



Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park

Statement of Common Ground with Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust

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Revision History

Revision	Revision Date	Authorised By	Position	Comment

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

- 1.1.1 This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared to support an application (the Application) for a Development Consent Order (DCO) from the Secretary of State (SoS) for Energy Security and Net Zero under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008) for the proposed Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park Development (the Development). The Application has been submitted by Elements Green Trent Limited (the Applicant).
- 1.1.2 This SoCG 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.
- 1.1.3 SoCGs are an established means in the planning process of allowing all Parties to identify and focus on specific issues that may need to be addressed during the examination. This SoCG will be revised and updated as discussions between the Parties progress during the Examination.

1.2 PARTIES TO THIS STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

- 1.2.1 This SoCG has been prepared by (1) Elements Green Trent Limited as the Applicant and (2) Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust (collectively, 'the Parties').

1.3 TERMINOLOGY

- 1.3.1 In the table in the Issues section of this SoCG:
- "Agreed" (Green) indicates where the issue has been resolved;
 - "Under discussion" (Amber) indicates where a matter is the subject of ongoing discussion; and
 - "Not Agreed" (Red) indicates a final position.
- 1.3.2 Where Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust expresses agreement, it does so only in so far as it has considered the issue with regards to its statutory remit and on the basis of the information provided by the Applicant. Agreement is offered without prejudice to the submissions of other interested Parties who may have greater knowledge of technical or site-specific issues.

1.4 RECORD OF RELEVANT CORRESPONDENCE

- 1.4.1 The Applicant has undertaken consultation and engagement with Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust throughout the development of the Application. The Applicant consulted Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust in accordance with Section 42 of the PA 2008, about the Development and environmental impact assessment as part of the formal pre-application consultation and publicity procedures. This process afforded Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust the opportunity to provide responses to the information provided at various stages of the pre-application process.

2 CURRENT POSITION OF THE APPLICANT AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

2.1 GENERAL MITIGATION AND ENHANCEMENT MEASURES

Table 2-1 General Mitigation And Enhancement Measures

Ref	Relevant Documents	Description Of Matter	Applicant's Position	Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust's Position	Status
	RR	LEMP - Steering Group	ES Volume 4, Appendix A5.1: Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.A1] includes details of the Steering Group and the proposed habitats. The Steering Group has provided advice during the development of the LEMP but has not and will not be responsible for the content of the LEMP or its implementation and outcomes.	The Steering Group has been formed to help inform the development of the Landscape and Environmental Management Plan (LEMP) and to provide advice and oversight during its implementation.	Agreed
	RR	CEMP - Programme	Section 8.6.2 of ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010162/APP/6.2.8] [APP-051] outlines how the phasing of the construction programme will facilitate ecological mitigation.	We note that the start date of construction is anticipated to be 2027 but this is not definite. We support that approach because it will provide higher quality habitat into which birds can be displaced and provide conditions to improve the	Agreed

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			<p>ES Volume 4, Appendix A5.3: Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.3A] provides details of the ecological mitigation during the construction phase. ES Volume 4, Appendix A5.1: Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.1A] provides details of habitat enhancement and creation, some of which will start before and during construction. The phasing of construction will be determined post-consent and will be reflected in the final versions of both the CEMP and LEMP.</p> <p>Requirement 12 in Schedule 2 of the Draft DCO [EN010162/APP/3.1B] secures that no phase of the authorised development may commence until a construction environmental management plan for that phase has been</p>	productivity of the unaffected birds, for example.	

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			<p>submitted to and approved by Newark and Sherwood District Council. This must be prepared in accordance with the ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.3: Outline CEMP [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.3A].</p> <p>Requirement 8 in Schedule 2 to the Draft DCO [EN010162/APP/3.1B] secures that no phase of the authorised development may commence until a written landscape and ecological management plan for that phase has been submitted to and approved by Newark and Sherwood District Council. This must be in accordance with ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.1: Outline LEMP [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.1A] and must be implemented as approved.</p>		
	RR	CEMP	<p>ES Volume 4, Appendix A5.3: Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.3A] provides details of the EnvCoW</p>	We note that an Environmental Clerk of Works (EnvCoW) is to be appointed. The EnvCoW will be responsible for monitoring and reporting on compliance with planning consents,	Agreed

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			<p>and ecological mitigation during the construction phase, including a Construction Ecological Management Plan in section A5.3.11.</p> <p>Requirement 12 in Schedule 2 of the Draft DCO [EN010162/APP/3.1B] secures that no phase of the authorised development may commence until a construction environmental management plan for that phase has been submitted to and approved by Newark and Sherwood District Council. This must be prepared in accordance with the ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.3: Outline CEMP [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.3A].</p> <p>ES Volume 4, Appendix A5.1: Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.1A] provides details of habitat enhancement and creation to provide long-term ecological benefits and contribute to local</p>	<p>environmental permits, legislation and mitigation. The role provides a mechanism to support the development in delivering its obligations. It is important, however, that other environmental specialists be appointed, as required, to provide advice and support to the EnvCoW.</p>	

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			<p>strategies and policies. The final LEMP will include details about programme/phasing and will be developed with input from the Steering Group.</p> <p>Requirement 8 in Schedule 2 to the Draft DCO [EN010162/APP/3.1B] secures that no phase of the authorised development may commence until a written landscape and ecological management plan for that phase has been submitted to and approved by Newark and Sherwood District Council. This must be in accordance with ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.1: Outline LEMP [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.1A] and must be implemented as approved.</p>		

2.2 EFFECTS ON HABITATS, SPECIES AND NATIONALLY DESIGNATED SITES

Table 2-2 Effects On Habitats, Species And Nationally Designated Sites

Ref	Relevant Documents	Description Of Matter	Applicant's Position	Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust's Position	Status
	RR	oLEMP and BNG	<p>ES Volume 4, Appendix A5.1: Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.1A] provides details of habitat enhancement and creation to provide long-term ecological benefits and contribute to local strategies and policies. The final LEMP will include details about programme/phasing and will be developed with input from the Steering Group.</p> <p>Requirement 8 in Schedule 2 to the Draft DCO [EN010162/APP/3.1B] secures that no phase of the authorised development may commence until a written landscape and ecological management plan for that phase has been submitted to and approved by Newark and Sherwood District Council. This must be in accordance with ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.1:</p>	<p>We acknowledge that the CEMP and LEMP are at outline document stage and that they will be finalised, when the construction programme is known. In the case of the LEMP with input from the biodiversity steering group. We fully support the production of a vegetation removal plan that will set out the location and timing of vegetation removal so that ecological effects are minimised (e.g., reducing clearances during the bird nesting season). If vegetation removal is required during the bird breeding season, then areas should be checked by a suitably qualified ecologist.</p>	Agreed

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			Outline LEMP [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.1A] and must be implemented as approved.		
	RR	Designated Sites (including LWS)	<p>Table 8.9 in ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010162/APP/6.2.8] [APP-051] includes an assessment of effects on Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) from all Work Areas. The assessment concludes that with appropriate mitigation measures which are secured, the Development would have no significant adverse effects.</p> <p>No works will take place in Maplebeck Viewpoint Verges LWS. Work No. 2 Cables will pass under the LWS via Horizontal Directional Drilling to avoid adverse ecological effects. Work No. 8 Access is not proposed in the vicinity of the LWS.</p> <p>Work No. 8 Access includes relatively discrete and small-scale works, such as the</p>	<p>No assessment of Work no. 8 Access Works is provided in the section of the Local Wildlife Sites. Clarity is required on impacts to LWS due to access measures. An example is Maplebeck Viewpoint Verges, a LWS designated for its notable flora. The verges, 600m in length, are to be subjected to Work No. 2: Cables crossing the LWS and a 350 m stretch of Work No. 8: Access Works wholly covers the remainder. The extent of damage and loss to the LWS is not clear and we therefore request further information about the LWS that could be affected by access measures.”</p>	Agreed

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			<p>construction of new passing places. An iterative design process ensured that none of these works are proposed in LWS.</p> <p>Measures to avoid or reduce the risk of adverse effects during construction, operation and decommissioning, and to provide enhancements, are secured in the following management plans:</p> <p>ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.3: Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.3A]. Section A5.3.11.2 of the CEMP addresses control measures for designated sites.</p> <p>ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.1: Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.1A]</p> <p>ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.5: Outline Operation Environmental Management</p>		

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			<p>Plan (OEMP) [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.5A] ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.6: Outline Decommissioning and Restoration Plan (DRP) [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.6A]</p> <p>The Applicant also notes that the approach to biodiversity and wildlife mitigation is under discussion with NCC, NSDC, NE and EA and the discussions are set out within the respective Statement of Common Grounds:</p> <p>Statement of Common Ground with Nottinghamshire County Council [EN010162/APP/8.1]</p> <p>Statement of Common Ground with Newark and Sherwood District Council [EN010162/APP/8.2]</p> <p>Statement of Common Ground with Environment Agency [EN010162/APP/8.3]</p> <p>Statement of Common Ground with Natural England [EN010162/APP/8.4]</p>		

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	RR	oLEMP - Livestock Grazing	<p>ES Volume 4, Appendix A5.1: Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.1A] includes details of grassland management. Sheep grazing and mowing are proposed as methods to manage grassland, the choice of which will depend on site-specific conditions and the prevailing time in the overall programme. Low-density and rotational grazing is proposed, in keeping with conservation principles, which will create a mosaic in grassland structure. A proposed grazing density of 2–3 sheep ha⁻² (equivalent to 0.24–0.36 Livestock Units ha⁻²) is in keeping with general conservation grazing principles. Further details about the grazing regime will be included in the final LEMP.</p>	<p>We strongly advocate that conservation grazing is implemented, that is, with a biodiversity focus. Conservation grazing implements a lower stocking density to maintain some structural diversity within the grassland. Maintaining grassland structure through the winter is beneficial for invertebrates. Grazing should be halted for periods of the spring and summer. A qualified ecologist should work closely with the grazier to develop a conservation grazing regime that is suited to the site's characteristics and management objectives. The Biodiversity Steering group should have input into that process too. we think that details of the proposed conservation grazing regime and how it will be coordinated across a significant area of land should be included in the LEMP</p>	Under Discussion

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	RR	oLEMP - Proposed hedge and tree belts	<p>The specification for Proposed Hedge and Tree Belts is provided in section 5 of Table A5.1.3 in ES Volume 4, Appendix A5.1: Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.1A]. October to February is the general period in which hedgerow cutting may take place, whereas January to February is proposed once hedgerows have become established. The final CEMP will make clear at what times hedgerows should be cut and the method by which this will be done.</p> <p>The specification for Proposed Hedge and Tree Belts is provided in section 6 of Table A5.1.3 in ES Volume 4, Appendix A5.1: Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.1A]. Non-native tree species are not currently proposed, but there</p>	We request clarification due to conflicting statements regarding management of hedgerows	Agreed

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			may be exceptional circumstances where they could fulfil an important role, such as providing visual screening within a short timeframe. However, wherever possible, native species or cultivars will be preferred. It is anticipated that the final CEMP will include few if any non-native species.		
	RR	oLEMP - Proposed grassland (PV areas)	The specification for Proposed Grassland (PV areas) is provided in section 12 of Table A5.1.3 in ES Volume 4, Appendix A5.1: Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.1A] . The indicative species mix is suitable for a wide range of soil types and is tolerant of grazing, but it is acknowledged that it is at the lower end of the desired 6–8 species m ⁻² . Alternative indicative seed mixes will be specified in revisions to the Outline LEMP. Further details of the proposed grazing regime will be specified in the final LEMP.	<p>We don't support the example species mix because it lacks diversity of forbs. Specific details are required on an appropriate mix to ensure tangible benefits for wildlife are achieved.</p> <p>We are concerned that the proposed density of grazing may be too high and will not provide flowering plants and a diversity in structure.</p>	Under Discussion

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	RR	oLEMP - Proposed diverse grassland (Maplebeck)	The specification for Proposed Grassland (Maplebeck) is provided in section 13 of Table A5.1.3 in ES Volume 4, Appendix A5.1: Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.1A] . This grassland habitat/area has been selected for enhancement due to its long-term potential to be restored to valuable grassland and in doing so create a landscape corridor that supports the conservation status of nearby designated sites. The specification, including details about cutting/grazing regime, will be confirmed in the final LEMP.	We note that conservation grazing may be considered for this area. We believe that rotational grazing is essential within this area to ensure that some grassland is always in flower and that there is a varied structure to the sward. We strongly advocate creating and enhancing habitats (including potential floodplain meadow and a possible Local Wildlife Site around The Beck, c. 500 m downstream of Eakring and Maplebeck Meadows SSSI. Established habitats should be retained in perpetuity for the benefit of wildlife and the local community.	Under Discussion
2.2.1	RR	Displacement of Skylark	Section 8.8.15 of ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010162/APP/6.2.8] [APP-051] presents an assessment of potential effects, and associated mitigation, on breeding birds, including skylark. It concludes that through the implementation	Table A5.1.4 Agricultural Land Management Prescriptions and Timing To ensure adequate compensation for the displacement of skylark from their existing nesting sites the measures to enhance agricultural land highlighted	Under Discussion

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			<p>of measures secured in ES Volume 4, Appendix A5.3: Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.3A] and, more importantly, the habitat management (including enhancements to agricultural land) proposed ES Volume 4, Appendix A5.1: Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.1A], there will be no significant adverse effects on skylark during construction, and beneficial, albeit not significant in EIA terms, effects during operation.</p> <p>The CEMP adopts adaptive management principles to ensure that habitats remain fit for purpose.</p> <p>Requirement 8 in Schedule 2 to the Draft DCO [EN010162/APP/3.1B] secures that no phase of the authorised development may commence</p>	<p>above must be secured through the planning system. Where crop rotation and overwintering stubble habitats are not sustaining yield or attracting biodiversity in the expected numbers it is stated that their locations and suitability will be assessed, and new approaches will be considered. This process should involve the Biodiversity Steering Group.</p>	

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			until a written landscape and ecological management plan for that phase has been submitted to and approved by Newark and Sherwood District Council. This must be in accordance with ES Volume 4, Appendix 5.1: Outline LEMP [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.1A] and must be implemented as approved.		
2.2.2	RR	oLEMP - Proposed Wildlife Scrapes	<p>The specification for Proposed Riparian Corridor is provided in section 22 of Table A5.1.5 in ES Volume 4, Appendix A5.1: Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.1A]. We welcome the practical support of both the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust and the Sherwood Forest Trust for this element of the LEMP. Black poplar will be included in the final LEMP.</p> <p>The specification for Proposed Wildlife Scrapes is provided in section 24 of Table A5.1.5 in ES Volume 4, Appendix A5.1:</p>	We support the strategy of locally sourced trees and the species that Sherwood Forest Trust have recommended, as specified in A5.1.8 Freshwater Habitats. We fully support the aim to create scrapes, shallow waterbodies, to support waders and wildfowl.	Agreed

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			Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.1A]. Further details about the locations and design parameters of the scrapes will be provided in the final CEMP.		

3 SIGNATURES

- 3.1.1 The above SoCG is agreed between the Applicant and Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, as specified below.

Duly authorised	Name
for and on behalf	
of Elements	Job Title
Green Trent	
Limited	Date
	Signature

Duly authorised	Name
for and on behalf	
of	Job Title
Nottinghamshire	
Wildlife Trust	Date
	Signature
