# Meridian Solar Farm

EN010169

Volume 8

Post Submission Application Documents

8.9 Statement of Commonality

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 Commonality forms part of an application by Meridian Solar Farm Limited to the Secretary of State under the Planning Act 2008 (the 'Act') for a Development Consent Order (the DCO Application) for the Scheme.

1.1.2. The DCO Application is for a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) comprising the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of photovoltaic (PV) solar panels and up to 13 km of overhead line connection into National Grid's planned Weston Marsh substation. The Scheme will also include associated infrastructure, including co-located battery energy storage systems (BESS) and inter-array connections to link together the land parcels where the solar panels are located. The BESS is associated development to ensure that energy can be stored when it is generated and not demanded. The BESS will have a direct relationship with the solar PV panels and it will support the operation of this by storing electricity produced during times of peak capacity until it is needed.

1.1.3. The Scheme comprises a generating station of more than 100 MW and the installation of above ground electric lines greater than two kilometres in length. The Scheme therefore qualifies as an NSIP under sections 14(1)(a), 14(1)(b), 15(2) and 16 of the Act.

1.1.4. The purpose of this Statement of Commonality is to provide an overview of the status of the Statements of Common Ground (SoCGs), identifying areas of commonality across them and specific topics with shared points of consensus.

1.1.5. The engagement between the SoCG parties across the breadth of matters is ongoing. As a result, the SoCGs and the Statement of Commonality are evolving documents and the detailed wording within remains subject to deliberation.

1.1.6. Future iterations will be submitted at relevant deadlines; and parties reserve the right to supplement the matters identified discussions progress, to ensure it is comprehensive and up to date.

1.1.7. This document should be read alongside information that is contained within the other application documents and plans.

# 2. Status of the Statements of Common Ground

## 2.1. Summary of Status

2.1.1. The Applicant has entered into a number of SoCGs. These are iterative documents that will be updated throughout the course of the Examination with a view to submit final copies at or before Deadline 9.

2.1.2. Table 2-1 overleaf provides a summary of the current position of each SoCG at Deadline 1 (22 September 2026). It sets out whether a SoCG has been submitted in draft (and therefore subject to further revisions) or as final (in which case no further revisions are proposed by either party).

**Table 2-1 Summary of SoCGs**

| Doc Ref | Interested Party | Deadline 1 | Deadline 2 | Deadline 3 | Deadline 4 | Deadline 5 | Deadline 6 | Deadline 7 | Deadline 8 | Deadline 9 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8.10 | South Holland District Council | Draft submitted | | | | | | | | |
| 8.11 | Lincolnshire County Council | Draft submitted | | | | | | | | |
| 8.12 | Environment Agency | Draft submitted | | | | | | | | |
| 8.13 | Natural England | Draft submitted | | | | | | | | |
| 8.14 | Historic England | Draft submitted | | | | | | | | |
| 8.15 | National Highways | Draft submitted | | | | | | | | |
| 8.16 | Water Management Alliance | Draft submitted | | | | | | | | |
| 8.17 | Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust | Draft submitted | | | | | | | | |
| 8.18 | National Grid Electricity Transmission | Draft submitted | | | | | | | | |
| 8.19 | Defence Infrastructure Organisation | Draft submitted | | | | | | | | |
| 8.20 | Peterborough and Spalding Gliding Club | Draft submitted | | | | | | | | |
| 8.22 | Anglian Water | Draft submitted | | | | | | | | |

# 3. Commonality

## 3.1. Overview

3.1.1. Table 3-2 lists out the topics covered across the SoCGs and the status of that matter to each party, with the position for each topic presented as follows. Within the matrix in the table, the colour coding represents (a) whether matters under the headings are broadly agreed, under discussion, or not agreed, or (b) whether the heading has not been a material matter in engagement. This is represented by the colour coding set as set out in Table 3-1.

**Table 3-1 Colour coding within the Statement of Commonality**

| | |
|---|---|
| Matters agreed | |
| Matters subject to ongoing discussion | |
| Matters not agreed | |
| Theme not relevant to the Interested Party | |

3.1.2. Where matters remain both agreed and not agreed within a topic, and no matters remain under discussions, the colour coding has been split within the cell to indicate this is the case (i.e. half green, half red).

3.1.3. It is important to note that if a broad topic applies to multiple SoCG parties, the specific details discussed within that topic may not be directly comparable or related. Therefore Table 3-2 should be used as a general guide, and additional information on areas of discussion and matters not agreed should refer to the individual SoCGs

## 3.2. Statement of Commonality

**Table 3-2 Table summarising commonality across the SoCGs**

| Interested Party | Agricultural Land and Soils | Alternatives and Site Selection | BESS | Compulsory Acquisition | Consultation | Cultural Heritage | Defence | Design | Draft DCO, Licencing, Protective Provisions | Ecology, Biodiversity HRA and Ornithology | Glint and Glare | Grid Connection | Human Health | Hydrology, Flood Risk and Water Resources | Landscape and Visual | Minerals and Waste | Noise and Vibration | Socio Economics | Traffic and Transport |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| South Holland District Council | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lincolnshire County Council | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Environment Agency | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Natural England | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Historic England | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| National Highways | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Water Management Alliance | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| National Grid Electricity Transmission | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Defence Infrastructure Organisation | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Peterborough and Spalding Gliding Club | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Anglian Water | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |