Meridian Solar Farm

EN010169

Volume 8

Post Submission Application Documents

8.9 Statement of Commonality (Rev 2)

(Tracked)

APFP Regulation 5(2)(q)

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

October 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 3~~2~~ (~~6~~27 October 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	Not submitted	Not submitted						
8.11	Lincolnshire County Council	Draft submitted	Not submitted	Not submitted						
8.12	Environment Agency	Draft submitted	Draft submitted	Draft submitted						
8.13	Natural England	Draft submitted	Not submitted	Draft submitted						
8.14	Historic England	Draft submitted	Draft submitted	Not submitted						
8.15	National Highways	Draft submitted	Not submitted	Not submitted						
8.16	Water Management Alliance	Draft submitted	Not submitted	Not submitted						
8.17	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust	Draft submitted	Not submitted	Draft submitted						
8.18	National Grid Electricity Transmission	Draft submitted	Not submitted	Not submitted						
8.19	Defence Infrastructure Organisation	Draft submitted	Not submitted	Not submitted						
8.20	Peterborough and Spalding Gliding Club	Draft submitted	Not submitted	Not submitted						
8.22	Anglian Water	Draft submitted	Not submitted	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																			
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