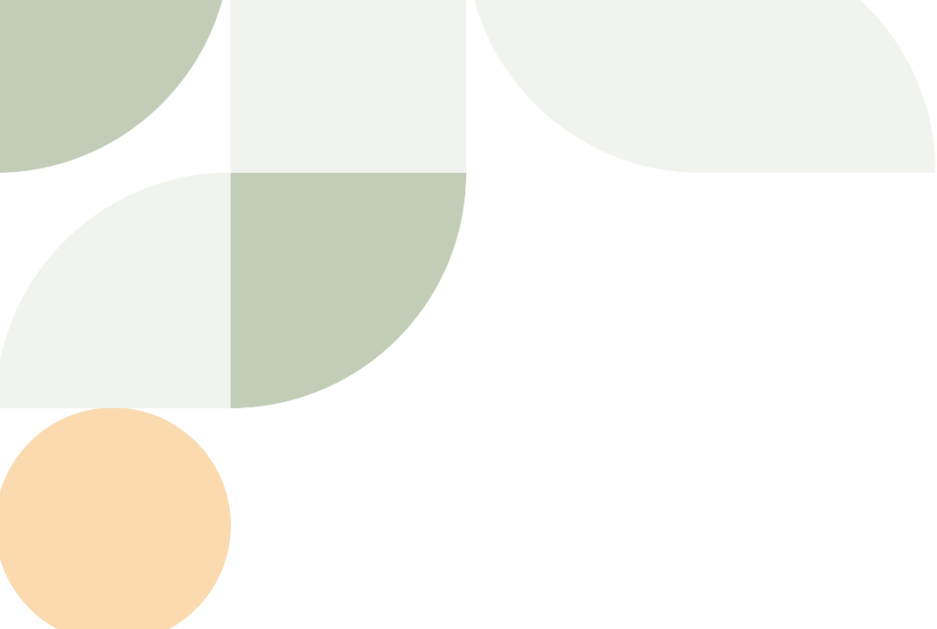




Lime Down

Solar Park

Statement of Common Ground with Wessex Water

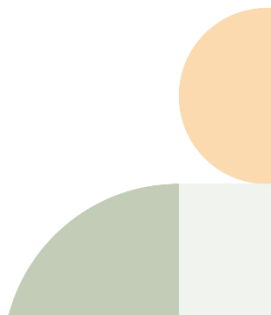
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Statement of Common Ground Signatures

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

Signed on behalf of Lime Down Solar Park Limited.

Name:

Position:

Date:

Signature:

Signed by Wessex Water.

Name:

Position:

Date:

Signature

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 & 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) Wessex Water.
- 1.2.2 Collectively, Lime Down Solar Park Limited and Wessex Water 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 May 2024. A summary of the meetings and correspondence that has taken place between the Applicant and Wessex Water is outlined in Table.

Table 2-1 Summary of engagement

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key Topics Discussed and Key Outcomes
3 May 2024	Letter	Introductory correspondence and land ownership questionnaire issued to Wessex Water.
29 August 2024	Non-intrusive survey licence	Non-intrusive survey licence issued to Wessex Water.
19 September 2024	Letter	Non-intrusive survey licence reminder letter issued to Wessex Water.
2 October 2024	Letter	Introductory correspondence and land ownership questionnaire issued to Wessex Water.
22 October 2024	Letter	Land ownership questionnaire reminder letter issued to Wessex Water.
13 November 2024	Letter	Land ownership questionnaire reminder letter issued to Wessex Water.
3 January 2025	Letter	Land interest questionnaire issued to Wessex Water.
22 January 2025	Letter	Statutory notification under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 issued by the Applicant to Wessex Water for the launch of the statutory consultation.
3 March 2025	Email	Non-intrusive survey licence issued to Wessex Water's Estates department.
17 March 2025	Statutory consultation response	Response to the statutory consultation received from Wessex Water.
19 March 2025	Email	Email requesting response from Wessex Water's Estates department regarding licence.

17 April 2025	Letter	Land interest questionnaire reminder letter issued to Wessex Water.
23 April 2025	Email	Email requesting response from Wessex Water's Estates department regarding licence.
29 April 2025	Email	Email to contact within the Estates department requesting response on licence issued.
29 April 2025	Email	Response received from Wessex Water regarding licence and survey access.
30 April 2025	Email	Negotiating non-intrusive survey licence with Wessex Water.
13 May 2025	Email	Email to contact following up on licence issued.
13 May 2025 to 28 May 2025	Emails	Emails between Applicant's water and flood risk specialist and Wessex Water to confirm Wessex Water's interest in the scheme and if mains water should form a part of the Applicant's water resource strategy. The Applicant provided a "NonHouseholdWaterResourcesNeeds" for identifying two locations where it will be looking for an individual supply connection to the Wessex Water network
2 June 2025	Email	Email to Wessex Water following up on licence issued.
2 June 2025	Email	Signed licence received from Wessex Water.
11 June 2025	Letter	Land interest questionnaire issued regarding abnormal indivisible loads.
2 June 2025	Letter	Project update letter issued regarding preferred Cable Route Search Corridor.
2 June 2025	Letter	Statutory notification under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 issued by the Applicant for the launch of the targeted consultation.
6 August 2025	Email	Electronic copy of countersigned licence agreement issued to Wessex Water.

7 August 2025	Letter	Landowner meeting invitation to Wessex Water to discuss voluntary agreements.
8 August 2025	Letter	Confirmation schedule issued to Wessex Water to confirm Applicant's understanding of land interests.
8 August 2025	Letter	Request for Wessex Water to provide the Applicant with any matters for the Potential Main Issues for Examination Document.
11 August 2025	Teams meeting	Introductory meeting with Applicant and Wessex Water.
19 August 2025	Email	Wessex Water provided two points to add to the Potential Main Issues for Examination Document and rated them as red.
8 September 2025	Heads of Terms	Heads of Terms issued by the Applicant to Wessex Water.
6 October 2025	Letter	Raising concerns about Scheme's interaction with Thingley Water Recycling Centre.
28 October 2025	Letter	Notice under Section 56 of the Planning Act 2008 issued by the Applicant to Wessex Water.
2 December 2025	Letter	Reminder letter regarding Heads of Terms issued.
20 December 2025	Email	Email from Wessex Water's Estates department advising agreement could not be reached owing to impact on statutory undertaking.
22 December 2025	Email	Request for meeting availability with Wessex Water's Estates department.
22 January 2026	Teams meeting	Meeting with Applicant and Wessex Water to discuss Heads of Terms. Request from the Applicant for Wessex Water to provide template Heads of Terms.
17 April 2026 and 6 May 2026	Emails	Submission of draft SoCG to Wessex Water for comment. Follow up email sent on 6 May 2026.

19 May 2026	Email	Request for Wessex Water to provide template Heads of Terms.
28 May 2026	Email	Request for Wessex Water to provide template Heads of Terms.
5 June 2026	Email	Request for Wessex Water to provide template Heads of Terms.
2 July 2026	Email	Request for Wessex Water to provide template Heads of Terms.
14 July 2026	Letter	Notice from the Applicant to Wessex Water about proposed change to DCO application.
20 July 2026	Email	Request for Wessex Water to provide template Heads of Terms.
20 July 2026	Email	Follow up request for response on draft SoCG.
21 July 2026	Email	Wessex Water response on SoCG, highlighting gaps in the record of engagement.
3 August 2026	Email	Applicant provided an updated table of record of engagement as requested on 21 July 2026.
13 August 2026	Email	Applicant provided Wessex Water with an updated draft of the SoCG for comment.
19 August 2026	Email	Wessex Water provided comments on the draft SoCG.
11 September 2026	Meeting – Microsoft Teams	Meeting between the Applicant and Wessex Water to discuss matters raised in the SoCG
14 September 2026	Email	Applicant provided Wessex Water with links to key documents discussed in the meeting and additional queries to support the Applicant to respond to queries from other interested parties. Wessex Water confirmed the contact details for the Applicant to use to obtain up to date information on demand requirements.
15 September 2026	Email	Applicant provided Wessex Water with the updated SoCG based on the discussion held on the 11 September

21 September 2026, 23 September 2026, 1 October 2026	Emails	Applicant resubmitted the “NonHouseholdWaterResourcesNeeds” form to confirm if Wessex Water are able to provide a mains water connection to supply the project. Wessex Water responded on the 23 September 2026 to request clarifications to the request provided, which the Applicant confirmed on the 1 October 2026. Wessex Water confirmed they would be able to provide the supply requested on the 8 October 2026.
21 September 2026	Email	Email from Wessex Water setting out the key areas of concern regarding the hydrogeological assessment and potential impacts on the Great Oolite Aquifer.
28 September 2026	Meeting – Microsoft Teams	Meeting between the Applicant and Wessex Water to discuss matters raised in the SoCG. No agreement on matters reached.
13 October 2026	Meeting – Microsoft Teams	Meeting between the Applicant and Wessex Water’s technical team to discuss key concerns relating the Great Oolite Aquifer.
14 October 2026	Email	Applicant provided Wessex Water with the updated SoCG for submission at Deadline 8.
16 October 2026	Email	Wessex Water request that matters remain marked as “under discussion” for the final SoCG. The Applicant confirmed this approach.

3 Matters Raised

3.1.1 This section sets where matters are agreed, still under discussion, or not agreed.

Table 3-1 Matters Raised

Reference	Sub-topic	Wessex Water Position	Applicants Position	Status
3.1.1	Land held freehold by Wessex Water in title WT272836	Wessex Water are concerned about the impacts on land they hold by freehold (WT272836) and its statutory duties as a regulated sewerage undertaker. Any impact of the Scheme on this land will injuriously affect our undertaking.	Land within title WT272836 forms part of the Scheme. Wessex Water has the benefit of the standard protective provisions included at Part 1 (<i>for the protection of electricity, gas, water and sewerage undertakers</i>) of Schedule 15 to the Draft Development Consent Order (DCO) [REP7-007] that will protect Wessex Water land and activities associated with its statutory duties where these have the potential to be impacted by the Scheme. The Applicant notes that Wessex Water has requested more time to consider the information provided by the Applicant before finalises their position, and at their request this matter remains as under discussion. The Applicant will continue to	Under Discussion

Reference	Sub-topic	Wessex Water Position	Applicants Position	Status
			engage with Wessex Water following the conclusion of the examination.	
3.1.2	Wessex Water's land - protective provisions.	Wessex Water's land is held for operational sewage treatment purposed and should therefore be avoided by any cables or works.	Wessex Water has the benefit of the standard protective provisions included at Part 1 (<i>for the protection of electricity, gas, water and sewerage undertakers</i>) of Schedule 15 to the Draft DCO [REP7-007] that will protect Wessex Water land held for operational sewage treatment where it has the potential to be impacted by the Scheme. The Applicant notes that Wessex Water has requested more time to consider the information provided by the Applicant before finalising their position, and at their request this matter remains as under discussion. The Applicant will continue to engage with Wessex Water following the conclusion of the Examination.	Under Discussion
3.1.3	The proposed demand capacity.	Wessex Water is concerned that the proposed demand capacity is not available to provide the required demand based on the figures they have provided causing	The Scheme's water supply requirements are addressed in the Outline Water Resources Strategy [REP7-089] , which identifies viable supply options including a	Agreed

Reference	Sub-topic	Wessex Water Position	Applicants Position	Status
		detriment to existing customers across the wider network.	connection to the Bristol Water network and commercial tankered supply. The Scheme is therefore not reliant on capacity within the Wessex Water network to meet its construction water requirements. Any connection to the Wessex Water network would provide an additional supply option, subject to available network capacity and the normal connection process. The Applicant has received confirmation from Wessex Water via email on 8 October 2026 that they can provide the supply requested. Therefore, the Applicant considers this matter to be Agreed.	
3.1.4	Hydrogeological assessment	Wessex Water raised the issue of potential contamination of groundwater supply and requested hydrogeological assessment.	An assessment of the impact of the Scheme on contamination and groundwater supply, is set out in ES Volume 1, Chapter 19: Ground Conditions [REP5-026] . Mitigation and management measures proposed for all stages of the Scheme are set out in the Outline CEMP [REP7-073], Outline	Under Discussion

Reference	Sub-topic	Wessex Water Position	Applicants Position	Status
			OEMP [REP7-075] and the Outline Decommissioning Strategy [REP7-077], which are secured through Requirement 13, 14 and 20 retrospectively in the Draft DCO [REP7-007]. These measures include undertaking ground investigation across the entire extent of the scheme in order to support hydrogeological risk assessment of sensitive groundwater resources. This data will also be used to support foundation works risk assessment around piled structures to ensure that pile design does not adversely impact groundwater resources. Where possible, cable installation will be positioned as such to avoid contact with sensitive groundwater resources. Where this is not possible, additional mitigation in both the construction, i.e. micro-routing of cable, no drilling fluid for HDD installation, etc, and operational phase, low thermal loss cable, casing of cable installation, etc, will be deployed to protect groundwater.	

Reference	Sub-topic	Wessex Water Position	Applicants Position	Status
			The Applicant and Wessex Water held a meeting to discuss this matter further on the 13 October 2026. Wessex Water confirmed its key area of concern was the Battery Energy Storage System during construction and operation, particularly in relation to what happens in the case of a BESS fire, and requires more time to review outline management plans. The Applicant confirms that the matters of concern raised by Wessex Water have been well traversed during Examination, and has secured agreement on similar matters through other SoCG's. The Applicant notes that Wessex Water has requested more time to consider the information provided by the Applicant before finalising their position, and at their request this matter remains as under discussion. The Applicant will continue to engage with Wessex Water following the conclusion of the Examination.	

Reference	Sub-topic	Wessex Water Position	Applicants Position	Status
3.1.5	Great Oolite Aquifer	Wessex Water are concerned the Scheme is being constructed over the Great Oolite Aquifer and a Hydrogeological Risk Assessment should be undertaken.	An assessment of potential impacts of the Scheme on hydrogeological receptors, including the Great Oolite Principal aquifer, has been undertaken and is presented in ES Volume 1, Chapter 19: Ground Conditions [REP5-026]. That chapter also addresses the geological sensitivity of the site, pollutant pathways, and aquifer protection measures. It concluded no significant impacts to groundwater are anticipated from the construction, operation, or decommissioning of the Scheme. Regardless of this, as stated above, ground investigation will be undertaken across the entire extent of the scheme in order to support hydrogeological risk assessment of sensitive groundwater resources and foundation works risk assessment where piled foundations are required.	Under Discussion

Reference	Sub-topic	Wessex Water Position	Applicants Position	Status
			The Applicant and Wessex Water held a meeting to discuss this matter further on the 13 October 2026. Wessex Water confirmed its key area of concern was the Battery Energy Storage System during construction and operation, particularly in relation to what happens in the case of a BESS fire, and requires more time to review outline management plans, including 7.21 Outline Battery Safety Management Plan [REP7-085] and 9.8 Firewater Containment and Drainage Strategy – Lime Down D Battery Energy Storage System [REP7-097]. The Applicant confirms that the matters of concern raised by Wessex Water have been well traversed during Examination, and has secured agreement on similar matters through other SoCG's. The Applicant notes that Wessex Water has requested more time to consider the information provided by the Applicant before finalising their position, and at their request this matter remains as under	

Reference	Sub-topic	Wessex Water Position	Applicants Position	Status
			discussion. The Applicant will continue to engage with Wessex Water following the conclusion of the Examination.	
3.1.6	PFAS	Wessex Water are concerned about the use of materials containing PFAS	The Applicant confirms it is proactively seeking the minimise the use of Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and can confirm that the solar panels will not contain PFAS. Following a review of the supply chain, however, both presently and at the point of procurement for the Scheme, the Applicant does not have sufficient confidence that sufficient PFAS free alternatives will be available to meet the demand of multiple solar developments anticipated. Therefore, while the Applicant will avoid the use of PFAS where a technically feasible and reasonable alternative exists, it is not possible to guarantee that all materials used will be PFAS free. The Applicant recognises the potential for cables and ancillary components, such as tapes, lubricants, semi conductive layers,	Under Discussion

Reference	Sub-topic	Wessex Water Position	Applicants Position	Status
			or external jackets to contain PFAS. We will be asking all suppliers to provide details of the materials provided in order that we can demonstrate where PFAS has been used. Should any materials be used in the construction of the scheme that cannot be confirmed to be PFAS-free, this will be considered in both the Discovery & Inspection Strategies (as secured in the Outline CEMP [REP7-073]) applied to those phases and any investigations required during decommissioning, which will be applied according to “Best Available Technique” principles at the time of decommissioning, as per the Outline Decommissioning Strategy [REP7-077]. In regard to the potential for any contaminated runoff from the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), 9.8 Firewater Containment and Drainage Strategy – Lime Down D Battery Energy Storage System [REP7-097] sets out the post incident management procedure. This includes the containment and testing	

Reference	Sub-topic	Wessex Water Position	Applicants Position	Status
			of retained water before its removed in accordance with the appropriate management route, and the cleaning and decontamination of any effected drainage and containment areas. The Applicant notes that Wessex Water has requested more time to consider the information provided by the Applicant before finalising their position, and at their request this matter remains as under discussion. The Applicant will continue to engage with Wessex Water following the conclusion of the Examination.	