



Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park

Statement of Common Ground with National Grid Electricity Distribution
(East Midlands) plc

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Revision History

Revision	Revision Date	Authorised By	Position	Comment
Issue 1	17/03/26	ES	Head of Planning	D4 updates
Issue 2	23/04/26	ES	Head of Planning	Final for signature

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) National Grid Electricity Distribution (East Midlands) plc (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 National Grid Electricity Distribution (East Midlands) plc 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 National Grid Electricity Distribution (East Midlands) plc throughout the development of the Application. The Applicant consulted National Grid Electricity Distribution (East Midlands) plc 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 National Grid Electricity Distribution (East Midlands) plc the opportunity to provide responses to the information provided at various stages of the pre-application process.
- 1.4.2 Table 1-1 identifies the discussions and correspondence that has taken place between the Parties to date.

Table 1-1 Record of Correspondence

Date	Type (meeting, etc.)	Topic
15/01/2026	Teams Meeting	Meeting held between NGED and EG to discuss NGED interfaces with the Development.
15/01/2026	Email	EG provided NGED with written request of information required on NGED's interfaces with the Development.
19/01/2026	Letter	NGED provided relevant representation to Planning Inspectorate.
19/01/2026	Email	EG requested NGED input on an SoCG.
20/01/2026	Email	Examining Authority used their discretion to accept the relevant representation.
4/02/2026	Email	NGED informed EG that their solicitors would liaise on the SoCG.
6/02/2026	Email exchange	NGED's solicitors requested an undertaking to commence discussion of suitable protective provisions or agreement.
9/02/2026	Email	EG's solicitors confirmed that they are taking instructions.
16/02/2026	Email	NGED's solicitors enquiries again as to undertaking.
23/02/2026	Email	EG's solicitors provided the undertaking.
25/02/2026	Email	NGED's solicitors shared the draft Asset Protection Agreement and Protective Provisions for EG's consideration/comments.

09/03/2026	Email	NGED's solicitors enquire as to comments on the draft Asset Protection Agreement and Protective Provisions
17/03/2026	Email	NGED's solicitors enquire as to comments on the draft Asset Protection Agreement and Protective Provisions. EG's solicitors confirm they are taking instructions.
23/03/2026	Email	Applicant (EG) solicitors provide comments on the draft Asset Protection Agreement and Protective Provisions to NGED's solicitors.
24/03/2024	Email	NGED's solicitors provide comments on the draft Asset Protection Agreement and Protective Provisions to the Applicant's solicitors.
24/03/2026	Email	Applicant's solicitors requested a call with NGED's solicitors to discuss the draft Asset Protection Agreement and Protective Provisions.

1.4.3 It is agreed that this is an accurate record of the key meetings and consultation undertaken between the Parties in relation to the issues addressed in this SoCG.

2 CURRENT POSITION OF THE APPLICANT AND NATIONAL GRID ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION (EAST MIDLANDS) PLC

2.1 ASSET PROTECTION

Table 2-1 Asset Protection

Ref	Relevant Document	Description of Matter	National Grid Electricity Distribution (East Midlands) plc's Position	Applicant's Position	Status
2.1.1	Relevant Representation of National Grid Electricity Distribution (East Midlands) plc, late submission dated 20 January 2026 accepted at the discretion of the Examining Authority	Asset Protection	<p>Current Position: The Applicant and National Grid Electricity Distribution (East Midlands) Plc (NGED) have negotiated provisions for the protection of NGED in relation to the Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park (the NGED Protective Provisions).</p> <p>The NGED Protective Provisions are agreed between the Applicant and NGED, subject to completing the remaining formalities. The Applicant and NGED anticipate being in a position to finalise the NGED Protective Provisions by the close of</p>	<p>Current Position: The Applicant and National Grid Electricity Distribution (East Midlands) Plc (NGED) have negotiated provisions for the protection of NGED in relation to the Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park (the NGED Protective Provisions).</p> <p>- The NGED Protective Provisions are agreed between the Applicant and NGED, subject to completing the remaining formalities. The Applicant and NGED anticipate being in a position to finalise the NGED Protective Provisions by the close of</p>	<p>Under discussion Agreed subject to completing formalities.</p>



Ref	Relevant Document	Description of Matter	National Grid Electricity Distribution (East Midlands) plc's Position	Applicant's Position	Status
			<p>examination on Tuesday 28 April 2026.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the points raised in NGED's letter of 20 January 2026 shall be satisfied on finalising the NGED Protective Provisions, and enable NGED to withdraw its holding objection. The Applicant would thereafter seek for the agreed NGED Protective Provisions to be included in any made Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park Order as a new part of Schedule 13.</p> <p><u>Deadline 4 Position:</u> NGED has been engaging with the Applicant on the draft Asset Protection Agreement and Protective Provisions, which is summarised in the Record of Correspondence above. NGED are awaiting substantive</p>	<p>examination on Tuesday 28 April 2026.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the points raised in NGED's letter of 20 January 2026 shall be satisfied on finalising the NGED Protective Provisions, and enable NGED to withdraw its holding objection. The Applicant would thereafter seek for the agreed NGED Protective Provisions to be included in any made Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park Order as a new part of Schedule 13.</p> <p><u>Deadline 4 Position:</u> The Applicant is considering the terms of the draft Asset Protection Agreement and Protective Provisions. In order to progress an Asset Protection Agreement and the Protective Provisions, further information is required from</p>	

Ref	Relevant Document	Description of Matter	National Grid Electricity Distribution (East Midlands) plc's Position	Applicant's Position	Status
			<p>comments on the agreements from the Applicant.</p> <p>NGED hopes that a suitable agreement can be reached between the two parties before the close of examination.</p> <p>Separately and in addition, NGED's technical experts have been engaging directly with the Applicant's development team to discuss the necessary legal agreements, technical specifications and programme timing for the separate works being undertaken within the Order limits. The Applicant requested further information on 17 March, which NGED are now collating.</p> <p>Deadline 3 Position:</p> <p>Having reviewed the plans relating to the Project, NGED have confirmed that they do have assets in or upon the land included within the Order.</p> <p>NGED are instructed separately to the Order to</p>	<p>NGED on their interests within the Order Land, which the Applicant has requested from NGED.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Deadline 3 Position:</p> <p>The Applicant has been engaging with NGED with regard to the issues raised in their Relevant Representation submitted into the examination on 19 January 2026, accepted the following day.</p> <p>The Applicant and NGED met on 15 January 2026 to discuss the interface between NGED interests and the Development. At the time of the meeting, NGED was unable to provide further details of its interests</p>	

Ref	Relevant Document	Description of Matter	National Grid Electricity Distribution (East Midlands) plc's Position	Applicant's Position	Status
			<p>undertake works to their apparatus which appears in the order limits. This will be completed ahead of the making of the Order and so NGED and EG are discussing the implications on the Project and the location of their assets as a result.</p> <p>While NGED will seek to have positive engagement with the Applicant in relation to the Project, NGED needs to ensure that the wider powers being sought in the Order will not have a detrimental impact on NGED's electricity network and its duties under the EA 1989. This includes ensuring acceptable terms of any proposed protective provisions.</p> <p>NGED therefore made a representation as a holding objection to the application until an asset protection arrangement has been agreed between the parties.</p>	<p>and its proposal to underground a section of existing overhead line within the Order Limits. The Applicant subsequently requested these further details by email on 15 January 2026 and awaits an update from NGED.</p> <p>The Applicant anticipates that agreement can be reached on a suitable solution before the end of the examination.</p>	

3 SIGNATURES

3.1.1 The above SoCG is agreed between the Applicant and National Grid Electricity Distribution (East Midlands) plc, as specified below.

Duly authorised
for and on behalf
of **Elements
Green Trent
Limited**

Name [Elena Sarieva](#)

Job Title [Head of Planning](#)

Date [23/04/2026](#)

Signature 

Duly authorised
for and on behalf
of **National Grid
Electricity
Distribution
(East Midlands)
plc**

Name 

Job Title Associate

Date 23/04/2026

Signature

