Meridian Solar Farm

EN010169

Volume 8

Post-Submission Application Documents

8.19 Statement of Common Ground with Defence Infrastructure Organisation

APFP Regulation 5(2)(q)

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

September 2026

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1. Introduction

1.1. Overview

1.1.1. This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared to support the examination process for the proposed Meridian Solar Farm. A DCO application has been made by Meridian Solar Farm Limited ('the Applicant') to the Secretary of State pursuant to Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008.

1.1.2. 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 considered during the examination. The purpose and possible content of SoCGs is detailed in the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's guidance entitled 'Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the examination stage of an application' (2026), which states:

"*A SoCG is a written statement prepared jointly by the applicant and another interested party or parties but led and submitted by the applicant, setting out the factual matters about the application on which they agree, for example, on data or methodologies concerning the determination of any significant effects, but can just as helpfully record disagreement.*

…

SoCGs are expected to be concise and focused on the key issues, with the scope agreed between the parties from the outset of discussions on the application during the pre-application stage. SoCGs are often revised during the course of the examination as matters are agreed or disagreements clarified between the applicant and interested parties."

1.1.3. This document relates to matters between the Applicant and Defence Infrastructure Organisation. It confirms to the Examining Authority where agreement has been reached between the parties, and where agreement has not (yet) been reached. This SoCG does not seek to replicate information that is available elsewhere, either within the DCO application and/or examination documents, referring out where appropriate.

1.1.4. The terminology used within the SoCG to reflect the status between the parties is either:

- "Agreed" to indicate where a matter has been resolved to the satisfaction of the parties.

- "Not Agreed" to indicate a final position where parties cannot agree.
- "Under Discussion" to indicate where matters are subject of on-going discussion with the aim to either resolve or refine the extent of disagreement between the parties.

1.1.5. Where matters would require the involvement of third parties in order to come to an agreement, these dependencies are noted.

2. Summary of Engagement Undertaken

2.1.1. Table 2-1 summarises the key meetings and correspondence between the parties subject to this SoCG

Table 2-1 Summary of key meetings and correspondence

Date	Engagement Type	Summary
27 July 2026	Email Correspondence	Request for discussion in relation to the matters raised in the relevant representation by the DIO.
25 August 2026	Email Correspondence	Confirmation received that the pylons are not expected to introduce any adverse effects on performance of the WAM link in terms of physical obstruction. Further information requested in relation to the transmission lines.
27 August 2026	Email Correspondence	Further information provided, including an engineering design report.

3. Statement of Common Ground

3.1. Defence Infrastructure Organisation

3.1.1. Table 3-1 sets out the position of both parties in relation to Defence Infrastructure Organisation matters.

Table 3-1 Defence matters

Ref	Matter	Stakeholder Position	Meridian Solar Farm Position	Status
3.1.1	Pylon heights	The pylons are not expected to introduce any adverse effects on the performance of the Central WAM Network or Low Flying Area 6.	The Applicant notes and welcomes this position.	Agreed
3.1.2	Transmission lines	The DIO is continuing to investigate the transmission lines that will pass through a critical zone of the Central WAM Network.	The Applicant has provided the DIO with information to inform its ongoing assessment and will continue to engage with the DIO as that assessment progresses.	Under discussion

4. Signatures

4.1.1. This SoCG is agreed between the following:

Duly authorised for and on behalf of Meridian Solar Farm, the Applicant	Name Job Title Date Signature
Duly authorised for and on behalf of Defence Infrastructure Organisation	Name Job Title Date Signature