



Lime Down

Solar Park

Statement of Common Ground with Historic England

**May 2026
Revision 1**

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The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

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Draft

Statement of Common Ground Signatures

This Statement of Common Ground has been prepared and agreed by Lime Down Solar Park Limited (the Applicant) and Historic England.

Signed on behalf of Lime Down Solar Park Limited.

Name:

Position:

Date:

Signature:

Signed by Historic England.

Name:

Position:

Date:

Signature

Draft

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this document

- 1.1.1 This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared as part of the proposed Lime Down Solar Park Development Consent Order (the Application) made by Lime Down Solar Park Limited (the Applicant) to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (the Secretary of State) pursuant to the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008).
- 1.1.2 This SoCG does not seek to replicate information which is available elsewhere within the Application documents. All documents are available in the deposit locations and/or the Planning Inspectorate website.
- 1.1.3 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. SoCGs are an established means in the DCO consenting process of allowing all parties to identify and focus on specific issues that may need to be addressed during the examination.

1.2 Parties to this Statement of Common Ground

- 1.2.1 This SoCG has been prepared by (1) Lime Down Solar Park Limited as the Applicant and (2) Historic England.
- 1.2.2 Collectively, Lime Down Solar Park Limited and Historic England are referred to as 'the parties'

1.3 Terminology

- 1.3.1 In the tables in Section 3 of this SoCG:
- "Agreed" indicates where the issue has been resolved.
 - "Not Agreed" indicates a final position, and
 - "Under Discussion" indicates where these points will be the subject of ongoing discussion wherever possible to resolve, or refine, the extent of disagreement between the parties.

2 Record of engagement

2.1 Summary of engagement

2.1.1 The parties have been engaged in consultation since July 2024. A summary of the meetings and correspondence that has taken place between the Applicant and Historic England is outlined in Table.

Table 2-1 Summary of engagement

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
25 July 2024	Online MS Teams Meeting between Project Team and Historic England.	Meeting to introduce the Scheme, provide a high-level review of identified heritage assets and discuss proposed methodology.
22 August 2024	Scoping Responses	Historic England responded to the Scoping Opinion and highlighted designated heritage assets within the 2km study area.
13 January 2025	In person meeting between Project Team and Historic England Science Advisor.	Site visits for evaluation trial trenching on Lime Down D.
29 January 2025	Email	Statutory notification under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 issued by the Applicant to Historic for the launch of the statutory consultation.
19 March 2025	Statutory consultation response	Response to the statutory consultation received from Historic England.
28 March 2025	In person meeting between Project Team and Historic England.	Site visit to Lime Down A to E.
22 May 2025	In person meeting between Project Team and Historic England.	Site visit to Bradfield Manor Farmhouse.
27 May 2025	Advice note sent to Project Team from Historic England	Advice note following site visit to Bradfield Manor Farmhouse.

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
3 June 2025	Email	Statutory notification under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 issued by the Applicant to Historic England for the launch of the targeted consultation
9 July 2025	Email	Confirmation from Historic England that no comments to the targeted statutory consultation.
29 October 2025	Email / letter	Notice under Section 56 of the Planning Act 2008 issued by the Applicant.
18 December 2025	Online MS Teams Meeting between Project Team and Historic England.	Meeting to provide update on scheme and to understand concerns regarding HDD and consider heritage impacts and mitigation in relation to Bradfield Manor Farmhouse.
09 January 2026	Relevant Representation	Historic England submitted a relevant representation to the Planning Inspectorate.
23 March 2026	Email / technical addendum	Applicant provided Historic England with a technical addendum to Chapter 12 comprising two visualisations of Bradfield Manor Farmhouse.
09 April 2026	Email / letter	Historic England informed the Applicant that they submitted a response to the Bradfield Manor Farmhouse technical addendum to the Planning Inspectorate.
22 May 2026	Meeting	Meeting to discuss draft SoCG.

3 Matters Raised

3.1.1 This section sets out a table for each relevant topic, identifying where matters are agreed, still under discussion, or not agreed.

3.2 Draft Development Consent Order

Table 3-1 Draft Development Consent Order

Reference	Sub-topic	Historic England Position	Applicants Position	Status
3.2.1	Schedules	Historic England has concerns with Schedule 2 Requirement 18 Removal of Human Remains. This requirement is not needed or needs to be reworded to ensure burials of more than 100 years are dealt with by the archaeologist as set out in the OAMS.	<p>Schedule 2 does not contain a Requirement in relation to the removal of human remains. This is instead considered in Article 18 (Removal of human remains) of the Draft Development Consent Order (DCO) [APP-016]. This provision is considered necessary so that the discovery of any remains does not delay the implementation of the Scheme.</p> <p>The article operates by permitting the undertaker to remove human remains that were interred more than 100 years ago and where no personal representative or relative is likely to object, before seeking instructions from the Secretary of State as to the reinterment of the remains. For any remains interred less than 100 years ago, the process for publishing notices and according with the wishes of the deceased</p>	Under Discussion

Reference	Sub-topic	Historic England Position	Applicants Position	Status
			<p>personal representative or relatives is set out in the article.</p> <p>Where human remains are encountered in the course of archaeological works, their identification, investigation and treatment would be managed in accordance with the ES Volume 3, Appendix 12-6: Outline Archaeological Mitigation Strategy [APP-230] (in particular section 7.10), with works undertaken by suitably qualified specialists and in accordance with relevant legislation and guidance.</p> <p>In the absence of this article, where human remains are identified, the Applicant must comply with section 25 of the Burial Act 1857. In practice, this means that construction activity in the area where remains have been identified must stop whilst the Applicant applies to the Secretary of State for instructions for the removal of the human remains and subsequent reinterment. It is considered preferable for the Secretary of State to include instructions as to the removal of any identified human remains within the Draft DCO [APP-016] in order that such a discovery does not delay the implementation of the Scheme.</p>	

Reference	Sub-topic	Historic England Position	Applicants Position	Status
			The Scheme is critical national priority infrastructure and Article 18 ensures that the discovery of a historic burial can be dealt with appropriately and efficiently, in accordance with the Archaeological Mitigation Strategy.	
3.2.2	Requirements	Historic England requested amendments to the wording of draft Development Consent Order requirement 12.	The Applicant considers that the current drafting in Requirement 12 and ES Volume 3, Appendix 12-6: Outline Archaeological Mitigation Strategy [APP-230] appropriately secures the programme of archaeological mitigation within the Scheme.	Under Discussion

3.3 Cultural Heritage

Table 3-2 Cultural Heritage

Reference	Sub-topic	Historic England Position	Applicants Position	Status
3.2.1	Legislation and Policy	No Comment	The Applicant considers that the assessment provided in ES Volume 1, Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage [APP-064] is in line with appropriate legislation, policy and guidance.	Agreed
3.2.2	Methodology	No Comment	The methodology adopted within ES Volume 1, Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage [APP-064] is in line with appropriate guidance and has been derived following consultation with relevant stakeholders (i.e. Wiltshire Council and Historic England).	Agreed
3.2.3	Baseline	No Comment	The baseline conditions which are detailed in ES Volume 1, Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage [APP-064] are representative of the baseline site conditions.	Agreed
3.2.4	Approach to safeguarding designated heritage assets	Historic England require visualisations showing what would be visible from Grade II* Listed building Bradfield Manor Farmhouse to assess visibility, confirm the effectiveness of mitigation planting, and determine whether further changes are	The Applicant notes Historic England's comments regarding additional visualisations and will look to produce these additional visualisations by May 1 at Deadline 1. The assessment results set out within ES Volume 1, Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage	Under Discussion

Reference	Sub-topic	Historic England Position	Applicants Position	Status
		needed to minimise or remove harm to the heritage asset.	[APP-064] , including likely significant and residual effects on designated heritage assets are acceptable. Where impacts have been identified to designated heritage assets (including relating to indirect setting impacts) these have been appropriately mitigated (see Section 12.9 of ES Volume 1, Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage [APP-064] for embedded mitigation and Section 12.11 for additional mitigation).	
3.2.5	Approach to safeguarding archaeological assets	Historic England note that while Interim evaluation reports have been prepared, these do not include a final analysis of the sites and their significance. There are also outstanding geophysical surveys to be completed for the cable route. Historic England request these are completed and agreed prior to the final Mitigation Statement being agreed.	Appendix 12.6: Outline Archaeological Mitigation Strategy [APP-230] details the mitigation measures to safeguard archaeological assets including preservation in situ (using a non-intrusive construction methodology) and mitigation by record (including strip, map and sample) and is considered acceptable.	Under Discussion