



Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park

Statement of Commonality

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EP Rule 8(1)(b) Planning Act 2008

The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

- 1.1.1 This Statement of Commonality (the Statement) has been prepared to provide the Examining Authority (ExA) with a summary of the final position regarding the negotiation of Statements of Common Ground (SoCGs) between the Applicant, relevant statutory consultees and other parties in relation to Elements Green Trent Limited (the Applicant).
- 1.1.2 The Rule 6 Letter [[PD-005](#)] dated 23 October 2025 requires the submission of SoCGs to inform the ExA and all other parties on matters where there is agreement and where differences lie at an early stage in the Examination process. The Rule 6 Letter requests that these are accompanied by an Issues Tracker (this Statement) detailing the progression of discussions.
- 1.1.3 Annex F of the Rule 6 Letter identifies the following parties with which the Applicant has sought to develop SoCGs, and Annex C of the Rule 8 Letter [[Link](#)] dated 2 December 2025 requests the Applicant to produce a SoCG with Norwell Solar Farm Steering Group in relation to the Applicant's greenhouse gas assessment. The Applicant noted the ExA has requested for a triparted SoCG between the Applicant and Natural England and Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust. An agreement has been reached for the SoCG between the Parties for these to be prepared separately.
- 1.1.4 Accordingly, the following parties with which the Applicant has sought to develop SoCGs with the following parties:
- Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC);
 - Newark and Sherwood District Council (NSDC);
 - Environment Agency (EA);
 - Natural England (NE);
 - Historic England (HE);
 - National Highways (NH);
 - National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (NGET);
 - RWE Generation UK plc;
 - Cadent Gas Ltd;
 - Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd;
 - Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust;
 - Norwell Solar Farm Steering Group;
 - Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue;
 - National Grid Electricity Distribution (East Midlands) plc;
 - National Gas Transmission plc;
 - Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board;
 - Severn Trent Water Limited
- 1.1.5 This Statement is to be treated as an iterative document throughout the Examination and will be updated and submitted at subsequent deadlines to provide an up to date overview of the latest position on the SoCGs.

1.2 STRUCTURE OF THIS STATEMENT

1.3 This Statement is structured as follows:

- Section 2 sets out the status of each SoCG;
- Section 3 provides a summary of where agreement has been reached with each party;
- Section 4 provides details of any steps to be taken to progress outstanding matters towards resolution.

2 STATUS OF THE SOCGS

2.1.1 Relevant Representations were submitted by Interested Parties with whom the Applicant has produced a SoCG. Table 2-1 identifies the status of each SoCG.

- SoCG in draft – where a SoCG has been drafted (with matters recorded as agreed, ongoing and not agreed) and is subject to further discussions to resolve any outstanding matters;
- [Final draft – where a final position has been reached, but not yet signed;](#)
- Final signed SoCG – where a final position has been reached on all matters, as either agreed or not agreed positions.

Table 2-1 Status of SoCGs at Deadline [43](#)

Party	Document Reference	Status of SoCG at Deadline 43
Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC)	8.1	SoCG in draft
Newark and Sherwood District Council (NSDC)	8.2	SoCG in draft
Environment Agency (EA)	8.3	SoCG in draft
Natural England (NE)	8.4	SoCG in draft
Historic England (HE)	8.5	SoCG inFinal draft
National Highways (NH)	8.6	SoCG in draft
National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (NGET)	8.7	SoCG in draft
RWE Generation UK plc	8.8	SoCG in draft
Cadent Gas Ltd	8.9	SoCG in draft
Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd	8.10	SoCG in draft
Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust	8.11	SoCG inFinal draft
Norwell Solar Farm Steering Group	8.12	SoCG in draft
National Grid Electricity Distribution (East Midlands) plc	8.28	SoCG in draft
Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board	8.27	SoCG in draft

2.1.2 A number of parties where SoCGs have been requested relate to bodies who had not submitted Relevant Representations, or registered as Interested Parties. The Applicant has reached out to [these bodies, but a substantive response has not yet been received. These relate to the three remaining bodies, and the following sets out a summary of the current position:](#)

- **Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue:** have replied to the Applicant, but have not yet set out any feedback;
- ~~National Grid Electricity Distribution (East Midlands) plc;~~
- ~~National Gas Transmission plc;~~
- Trent Valley International Drainage Board; and: It has been agreed with National Gas Transmission Limited that a SoCG is not necessary. As discussed with National Gas, the Applicant has agreed to consult with them before a relevant submission pursuant to Requirement 6 is made. They have no other matters to raise during examination.
- **Severn Trent Water Limited:** Draft Protective Provisions have been issued and are being reviewed by Severn Trent Water.

2.1.3 The Applicant will continue to engage with all SoCG parties and updates will be provided at subsequent deadlines.

3 COMMONALITY

3.1 OVERVIEW

3.1.1 This section provides an overview of the matters identified and that remain unresolved at Deadline ~~4~~3 with each of the parties and sets out how the Applicant is intending to progress matters with those parties with the intention of reaching a final agreed position before the close of the Examination.

3.2 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (NCC) [EN010162/APP/8.1]

3.2.1 The Applicant has been in active discussions with NCC. Agreement has been reached on a number of matters, with outstanding matters relating to the following topics:

- **Ecology and Biodiversity:** ~~The Parties are making constructive progress in resolving Applicant has continued engagement with NCC's ecology officer and the Applicant understands that the ecology matters on the location of the mammal gates and fencing, have been responded to and the effects on protected species resolved. The Applicant is awaiting formal confirmation of this position from NCC.~~
- **Cultural Heritage:** Further discussion ~~will be~~has been undertaken in respect of Ossington Airfield, including a site visit attended by the Applicant and NCC. The Applicant updated the Outline AMS, at Deadline 2, and has made further updates at Deadline 3 to reflect feedback received at ISH3. The Applicant is awaiting further feedback from NCC in respect of the draft Requirement 11. Substantial agreement has been reached on other matters.
- ~~Water Environment: The Applicant has provided a detailed response to AECOM's advice note and are seeking to engage with NCC on the remaining matters.~~
- **Traffic:** The Applicant has provided a further response to the ~~detailed matters raised in the LIR and are seeking to engage with NCC on the remaining matters by NCC.~~ NCC have confirmed a number of 'under discussion' items that have been resolved following the Applicant's Deadline 2 submissions.

3.2.2 The Applicant will continue to discuss these matters with NCC and progress will be reported at Deadline 34.

3.3 NEWARK AND SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL (NSDC) [EN010162/APP/8.2]

3.3.1 The Applicant has been in active discussions with NSDC. Agreement has been reached on a number of matters, with outstanding matters relating to the following topics:

- **Alternatives:** NSDC considers that the Applicant should have considered more alternatives than those set out in the ES. This has now been confirmed as a matter of disagreement, as the parties do not agree on this matter.
- **Landscape and Visual:** The Applicant has responded to NSDC's feedback in respect of cumulative assessment, and the approach to viewpoints. The Applicant has made a number of updates since Deadline 2 and is awaiting feedback from NCC.
- ~~**Permissive Routes:** whether permissive routes in place for the duration of the Development can be considered beneficial.~~
- ~~**BNG Assessment:** detailed discussions ongoing regarding the BNG assessment.~~
- ~~**Cumulative Schemes:** The Applicant has received feedback on the list of cumulative schemes and has responded to NSDC. The Parties are meeting in the next two weeks to seek to agree the approach.~~
Permissive Routes: The Applicant understands that NSDC consider that the beneficial effects of the permissive routes cannot be considered as they are not permanent. The Applicant does not agree with this point, as it is clear that a beneficial effect lasting for 40 years is just as relevant as an adverse effect lasting for the same time period. This has now been confirmed as a matter of disagreement.
- Climate Change and Sustainability: NSDC have asked for commitments to various measures to further reduce possible carbon emissions. This includes sourcing steel for the solar PV mounting structures UK based suppliers, including those that use electrical arc furnaces rather than fossil fuel fired furnaces, amongst other potential measures. The Applicant considers that the commitments in the Draft DCO are already sufficient, and further controls on this matter are not considered necessary.
- **Cumulative Schemes:** NSDC confirmed that they agree with the long list that has been presented by the Applicant and the list of developments that have been short listed for further assessment. However, NSDC do not necessarily agree in all cases with the conclusions of those schemes that have been assessed for potential cumulative effects. The Applicant has sought clarification on the cases that NSDC are referring to.
- **Draft DCO:** The Parties are continuing to discuss the timescales and fees associated with the discharge of requirements. The Parties have made good progress in agreeing the wording of requirements, including the revision to Requirement 10.

3.3.2 The Applicant will continue to discuss these matters with EA and progress will be reported at Deadline ~~34~~.

3.4 ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EA) [EN010162/APP/8.3]

3.4.1 The Applicant has been in active discussions with the EA. Agreement has been reached on a number of matters, with outstanding matters relating to the following topics:

- The applicant has made further updated the DCO and Management Plans to reflect EA feedback. The Parties are confident that agreement will be reached.

3.4.2 The Applicant will continue to discuss these matters with EA and progress will be reported at Deadline ~~34~~.

3.5 NATURAL ENGLAND (NE) [EN010162/APP/8.4]

~~3.5.1~~—The Applicant has been in active discussions with NE. ~~Agreement has been reached on a number of matters, with outstanding matters relating to the following topics:~~

- ~~3.5.1~~ Further details, but progress beyond what was reported at Deadline 2 was not possible. The Parties have been requested on the approach to minimising BMV. This has been shared schedule a call to discuss the remaining matter on 23rd February and the parties are confident that agreement will be reached shortly by Deadline 4.

~~3.5.2~~—~~The Applicant will continue to discuss these matters with NE and progress will be reported at Deadline 3.~~

3.6 HISTORIC ENGLAND (HE) [EN010162/APP/8.5]

3.6.1 The Applicant has been in active discussions with HE. Agreement has been reached on all matters raised to date. ~~HE have indicated to, except for the use of 'substantially in accordance' for Requirement 11. The Applicant that their Deadline 2 submission raises additional points has reported the approach set out at ISH3 and HE have confirmed that they would like to discuss and agree with the Applicant. Agreement are seeking internal legal advice. A final SoCG is expected by D3 at Deadline 4.~~

3.7 NATIONAL HIGHWAYS (NH) [EN010162/APP/8.6]

3.7.1 The Applicant has been in active discussions with NH. The Applicant has responded to NH's requests and are seeking to discuss these point in order to resolve them. The Applicant has made progress is respect of the Protective Provisions, and hopes that agreement will be reached shortly. The Applicant and NH remain in disagreement over NH's request to approve details submitted in respect of Requirements 5, 14, 19 and 22.

3.7.2 The Applicant will continue to discuss these matters with NH and progress will be reported at Deadline ~~34~~.

3.8 NATIONAL GRID ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION PLC (NGET) [EN010162/APP/8.7]

3.8.1 The Applicant has been in active discussions with NGET and the Parties agree that there is no impediment to agreement. Further updates will be reported at Deadline [34](#).

3.9 RWE GENERATION UK PLC [EN010162/APP/8.8]

3.9.1 The Applicant has been in active discussions with RWE Generation UK Plc. The Applicant has clarified the land matters questioned by RWE and the parties will continue to make progress in advance of Deadline [34](#).

3.10 CADENT GAS LTD [EN010162/APP/8.9]

3.10.1 The Applicant has been in active discussions with Cadent Gas Ltd and [progress has requested details in relation to Cadent's apparatus \(medium pressure gas main lain along the A617\) to identify the exact location and depth of the apparatus. The information was requested in order to advance the discussions between the Applicant and Cadent and so that the Applicant can devise the most appropriate cable crossing methodology. Response has not been received by Deadline 3. The applicant will be reported provide further updates](#) at Deadline [34](#).

3.11 NETWORK RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE LTD [EN010162/APP/8.10]

3.11.1 The Applicant has been in active discussions with NR [in relation to protective provisions. The Applicant is awaiting feedback](#) and progress will be reported at Deadline [34](#).

3.12 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST [EN010162/APP/8.11]

3.12.1 The Applicant has been in active discussions with NWT and [progress agreement on all matters have now been reached. A signed SoCG will be reported submitted](#) at Deadline [34](#).

3.13 NORWELL SOLAR FARM STEERING GROUP [EN010162/APP/8.12]

3.13.1 The Applicant has been in active discussions with NSFSG in relation to the GHG matter. The Applicant will continue to discuss these matters with NSFSG and progress will be reported at Deadline [34](#).

3.14 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE;

3.14.1 The Applicant has reached out to NFRS bodies, but a substantive response has not yet been received. The Applicant looks forward to receiving this and will be in a position to update the SoCG once further discussions have been held with Party regarding the outstanding matters.

3.15 NATIONAL GRID ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION (EAST MIDLANDS) PLC;

3.15.1 The Applicant has reached out to National Grid, and held an initial meeting with NGED. A substantive response has not yet been received. The Applicant looks forward to receiving this and will be in a position to update the SoCG once further discussions have been held with Party regarding the outstanding matters.

3.16 NATIONAL GAS TRANSMISSION PLC;

3.16.1 The Applicant has reached ~~out to NGT, and has received a general response from NGT. The Applicant looks forward to engaging agreement with NGT and, whereby NGT will provide an update at D3~~ be consulted on the detailed design for Work No 6 or Work No 7.

3.17 TRENT VALLEY ~~INTERNATIONAL~~INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD;

3.17.1 The Applicant has reached out to TVIDB and have held a meeting to discuss next steps. ~~The IDB have not yet~~ Applicant also shared any comments or feedback on the DCO, or standard protective provisions and a first draft of the Outline Drainage Strategy and the SoCG. The IDB shared their standard by laws and are currently reviewing the protective provisions. The Applicant will consider and respond to these points as soon as they have been received. A further update will be provided at Deadline 4.

3.18 SEVERN TRENT WATER LIMITED

3.18.1 The Applicant has reached out to Severn Trent Water, and has received a response in relation to protective provisions. The Applicant has provided a response, looks forward to further engagement and will be in a position to update the SoCG once further discussions have been held with Party. No response has been received by Deadline 3.