Meridian Solar Farm

EN010169

Volume 8

Post-Submission Application Documents

8.20 Statement of Common Ground with Peterborough and Spalding Gliding Club

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], which was accepted for examination by the Secretary of State pursuant to Section 55 of the Planning Act 2008 on 15 April 2026.

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)[2], which states:

1.1.3. "*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."

1.1.4. This document relates to matters between the Applicant and Peterborough and Spalding Gliding Club Ltd (PSGC). It confirms to the Examining Authority where agreement has been reached between the parties, and where agreement has not

[1] The Planning Act 2008. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/contents [Accessed 11 August 2026]
[2] MHCLG (2026) Guidance Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the examination stage of an application. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-act-2008-guidance-on-the-examination-stage-of-an-application [Accessed 2 September 2026]

(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.

1.1.5. 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.

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

2. Record of Engagement

2.1. 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: Record of Engagement

Date	Form of Engagement	Details
19 April 2024	Introductory Teams meeting	Introduction to the project for Mike Newton, Chairman of Peterborough & Spalding Gliding Club Ltd. Presented initial areas that were being reviewed for PV development areas and highlighted that the connection to National Grid would be overhead. Presented programme and consultation dates and likely material. MN presented re operations from the club and likely constraints and possible impacts.
13 August 2024	Site meeting at the Gliding Club	DV ran through the plans for Stage 1 consultation showing boundaries and likely areas for development. MN took DV up in a moto-glider to get a better view of the areas being considered and an appreciation of the constraints the club work to, and the risks involved with different types of developments.
December 2024	Update Teams call	Very brief call to review programme for application and next stage of consultation
24 April 2025	Site meeting at the Gliding Club	Meet at the club to discuss Stage 2 consultation, show plans for what will be in the public, and to discuss possible impacts and mitigation. Highlighted in the meeting how the PV design had been changed to take account of Stage 1 feedback, alongside the substation and OHL connection.

Date	Form of Engagement	Details
1 September 2025	Update Teams call	Meeting to review design changes and further requests re airfield operations and to talk about glint & glare inclusion in the application. Update on programme and next steps
10 December 2025	Teams call re Glint & Glare study, followed by update	Meeting with Glint & Glare specialists with a presentation to talk through the detail and level of impacts on the glider club operations.
16 March 2026	Site meeting at the glider club to talk through SoCG and application submission.	Meeting to run through examination process and timescales and to discuss further improvements that could be progressed for flying operations, and possible inclusions in other agreements going forwards.
19 August 2026	Site meeting at the Gliding club	Meeting to finalise details of the SoCG, the process through examination and likely timescales for a decision and then a start on site should the project be successful. Including a site walk to review runway amends and content of any side agreement.

3. Statement of Common Ground

Ref	Matter	Stakeholder Position	Meridian Solar Farm Position	Status
1	Location of PV panel design	Panels at the end of the runway (to the West) would present a safety risk for aborted landings. Would like the area to remain clear for the limited events that this may happen.	Design to the western edge of the runway was amended, with significant area of panels removed given safety concerns for planes taking off towing gliders.	Agreed
2	Inter array connection from substation in A to main substation in B	The connection from the substation needs to be underground given the proximity to the airfield and flying operations.	The design was amended such that the connection between A & B in the inter-array area is to be underground cable. This has been secured in the draft DCO (Application Document [APP-028]) and Works Plans (Application Document [APP-009]).	Agreed
3	400kV substation and connection	That the substation and 400kV pylons be far enough away from the airfield and operations to not cause an issue for aircraft.	Substation is located as far north in parcel B as possible (and as such, so too is the 400kV overhead line) and avoids all interaction with the gliding club.	Agreed
4	Glint & Glare	For the PV development areas across the project to not have a significant negative glint and glare impact on aircraft and flying operations.	Glint and Glare Assessment (Application documents [APP-255], [APP-256] and [APP-257]) conducted and shared with the gliding club. Following the design changes referred to at (Ref 1) above, this assessment shows minor impacts which are within operational tolerances for the glider club. The Assessment confirms that glint & glare does not have a significant effect.	Agreed

Ref	Matter	Stakeholder Position	Meridian Solar Farm Position	Status
5	Side Agreement	An appropriate side agreement is required between the parties to address the remaining interactions between the Gliding Club and the Project. A side agreement has been provided by the Applicant to PSGC which is agreed in principle subject to a legal review by PSGC's solicitor.	An appropriate side agreement has been provided to PSGC by the Applicant to address the interactions between the Gliding Club and the Project. The Applicant is confident that this will be agreed shortly following the legal review by PSGC's solicitor.	Agreed

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 Peterborough and Spalding Gliding Club Ltd	Name Job Title Date Signature