

Light Valley Solar

Statement of Common Ground with Historic England

Document Reference: EN0110012/APP/LVS/08.27

October 2026

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN0110012
APFP Regulation 5(2)(q)



**Light Valley
Solar**

Infrastructure Planning

Planning Act 2008

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

Light Valley Solar

Deadline 3 Submission

Statement of Common Ground with Historic England

Regulation Reference	APFP Regulation 5(2)(q)
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Application Document Reference	EN0110012/APP/LVS/08.27
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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this document

- 1.1.1 This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared to support the Examination of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application for Light Valley Solar (the Proposed Development).
- 1.1.2 This SoCG has been prepared jointly by Light Valley Solar Ltd. (the Applicant) and Historic England (HE) to clearly identify the current position of the respective parties on specific matters that are, or have been, under discussion. It seeks to confirm to the Examining Authority (ExA) where there are points of agreement between the parties and where agreement has not been reached to date. It therefore aids the ExA in identifying any specific issues that may need to be addressed during the Examination and provides a structure to any further discussions for the parties engaged in the SoCG.
- 1.1.3 This document has been prepared in response to a specific request from the ExA as per the Rule 6 Letter [PD-003] issued on 19 June 2026.

1.2 Terminology

- 1.2.1 Section 2 of this document sets out the relevant matters raised through discussion between the parties. It provides a summary of the position of each party and identifies the status of discussions on each matter:
 - 1) “Agreed” means that a matter has been resolved between the parties and is not anticipated to be subject to further discussion.
 - 2) “Under discussion” means that a matter remains in active dialogue between the parties and a final position has not been reached.
 - 3) “Not agreed” means that the parties have established a final position that they cannot resolve the matter and will remain a point of difference.
- 1.2.2 In accordance with the request from the ExA in the Rule 6 Letter [PD-003], a **Low**, **Medium** and **High** ‘traffic light’ system is applied to each matter to indicate the likelihood of their resolution during the Examination period.

1.3 Status of this document

- 1.3.1 This document is in draft.

2 Current Position

- 2.1.1 Table 1 below provides a summary of the final, signed position of the Applicant and Historic England.
- 2.1.2 Appendix 1 of this document provides a record of engagement undertaken between the parties in relation to the Proposed Development. This is limited to engagement which is materially relevant to the contents of this SoCG and does not seek to include every correspondence between the parties (e.g. that which was primarily administrative).

Table 1 Current position of matters relevant to the parties' discussions

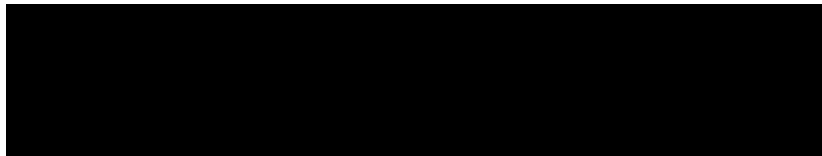
Row ID	Topic	HE position	Applicant position	Status
01	Assessment methodology – heritage assets	The main issue for HE would be to ensure that the significance of designated heritage assets, including the contribution of setting, and the potential for impact upon this significance is sufficiently assessed through the course of the DCO. HE previously noted that the methodology used to assess effects on heritage assets (a matrix-based approach) may not provide a sufficiently sensitive assessment of heritage significance or the potential extent of harm arising from the proposed development. They recommended that the ES explicitly assess and describe heritage impacts using the NPPF harm framework. HE are content with the approach and conclusions discussed during consultation on 6th November 2025 and the Applicant's approach in the DCO application.	the Applicant discussed the methodology and difficulties of reconciling Significant Effects under EIA and 'harm' under National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) during the consultation meeting on 6th November 2025 and agreed that greater detail was required within the ES to articulate the level of potential harm to heritage assets. As set out within The Applicant's Response to Relevant Representations [PDB-005], and as agreed during engagement, the Applicant has described effects where professional judgement has been used to decide between an optional minor or moderate effect (Table 8-12, ES Volume 1 Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage [APP-046]) to assist Historic England in their assessment of 'effects' vs 'harm'. These are set out within Section 8.9.37-8.9.75. Section 8.5 sets out the methodology for the assessment and demonstrates alignment with the NPPF/NPS.	Agreed

Appendix 1: Record of Engagement

Date	Method of engagement	Purpose / description
13/08/2024	Email	The Applicant provided an email introducing the project and requesting an Enhanced Advisory Service (EAS) Agreement.
07/11/2024	Telephone call	Applicant advised of case lead contact details.
08/11/2024	Email	Applicant informs HE of submission of Scoping report
14/11/2024	Email	Applicant shared shapefiles of proposed Project boundaries.
20/01/2025	Meeting	Introduction to the project for heritage consultees. Attendees were representatives for the Applicant, Historic England, and the North Yorkshire archaeological and conservation advisors.
06/11/2025	Meeting	The Applicant facilitated a discussion of the PEIR conclusions, embedded mitigation, update on the outcomes of geophysical survey and archaeological trial trenching, and development of archaeological mitigation strategy.
15/04/2026	Email	To Historic England providing a pre-examination update and offering further engagement
July (various dates)	Email / telephone call	The Applicant requested feedback from HE on any outstanding issues relevant to the SOCG [no response received]

Appendix 2: Signing Sheet

Signature	
Name	
Position	
On behalf of	Historic England
Date	

	
Name	Annette Lardeur
Position	Senior Development Manager
On behalf of	Light Valley Solar Limited
Date	06 October 2026



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