



Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park

Statement of Commonality

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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 3

Party	Document Reference	Status of SoCG at Deadline 3
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	Final 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	Final 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 the three remaining bodies, and the following sets out a summary of the current position:

- **Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service:** [the Applicant and NFRS discussed the Development and NFRS have confirmed a position of no objection. The Applicant is preparing a draft SoCG, and a agreed](#)

~~position will be submitted at Deadline 5~~~~have replied to the Applicant, but have not yet set out any feedback;~~

- **National Gas Transmission plc:** 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 ~~3-4~~ 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 Applicant has continued engagement with NCC's ecology officer and the Applicant understands that the ecology matters have been responded to and resolved. The Applicant is awaiting formal confirmation of this position from NCC.~~
- **Cultural Heritage:** Further discussion has been undertaken in respect of the OAMS and requirement 11, which has resulted in agreement on all but one matter. The Applicant and NCC are continuing to discuss Ossington Airfield, and the joint statement is presented as Appendix 3 to the SoCG. ~~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.~~
- **Traffic:** ~~The Applicant has provided a further response to the matters raised by NCC~~ has recently provided feedback on the updated Site Access drawings, passing place and oCTMP. ~~The Applicant has requested a meeting with NCC to discuss next steps and further progress will be reported at Deadline 5~~ 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 4.

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 still awaiting feedback from NCC.
- **Cultural Heritage:** The Applicant held a number of discussions with NSDC Officers prior to Deadline 3. The Applicant understand that NSDC Officers are still reviewing the Applicant's Deadline 3 responses and will provide feedback in due course.
- ~~**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. The Applicant has sought an update from NSDC, and is awaiting a reply.
- **Draft DCO:** The Parties are continuing to discuss the timescales and fees associated with the discharge of requirements have reached a final position in respect of the process for discharging requirements, and associated fees. These matters are not agreed and the Parties have set out their final positions. NSDC are considering the Applicant's position in respect of Article 39 (Felling of Trees) and will report further progress at D5. NSDC have agreed to the wording of the requirements in so far as they relate to NSDC. NSDC have not raised any other matters, and the Applicant understands that The Parties have made good progress in agreeing the wording of requirements, including the revision to Requirement 10 all other matters have been agreed.

3.3.2 The Applicant will continue to discuss these matters with EA and progress will be reported at Deadline 45.

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~~the majority of matters. The Applicant is aware that the EA's Deadline 4 submission states their position on a number of matters remains 'unresolved', however the Applicant notes that it has agreed draft text on each matter with the EA. The EA have confirmed that once these matters have been published on the ExA's library, the matters can be treated as agreed. The SoCG have therefore treated these matters as 'Agreed, pending confirmation that the agreed changes have been submitted at D4'. These ~~of matters, with outstanding matters~~ relating to the following topics:

- Requirement 12: The EA has requested Requirement 12 be updated to list the EA as a consultee for the entire CEMP. The Applicant has agreed to this change and is reflected in the **Draft Development Consent Order [EN010162/APP/3.1E]**
- EA016 Water quality: The EA requested at D3 that the **ES Volume 4, Appendix A5.3: Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.3D]** include a commitment to a drilling fluid breakout management plan. The wording for this was agreed before D4 and the Applicant confirms that this is included in our submissions.
- EA024 Groundwater and contaminated land: In order to resolve this matter, the EA requested the **ES Volume 4, Appendix A5.5: Outline Operation Environmental Management Plan (OEMP) [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.5D]** should include a cross reference to the commitment made to pollution prevention monitoring set out in the D3 version of the oCEMP. The wording of this has been agreed with the EA, and the Applicant confirms that this change is included in the D4 submission.
- ~~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 On the basis that ~~t~~The Applicant has actioned all of the outstanding matters, the Applicant is confident that these matters can be agreed before ~~will~~ continue to discuss these matters with EA and progress will be reported at Deadline 45.

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

3.5.1 The Applicant has been in active discussions with NE, and have reached a final position on all but one matters. The only outstanding matter relates to matter NE15 in so far as it relates to the use of BMV for woodland planting. The respective position of the parties is set out in Row 2.5.3 of the Draft Statement of Common Ground with Natural England [EN010162/APP/8.6B]. ~~but progress beyond what was reported at Deadline 2 was not possible. The Parties have schedule a call to discuss the remaining matter on 23rd February and are confident that agreement will be reached by Deadline 45.~~

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, except for the use of 'substantially in accordance' for Requirement 11. The Applicant has reported the approach set out at ISH3 and HE have confirmed that they are seeking internal legal advice. The Applicant has sought an update from HE and is awaiting a reply. A final SoCG is expected at Deadline 45.

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

3.7.1 The Applicant has been in active discussions with NH. All technical matters have been agreed, and the outstanding matter relates to NH's request to approve details submitted pursuant to requirements 5, 14, 19 and 22. 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 in 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 and NH expect to finalise the SoCG shortly and this will be submitted ~~will continue to discuss these matters with NH and progress will be reported at~~ Deadline 45.

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 54.

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. The outstanding matter relates to the draft Unilateral Undertaking, which the Applicant is yet to receive comments from RWE on the Unilateral Undertaking. The Applicant continues to chase and is hopeful that discussions may be held soon in order to close out any comments/concerns that RWE may have. and the parties will continue to make progress in advance of Deadline 54.

3.10 CADENT GAS LTD [EN010162/APP/8.9]

3.10.1 The Applicant has been in active discussions with Cadent Gas Ltd and 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.~~ reached agreement on all outstanding matters. A final version of the SoCG will be provided. The applicant will provide further updates at Deadline 45.

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 form of protective provisions for the protection of railway interests remains under discussion between the Applicant and Network Rail.

~~3.11.13.11.2~~ While the Applicant wishes to ensure that Network Rail has the benefit of adequate protective provisions to ensure the safe and efficient operation of the Railway, the Applicant considers that the standard protective provisions are not proportionate given there is no direct interface between Network Rail's interests and the Development. The Parties will provide a further update at Deadline 5. The Applicant is awaiting feedback and progress will be reported at Deadline 4.

3.12 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST [EN010162/APP/8.11]

3.12.1 The Applicant has been in active discussions with NWT and agreement on all matters have now been reached. A signed SoCG will be submitted at Deadline 45.

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 has reached a final position on all matters and a signed version will be provided ~~will continue to discuss these matters with NSFSG and progress will be reported at~~ Deadline 54.

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~~ and has held a constructive discussion. NFRS have reviewed the ES Volume 4, Appendix A5.4: Outline Fire Safety Management Plan (FSMP) [EN010162/APP/6.4.5.4B] [REP3-038] and confirmed that they have no objection. A SoCG is being prepared and will be submitted at Deadline 5. 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 ~~been in active discussions with~~ reached out to National Grid, ~~and held an initial meeting with NGED. The Applicant continues to engage proactively with NGED and anticipates that agreement can be reached on a suitable Asset Protection Agreement and Protective Provisions before the end of the examination. 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 agreement with NGT, whereby NGT will be consulted on the detailed design for Work No 6 or Work No 7.

3.17 TRENT VALLEY INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD;

3.17.1 The Applicant has ~~been in active discussions with~~ reached out to TVIDB ~~and have held a meeting to discuss next steps. The Applicant also shared the standard protective provisions and a first draft of 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. The Applicant is awaiting feedback on the SoCG and a~~ further update will be provided at Deadline 54.

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 43.