Table 2: Current position of the Applicant and Historic England in relation to specific matters that have been under discussion to date

Ref	Topic	Historic England Position	Applicant's Position	Status
HE01	Archaeology – designated heritage assets <i>Cultural Heritage</i>	In their relevant representation [RR-007] (point 1), Historic England agrees that the Proposed Development would have no physical impacts on the three Scheduled Monuments within the project area (NHLE 1007843 Meaux Cistercian Abbey, NHLE 1008039 Moated Kiln, and NHLE 1015305 Meaux Duck Decoy) and that there is no requirement for archaeological intervention on any of the designated heritage assets in the vicinity of the Proposed Development.	The Applicant welcomes this response. See ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage [EN010157/APP/6.2 Revision 2] and associated appendices for details.	Agreed
HE02	Archaeology – Archaeological Management Strategy <i>Cultural Heritage</i>	In their relevant representation [RR-007] (point 1), Historic England considers the Archaeological Management Strategy appropriate and defers to the advice of East Riding of Yorkshire Council's Archaeological Advisor for other archaeological matters.	The Applicant welcomes this response. See the Archaeological Management Strategy [EN010157/APP/7.11 Revision 2] for details.	Agreed
HE03	Setting impact – assessment <i>Cultural Heritage</i>	In their relevant representation [RR-007] (point 2), Historic England agrees with the conclusions of the setting assessment and feels that the assessment is comprehensive, proportionate and accurate.	The Applicant welcomes this response. See ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage [EN010157/APP/6.2 Revision 2] and ES Volume 4, Appendix 9.4: Detailed Settings Impact Assessment [EN010157/APP/6.4 Revision 2] for details.	Agreed

Ref	Topic	Historic England Position	Applicant's Position	Status
HE04	Setting impact – mitigation planting <i>Cultural Heritage</i>	In their relevant representation [RR-007] (point 2), Historic England notes that the Applicant considers screening vegetation to ameliorate potential harm to significance of the three scheduled monuments and seeks confirmation of the viability of existing vegetation to last for the lifetime of the Proposed Development (e.g. in terms of health and susceptibility to disease) and the climate resilience of the proposed planting mix. Subsequently, via email (dated 21 July 2025) Historic England has requested to be consulted on the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan.	The Applicant agrees to this request. As stated in the Outline Landscape and Environmental Management Plan (Outline LEMP) [EN010157/APP/7.5 Revision 3], new planting will consist of native, indigenous species that are suitable for the Site conditions both now and in the future and, wherever possible, are from local provenance. Detailed information on how new vegetation will be managed and monitored is provided in the Outline LEMP [EN010157/APP/7.5 Revision 3]. Table 10-3 confirms the monitoring, maintenance and replacement of new hedgerow planting within the first five years, at which point the hedgerows would be considered to have established. It is anticipated that details of the proposed planting mix would be decided at the detailed landscape design stage. Requirement 9 of Schedule 2 to the Draft Development Consent Order (DCO) [EN010157/APP/3.1 Revision 4] secures the submission, approval by the local planning authority and implementation of	Agreed

Ref	Topic	Historic England Position	Applicant's Position	Status
			the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan ahead of commencement on the authorised development. It also ensures that the final Landscape and Ecological Management Plan must be substantially in accordance with the Outline LEMP [EN010157/APP/7.5 Revision 3] . The Draft DCO [EN010157/APP/3.1 Revision 4] has been updated to state that Historic England would be consulted for matters relevant to their function in the development of the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan. The updated version is submitted alongside this document at Deadline 1.	
HE05	Assessment methodology <i>Cultural Heritage</i>	In their relevant representation [RR-007] (point 3), Historic England is satisfied with the assessment methodology, having been involved in detailed pre-application discussions with the Applicant to determine appropriate methodology and definitions of impact on significance.	The Applicant welcomes this response. See ES Volume 2, Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage [EN010157/APP/6.2 Revision 2] and associated appendices for details.	Agreed
HE06	Public benefit <i>Consultation and Engagement</i>	In their relevant representation [RR-007] (point 4), Historic England considers that the suggested public outreach and community engagement recommendations concerning	Further to discussions to date, the Applicant will continue to work with a competent community archaeology provider, Humber Field Archaeology,	Agreed

Ref	Topic	Historic England Position	Applicant's Position	Status
		the scheduled Meaux Cistercian monastic site should be developed and supported by the Applicant during the life of the proposed works, and they can also serve as legacy activities extending beyond the duration of the physical works.	Historic England and other relevant stakeholders to develop and deliver a programme of public outreach and community engagement focussed on the local population's historic and present relationship to sunlight and wetland landscapes should consent be granted.	
HE07	Archaeology – trial trenching of bird scrape areas <i>Cultural Heritage</i>	Historic England confirmed via email on June 5 2025 that archaeological trial trenching would be required within Field E6 prior to the creation of bird scrapes in this field, and that this could be carried out as a post-consent requirement of the DCO. The detailed scope would be set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation, substantially in line with the Archaeological Management Strategy.	The Applicant agrees to this request. The Archaeological Management Strategy [EN010157/APP/7.11 Revision 2] has been updated accordingly and is submitted alongside this document at Deadline 1.	Agreed

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:

RWE Renewables UK Limited

Windmill Hill Business Park,
Whitehill Way,

Swindon,

Wiltshire,