Meridian Solar Farm

EN010169

Volume 8

Post-Submission Application Documents

8.22 Statement of Common Ground with Anglian Water

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:

"*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 Anglian Water Services (AWS). It has been prepared jointly by the Applicant and AWS, and AWS has reviewed the Applicant's position as set out. It confirms to the Examining

[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]

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. 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
08/09/2026	Online Meeting	Discussion of comments submitted as part of AWS's Relevant Representation [RR-010].

3. Statement of Common Ground

3.1. Draft Development Consent Order

Table 3-1: Draft Development Consent Order (DCO)

Ref	Matter	Stakeholder Position	Meridian Solar Farm Position	Status
3.1.1	Protective Provisions	Bespoke protective provisions for AWS are to be included in the Draft DCO.	The Applicant has engaged with Anglian Water and agreed bespoke protective provisions which will be incorporated into the **Draft DCO** (Doc Ref. 3.1 Rev 2) to be submitted at Deadline 1.	Agreed

3.2. Land Interest

Table 3-2: Land Interest

Ref	Matter	Stakeholder Position	Meridian Solar Farm Position	Status
3.2.1	Land Interest	AWS has reviewed the Book of Reference [APP-034] and the associated documents and have identified the need to include easements for specific plots.	The Applicant has reached out to AWS to clarify matters regarding their interest within the Scheme and is waiting for a response. The Applicant is keen to work with AWS to accurately reflect its interest within the Scheme following the provision of additional information.	Under Discussion

3.3. Impact on AWS Assets

Table 3-3: Impact on AWS Assets

Ref	Matter	Stakeholder Position	Meridian Solar Farm Position	Status
3.3.1	Interfaces between the Scheme and AWS Assets (Underground and Surface Assets)	The design of the Scheme should minimise interaction with AWS assets/ critical infrastructure and specifically to avoid the need for mitigation works and diversions. Request for clash detection and technical assurance review of the Scheme. Where the project interfaces with AWS assets, appropriate measures will be required to protect those assets and maintain the continuity of water supply and waste water for customers. AWS supports the undertaking of further surveys and utility investigations. AWS considers these investigations necessary to inform the refinement of the project design and to avoid impacts on existing underground assets. AWS wishes to highlight there maybe gaps in the available assets information carried out in the PAS 128 utilities desk	The Scheme has identified AWS infrastructure through carrying out a PAS 128 utilities desk search and has sought to avoid and minimise impacts through careful design. The Applicant will continue to carry out utility surveys during detailed design to confirm the location of AWS assets. Any interactions of the Scheme with AWS assets, both above and below ground, will be subject to the final approval of AWS at the detailed design phase, in accordance with the agreed protective provisions incorporated within the **Draft DCO** (Doc Ref. 3.1 Rev 2).	Under Discussion

Ref	Matter	Stakeholder Position	Meridian Solar Farm Position	Status
		search, including pipe depth data, which could affect the construction phase of the project. Accordingly, AWS recommends that a comprehensive utility clash assessment is undertaken to identify and evaluate all actual and potential interfaces between the proposed development and existing infrastructure.		
3.3.2	Impact on Water Demand / Water Resource Assessment	Concerns raised regarding the impact of water demand and request for the submission of a Water Resource Assessment to provide further detail / clarification with regards to the strategy for water supply. Request for opportunities for rainwater harvesting to serve any non-potable water requirements to be considered. AWS understands the project will require some water supply for the construction, operation (including maintenance) or decommissioning stages of the project, which is proposed to be sourced via tanker. AWS anticipates that each phase of development will require different	The Applicant will prepare a standalone Water Supply Strategy document for submission at Deadline 2 in discussion with AWS and Environment Agency to provide further detail / clarification on water supply for the Scheme, including any potential opportunities for rainwater harvesting.	Under Discussion

Ref	Matter	Stakeholder Position	Meridian Solar Farm Position	Status
		potable and non-potable water demands and tankering of water may not prove to be the most viable of options. As a water scarce area designated by the Environment Agency. AWS welcomes the commencement of a Water Supply Strategy to provide AWS reassurance of the projects water demand and proposed sources; and options for rainwater harvesting. It is assumed that this will also cover wheel washing equipment and dust suppression during construction and requirements for water.		
3.3.3	Impact on foul sewage network	Concerns raised regarding the impact on the AWS foul sewage network from a future connection. AWS understands no connection to the public sewer is proposed. Noting that AWS are a named consultee under Requirement 10 (Surface and Foul Water Drainage) under the Draft DCO [AS-011], AWS are content with the inclusion of Part 4 Article 20 (Discharge	No connection to the public sewer is proposed for foul sewage across the lifetime of the Scheme, avoiding the need for new foul connections. The foul water flows will be dealt with via a sealed cesspit with no overflow to ground or public foul sewer network. Applicant's proposed approach to foul water management (i.e. with no connection to a foul sewer network) is secured through compliance with **ES Appendix 11-4: Outline Drainage Strategy** [APP-227 to APP-232], **Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (OCEMP)** (Doc Ref. 7.10 Rev 2), **Outline Operational**	Under Discussion

Ref	Matter	Stakeholder Position	Meridian Solar Farm Position	Status
		of Water) in the Draft DCO [AS-011], being the supplemental power to discharge water.	**Environmental Management Plan (OOEMP)** (Doc Ref. 7.11 Rev 1) and **Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (ODEMP)** (Doc Ref. 7.12 Rev 1).	
3.3.4	Flood risk	The Scheme should aim to minimise any flood risk as far as possible by designing in measures to limit increased flood risk to utilities infrastructure. AWS would welcome further detail on flood resilience measures to ensure flood water is not channelled to the public sewer network and does not impact water or water recycling assets. AWS require the management of surface water flood risk should be carried out in accordance with the drainage disposal hierarchy. AWS note **ES Appendix 11-4: Outline Drainage Strategy** [APP-227] confirms that discharge of surface water will be managed to remain at existing	**ES Appendix 11-4: Outline Drainage Strategy** [APP-227] proposes to mimic existing site conditions for surface water drainage, as far as reasonably practicable. Paragraph 5.1.13 and 5.2.14 of **ES Appendix 11-4: Outline Drainage Strategy** [APP-227] sets out the management of surface water drainage with regards to Paragraph 056 of the Planning Practice Guidance for Flood Risk and Coastal Change[3]. Drainage systems would discharge surface water runoff to existing watercourses at greenfield runoff rates, taking into account future climate change, or to ground, where there is no watercourse present and where existing conditions discharge to ground. It is not proposed to connect to the public surface water sewer network. Limiting runoff from new impermeable areas at the greenfield rate or Qbar rate, effectively provides a reduction in flood risk for higher return period events, as flows are restricted off site and attenuated on site.	Under Discussion

[3] Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (2018 to 2021) and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (2014, updated August 2025) National Planning Practice Guidance: Flood Risk and Coastal Change. Available online: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-and-coastal-change. [Accessed 17/09/2026].

Ref	Matter	Stakeholder Position	Meridian Solar Farm Position	Status
		greenfield runoff rates. Therefore, AWS's foul or combined sewer systems are not being sought as part of the DCO application. Any future proposals to utilise the public sewer network for the management of additional surface water flows would be subject to consultation with AWS, as named consultee under Requirement 10 (Surface and Foul Water Drainage) under the Draft DCO [AS-011].	Therefore, no increase in flood risk to existing sewer infrastructure is anticipated. With regards to foul drainage, paragraphs 5.9.1 and 5.9.2 of **ES Appendix 11-4: Outline Drainage Strategy** [APP-227] confirm there are no public sewers within 30m of the On-Site Substation Compound locations and foul flows will be directed to a sealed cesspit, with no public sewer connection proposed. As existing conditions are to be mimicked and with no discharge of surface water to sewers, there is no increased risk of failure of public sewer infrastructure as a result of the Scheme from the proposed outline drainage strategy. The same principles will also apply during construction with regards to the discharge of surface water runoff from temporary drainage systems and the use of sealed cesspit for foul water. These requirements are set out within the **OCEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.10 Rev 2). In summary, there are no AWS sewer assets that the Scheme would propose a connection to. Future third party infrastructure works are not currently known and cannot be reasonably accounted for within **ES Appendix 11-4: Outline Drainage Strategy** [APP-227] or E**S Appendix 11-3: Flood Risk Assessment** (Doc Ref 6.3 Rev 2). However, good practice measures to mitigate flood risk impacts during construction and to	

Ref	Matter	Stakeholder Position	Meridian Solar Farm Position	Status
			protect existing utilities are set out within the **OCEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.10 Rev 2).	
3.3.5	Cumulative Impacts	Concern regarding cumulative impacts on AWS assets with National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET)'s Grimsby to Walpole and Weston Marsh to East Leicestershire schemes.	All direct impacts to AWS assets would be mitigated through the detailed design process, with ultimate approval by AWS, as secured through the agreed protective provisions within the **Draft DCO** (Doc Ref. 3.1 Rev 2). Similar arrangements are expected to be established by the Grimsby to Walpole and Weston Marsh to East Leicestershire DCOs, in order for the cumulative schemes to be consented.	Agreed

3.4. Other Environmental Matters – Water Environment

Table 3-4: Other Environmental Matters – Water Environment

Ref	Matter	Stakeholder Position	Meridian Solar Farm Position	Status
3.4.1	Impact on groundwater and surface water quality	It is important that the Scheme adopts appropriately designed systems to minimise any risk of ground contamination, including the avoidance of PFAS containing coatings where possible. AWS agree the Order Limits sit outside source protection zones and welcome the Scheme's proposed drainage	There are no groundwater Source Protection Zones in the area, as stated in paragraph 11.6.28 of **ES Chapter 11: Hydrology and Flood Risk** (Doc Ref. 6.1 Rev 1). In the EIA Scoping Opinion (included within **ES Appendix 1-2** [APP-167]), the Planning Inspectorate agreed to scope out groundwater aquifers from the assessment process based on the underlying geology. However, the use of standard and good practice mitigation measures for the controlling of risk to	Agreed

Ref	Matter	Stakeholder Position	Meridian Solar Farm Position	Status
		systems associated with the BESS compounds which will be lined with an impermeable barrier to prevent any pollution risk associated with fire run off from entering the ground as detailed in the Outline Drainage Strategy [APP-227], paragraph 5.2.16. AWS are a named consultee under Requirement 10 (Surface and Foul Water Drainage) under the Draft DCO [AS-011], AWS are content with the inclusion of Part 4 Article 20 (Discharge of Water) in the Draft DCO [AS-011], being the supplemental power to discharge water.	controlled waters, which includes both surface waters and any groundwater, is noted within Table 3-7 Hydrology and Flood Risk in **OCEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.10 Rev 2). This also notes the use of guidance within CIRIA report C532: Control of water pollution from construction sites and CIRIA report C648 Control of water pollution from linear construction sites. The **OCEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.10 Rev 2) has been updated at Deadline 1 to confirm that no PFAS coatings for solar panels will be used. Management of spillage risk is also discussed, which presents a potential risk of pollution to surface water or from infiltrating to groundwater. The drainage attenuation measures are sufficient for the CIRIA Simple Index Methodology. Similarly, Table 3-8 of the **OOEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.11 Rev 1) requires regular inspections and maintenance of all equipment to be undertaken in order to identify any damage early. Any panels which require maintenance / replacement will be removed and replaced. **ES Appendix 11-4: Outline Drainage Strategy** [APP-227 to APP-232] includes the proposed use of a lined attenuation basin to retain any fire water runoff in the event of a BESS fire. This includes an automated penstock, with manual override, to prevent discharge of this water to the surface water and groundwater	

Ref	Matter	Stakeholder Position	Meridian Solar Farm Position	Status
			environment. The assessment allows for a surface water rainfall event to occur at the same time, representing a conservative assessment of firewater runoff volume capture.	

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 Anglian Water Services	Name Job Title Date Signature