



# Pear tree Hill Solar Farm

## Statement of Commonality

Revision **56 (tracked)**

Document Ref: EN010157/APP/9.1

~~November~~ December 2025

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Overview

- 1.1.1 This Statement of Commonality has been prepared on behalf of RWE Renewables UK Solar and Storage Ltd (the 'Applicant'). This document provides the Examining Authority (ExA) with the position on Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) between the Applicant and relevant statutory consultees and Interested Parties in relation to the proposed Pear tree Hill Solar Farm. It will be updated throughout the course of the Examination.
- 1.1.2 The Applicant has submitted a Development Consent Order (DCO) application 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 (the 'Proposed Development') which would allow for the generation and export of electricity. The **Location and Land Area Plan [APP-007]** shows the Order Limits (the 'Order Limits') for the Proposed Development, which is approximately 891 hectares of land located within East Riding of Yorkshire Council (ERYC or the 'Host Authority').
- 1.1.3 The Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008) [Ref. 1] prescribes that the Secretary of State (SoS) is responsible for determining the DCO Application, with the power to appoint an ExA of an appointed person(s) to manage and examine the Application. The ExA, appointed through the Planning Inspectorate, will make procedural decisions and examine the Application. The ExA will make a recommendation to the SoS who will then decide whether to grant a DCO Application. Where a relevant National Policy Statement has effect the SoS will determine the application for development consent in accordance with that relevant NPS.

## 1.2 Proposed Development Description

- 1.2.1 Pear tree Hill Solar Farm is a proposed solar farm that will generate energy for export to the National Grid (the 'Proposed Development').
- 1.2.2 A summary of the description of the Proposed Development can be found in Section 3.4 of the **Environmental Statement (ES) Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [APP-039]**. The terminology used in this document is defined in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 0: Contents, Glossary and Acronyms [APP-036]**.

- 1.2.3 As described in the **Statement of Need** at Appendix 3 of the **Planning Statement [APP-147]**, large scale solar generation is expected to make an important contribution to achieving the Government's objectives for the UK's energy supply. As summarised in the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (NPS EN-1) **[Ref. 2]** paragraph 3.2.1, these objectives include ensuring that the supply of energy always remains secure, reliable, affordable, and enables the UK to transition to a low carbon economy in order to meet its carbon emission reduction commitments.
- 1.2.4 To support this objective, the Applicant's vision for the Proposed Development is to deliver a project that will seek to maximise energy yield whilst seeking to minimise any adverse effects on the environment and at the same time taking opportunities to deliver significant local benefit.

## **1.3 Structure of Statement of Commonality**

- 1.3.1 This Statement of Commonality document is structured as follows:
- Section 2 details the structure of each SoCG document and provides a list of the SoCGs that are being produced;
  - Section 3 addresses the status of each SoCG; and
  - Section 4 sets out the commonality between SoCGs and a summary of their position.

## 2 Position

### 2.1 Structure of SoCGs

- 2.1.1 Following continuous ongoing engagement with relevant statutory consultees and Interested Parties, the Applicant has prepared a number of SoCGs prior to the acceptance of the Application.
- 2.1.2 In terms of those submitted at this stage, this includes:
- Section 1 provides an introduction to the SoCG and a description of its purpose.
  - Section 2 details the record of engagement between the Applicant and the party.
  - Section 3 sets out the current position on different topics between the Applicant and the relevant party.

## 3 Status of SoCGs

### 3.1 Summary of Current Position

- 3.1.1 This section confirms the current status of each SoCG as of the submission of the DCO.
- 3.1.2 Table 1 provides a high-level position on the status of each SoCG and where necessary includes further detail to aid the understanding of the status.
- 3.1.3 With respect to the terms used in Table 1, these are as follows –
- Final SoCG - the final SoCG has been agreed upon by both parties, with no outstanding matters to resolve
  - Draft SoCG - the SoCG has mainly been agreed upon between both parties, but there are a number of issues still outstanding, and it is yet to be signed off by both parties
  - Initial draft SoCG – the initial SoCG has been drafted by the Applicant (using matters identified from meetings with the party alongside responses to Statutory Consultation, Relevant Representations) and is with the party for review, this has not had feedback by the party and is not signed off.
  - Not yet submitted – the Applicant is progressing these SoCGs with the intent to submit drafts at subsequent deadlines.
- 3.1.4 ~~An SoCG with Humberside Fire and Rescue has not yet been submitted. The Applicant has been attempting to renew engagement with them following the Rule 6 Letter [PD-006] on this matter. As reported in the Issue Specific Hearing 2 on 23 October 2025, an initial response had been received from Humberside Fire and Rescue on 22 October 2025, after which the Applicant sent through some requested information, including the most up to date **Outline Battery Safety Management Plan [REP1-059]** and an example SoCG for their information. The Applicant has not had a response following that email, and followed up with Humberside Fire and Rescue prior to Deadline 4, to which no response was received. At Deadline 4, the Applicant stated a further update at Deadline 5 would be provided, however no further response has been received despite repeated efforts to engage Humberside Fire and Rescue. A further update will be provided at Deadline 6. Humberside Fire and Rescue, in their submission dated 05/12/2025 [AS-024] to the ExA, have confirmed that they are satisfied with the Applicant's **outline Battery Safety Management Plan [REP5-069]** therefore a SoCG with Humberside Fire and Rescue Service is no longer considered to be necessary.~~

**Table 1: Summary of current position of SoCGs**

Document Reference	Party	Position at Deadline 1	Position at Deadline 2	Position at Deadline 3	Position at Deadline 4	Position at Deadline 5	Position at Deadline 5A	Position at Deadline 6
<b>EN010157/APP/9.2</b>	East Riding of Yorkshire Council	SoCG in draft and agreed for submission into the Examination.	Updated SoCG in draft submitted into the Examination at Deadline 2.	Updated SoCG in draft submitted into the Examination at Deadline 3.	Updated SoCG in draft submitted into the Examination at Deadline 4.	Updated SoCG in draft submitted into the Examination at Deadline 5.	<u>No further updates to draft SoCG for Deadline 5A.</u>	
<b>EN010157/APP/9.3</b>	Environment Agency	SoCG in draft and agreed for submission into the Examination.	SoCG in draft and submitted into the Examination at Deadline 1. No further updates to draft SoCG for Deadline 2.	Updated SoCG in draft submitted into the Examination at Deadline 3.	Updated SoCG in draft submitted into the Examination at Deadline 4.	Updated SoCG in draft submitted into the Examination at Deadline 5.	<u>No further updates to draft SoCG for Deadline 5A.</u>	

Document Reference	Party	Position at Deadline 1	Position at Deadline 2	Position at Deadline 3	Position at Deadline 4	Position at Deadline 5	<u>Position at Deadline 5A</u>	Position at Deadline 6
<b>EN010157/APP/9.4</b>	Natural England	SoCG in draft and agreed for submission into the Examination.	SoCG in draft and submitted into the Examination at Deadline 1. No further updates to draft SoCG for Deadline 2.	Updated SoCG in draft submitted into the Examination at Deadline 3.	Updated SoCG in draft submitted into the Examination at Deadline 4.	Final, signed SoCG submitted into the Examination. All matters agreed.	<u>Final, signed SoCG submitted into the Examination at Deadline 5. No updates at Deadline 5A.</u>	
<b>EN010157/APP/9.5</b>	National Highways	Final, signed SoCG submitted into the Examination. All matters agreed.	Final, signed SoCG submitted into the Examination at Deadline 1. No updates at	Final, signed SoCG submitted into the Examination at Deadline 1. No updates at	Final, signed SoCG submitted into the Examination at Deadline 1. No updates at	Final, signed SoCG submitted into the Examination at Deadline 1. No updates at	<u>Final, signed SoCG submitted into the Examination at Deadline 1. No updates at</u>	



Document Reference	Party	Position at Deadline 1	Position at Deadline 2	Position at Deadline 3	Position at Deadline 4	Position at Deadline 5	<u>Position at Deadline 5A</u>	Position at Deadline 6
			Deadline 2.	Deadline 3.	Deadline 4.	Deadline 5.	<u>Deadline 5A.</u>	
<b>EN010157/APP/9.6</b>	Historic England	SoCG in draft and agreed for submission into the Examination.	SoCG in draft and submitted into the Examination at Deadline 1. No further updates to draft SoCG for Deadline 2.	SoCG in draft and submitted into the Examination at Deadline 1. No further updates to draft SoCG for Deadline 3.	Updated SoCG in draft submitted into the Examination at Deadline 4.	Final, signed SoCG submitted into the Examination. All matters agreed.	<u>Final, signed SoCG submitted into the Examination at Deadline 5. No updates at Deadline 5A.</u>	
<b>EN010157/APP/9.7</b>	Beverley and North Holderness Internal Drainage Board	SoCG in draft and agreed for submission into the Examination.	Updated SoCG in draft submitted into the Examination at Deadline 2.	Updated SoCG in draft submitted into the Examination at Deadline 3.	No further updates to draft SoCG for Deadline 4.	No further updates to draft SoCG for Deadline 5.	<u>No further updates to draft SoCG for Deadline 5A.</u>	

Document Reference	Party	Position at Deadline 1	Position at Deadline 2	Position at Deadline 3	Position at Deadline 4	Position at Deadline 5	<u>Position at Deadline 5A</u>	Position at Deadline 6
<b>EN010157/APP/9.8</b>	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust	SoCG in draft and agreed for submission into the Examination.	SoCG in draft and submitted into the Examination at Deadline 1. No further updates to draft SoCG for Deadline 2.	SoCG in draft and submitted into the Examination at Deadline 1. No further updates to draft SoCG for Deadline 3.	Updated SoCG in draft submitted into the Examination at Deadline 4.	<del>Updated</del> <u>Final, signed</u> SoCG <del>in draft</del> submitted into the Examination <del>at Deadline 5.</del>	<u>Final, signed SoCG submitted into the Examination at Deadline 5. No updates at Deadline 5A.</u>	
<b>EN010157/APP/9.9</b>	Joint Local Access Forum	SoCG in draft and agreed for submission into the Examination.	SoCG in draft and submitted into the Examination at Deadline 1. No further updates to draft	SoCG in draft and submitted into the Examination at Deadline 1. No further updates to draft	SoCG in draft and submitted into the Examination at Deadline 1. No further updates to draft	Updated SoCG in draft submitted into the Examination at Deadline 5.	<u>Final, signed SoCG submitted into the Examination.</u>	

Document Reference	Party	Position at Deadline 1	Position at Deadline 2	Position at Deadline 3	Position at Deadline 4	Position at Deadline 5	<u>Position at Deadline 5A</u>	Position at Deadline 6
			SoCG for Deadline 2.	SoCG for Deadline 3.	SoCG for Deadline 4.			
<b>EN010157/APP/9.10</b>	Albanwise	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	SoCG in draft and agreed for submission into the Examination.	<u>No further updates to draft SoCG for Deadline 5A.</u>	
-	<del>Humberside Fire and Rescue Service</del>	<del>N/A — no SoCG submitted at this time.</del>	<del>N/A — no SoCG submitted at this time.</del>	<del>N/A — no SoCG submitted at this time.</del>	<del>N/A — no SoCG submitted at this time.</del>	<del>N/A — no SoCG submitted at this time.</del>	<del><u>N/A — no SoCG submitted at this time.</u></del>	

## 4 Summary

- 4.1.1 This section provides a summary of the main topics covered by the draft SoCGs submitted as part of the Application submission and identifies where there is a commonality in the topics between the SoCG parties.
- 4.1.2 Table 2 has been produced to set out the topics covered across the SoCGs and the status of the matter at submission with the relevant part. The colour coding used within this table has been described below.
- 4.1.3 The colours of each cell correspond to the status table in each individual SoCG.

Cell	Status
	Agreed
	Subject to further discussions
	Currently subject to disagreement
	Not applicable

Table 2: Summary of Commonality with relevant stakeholders

Doc. Ref.	Party	Topics																				
		Agricultural Land	Air Quality	Approach to EIA	Biodiversity	Cable Routes	Construction	Consultation and Engagement	Cultural Heritage	Design of Development	Draft DCO	Glint and Glare	Human Health	Hydrology and Flood Risk	Landscape and Visual	Noise and Vibration	Principle of Development	Policy and Legislation	Population	Transport and Access	Waste	Water Resources
9.2	East Riding of Yorkshire Council																					
9.3	Environment Agency																					
9.4	Natural England																					
9.5	National Highways																					
9.6	Historic England																					
9.7	Beverley and North Holderness Internal Drainage Board																					
9.8	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust																					
9.9	Joint Local Access Forum																					

9.10	Albanwise																					
-	Humberside Fire and Rescue Service																					

# References

**Ref. 1:** Planning Act 2008. Available online:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/section/14>

**Ref. 2:** Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2023). Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1). Available online:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/overarching-national-policy-statement-for-energy-en-1>

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