

The Drovers Solar Farm

Statement of Commonality

Prepared by: DWD

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1 Introduction

1.1 Overview

1.1.1 This Statement of Commonality has been prepared as part of the application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) (the DCO Application) for The Drovers Solar Farm (the Scheme) made by The Drovers Solar Farm Limited (the Applicant) to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (SoS) pursuant to the Planning Act 2008.

1.1.2 This document provides the Examining Authority (the ExA) with the latest position on the Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) between the Applicant and relevant consultees and Interested Parties in relation to the Scheme. This Statement of Commonality will be updated at each Deadline throughout the course of the Examination, as a record of progress being made with the SoCG parties.

1.2 Structure of the Statement of Commonality

1.2.1 This Statement of Commonality document is structured as follows:

- Section 2 details the structure of each SoCG document and provides a list of the SoCGs that have being produced to date;
- Section 3 addresses the current status of each SoCG; and
- Section 4 sets out the commonality between topics covered in SoCGs.



2 Position

2.1 Structure of the SoCGs

2.1.1 Each SoCG adopts a standard format to ensure consistency in the approach taken to documenting the matters agreed, matters subject to ongoing discussion, or matters that are not agreed upon.

2.1.2 Each of the SoCGs are structured in the following way:

- Section 1 provides an introduction to the SoCG, including a description of the document and the relevant SoCG party;
- Section 2 provides a description of the Scheme;
- Section 3 provides a summary of engagement between the Applicant and the relevant party so far; and
- Section 4 details those matters agreed, those matters under discussion and those matters which have not been agreed.

2.2 List of SoCGs

2.2.1. Following continuous and ongoing engagement with relevant statutory and non-statutory consultees, the Applicant has prepared 11 SoCGs submitted at Deadline 1. As outlined within Section 3, the SoCG with Breckland Council will be submitted at Deadline 2 (as agreed).

- SoCG with Norfolk County Council [APP/5.12];
- SoCG with Environment Agency [APP/5.13];
- SoCG with Historic England [APP/5.14];
- SoCG with Natural England [APP/5.15];
- SoCG with National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc [APP/5.16];
- SoCG with National Highways [APP/5.17];
- SoCG with Anglian Water Services Limited [APP/5.18];
- SoCG with Norfolk Wildlife Trust [APP/5.19];



- SoCG with Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk [APP/5.20];
- SoCG with National Energy System Operator Limited (NESO) [APP/5.21]; and
- SoCG with Defence Infrastructure Organisation [APP/5.22].



3 Current Status of SoCGs

3.1 Summary of Current Position

3.1.1 This section confirms the current status of each SoCG at Deadline 1.

3.1.2 Table 3.1 provides a high-level position on the status of each SoCG and, where necessary, includes further detail to aid the understanding of the status.

3.1.3 The terms used in Table 3.1 are as follows:

- Final SoCG – the SoCG has been agreed upon by both parties, with no outstanding matters to resolve.
- Draft SoCG – the SoCG has been discussed between both parties but there are a number of issues still outstanding and are yet to be signed off on.
- Initial SoCG – the SoCG has been drafted by the Applicant (using matters identified from meetings with the party alongside responses to Statutory Consultation and Relevant Representations) and is with the consultee for review. This initial draft has not yet had feedback from the consultee and is therefore not signed off.
- Not yet submitted – the Applicant is progressing these SoCGs with the intent to submit drafts at subsequent deadlines.

Table 3.1 – Current Status of SoCGs

Document Ref.	Relevant Party	Position at Deadline 1
APP/5.11	Breckland Council	Not yet submitted. Breckland Council has confirmed with the Applicant that they are focusing on the Local Impact Report (LIR) for Deadline 1 and therefore it has been agreed between the parties that a draft SoCG will be submitted at Deadline 2.
APP/5.12	Norfolk County Council	An Initial SoCG has been submitted. It was agreed with NCC on 28 May 2026 to submit the Initial SoCG without NCC's engagement received as they have been focussing on their LIR for Deadline 1. The ExA's request within Annex H of the Rule 6 Letter [PD-006] , to provide information on the likelihood of resolution on each matter, is therefore not yet included within this version. The Applicant



Document Ref.	Relevant Party	Position at Deadline 1
		will aim to work with NCC to provide this information for Deadline 2.
APP/5.13	Environment Agency	A Draft SoCG has been submitted.
APP/5.14	Historic England	<p>A Draft SoCG has been submitted.</p> <p>The ExA's request within Annex H of the Rule 6 Letter [PD-006], to provide information on the likelihood of resolution on each matter, is not yet included within this version, as the parties are still discussing these matters. The Applicant will aim to work with HE to provide this information at a subsequent deadline.</p>
APP/5.15	Natural England	A Draft SoCG has been submitted.
APP/5.16	National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc	<p>An Initial SoCG has been submitted. This Initial SoCG was issued to the stakeholder on 5 May 2026. The Applicant has not yet received a response to this.</p> <p>The ExA's request within Annex H of the Rule 6 Letter [PD-006], to provide information on the likelihood of resolution on each matter, is therefore not yet included within this version. The Applicant will aim to work with NGET to provide this information at a subsequent deadline.</p>
APP/5.17	National Highways	<p>An Initial SoCG has been submitted. This Initial SoCG was issued to the stakeholder on 1 May 2026. The Applicant has not yet received a response to this.</p> <p>The ExA's request within Annex H of the Rule 6 Letter [PD-006], to provide information on the likelihood of resolution on each matter, is therefore not yet included within this version. The Applicant will aim to work with NH to provide this information at a subsequent deadline.</p>



Document Ref.	Relevant Party	Position at Deadline 1
APP/5.18	Anglian Water Services Ltd	A Draft SoCG has been submitted.
APP/5.19	Norfolk Wildlife Trust	<p>A Draft SoCG has been submitted.</p> <p>The ExA's request within Annex H of the Rule 6 Letter [PD-006], to provide information on the likelihood of resolution on each matter, is not yet included within this version, as the parties are still discussing these matters. The Applicant will aim to work with NWT to provide this information at a subsequent deadline.</p>
APP/5.20	Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk	<p>A Draft SoCG has been submitted.</p> <p>The ExA's request within Annex H of the Rule 6 Letter [PD-006], to provide information on the likelihood of resolution on each matter, is included. The Applicant has completed the likelihood of resolution based on their position on each matter, but this has not been reviewed by BCKLWN for this submission. The Applicant will continue to work with BCKLWN to update this position at a subsequent deadline.</p>
APP/5.21	National Energy System Operator Ltd	<p>A Draft SoCG has been submitted.</p> <p>The ExA's request within Annex H of the Rule 6 Letter [PD-006], to provide information on the likelihood of resolution on each matter, is not yet included within this version, as the parties are still discussing these matters. The Applicant will aim to work with NESO to provide this information at a subsequent deadline.</p>
APP/5.22	Defence Infrastructure Organisation	A Draft SoCG has been submitted.



4 Summary

- 4.1.1 This section provides a summary of the main topics covered by the SoCGs submitted at Deadline 1 and identifies where there is commonality in topics between the SoCG parties.
- 4.1.2 **Table 4.1** has been produced to set out the topics covered across the SoCGs and the status of the matter at the submission stage with the relevant party. The colour coding used within this **Table 4.1** is outlined below.
- 4.1.3 The colours of each cell correspond to the status table in each individual SoCG.

Cell	Status
	Agreed
	Subject to further discussion
	Currently subject to disagreement
	Not Applicable



Table 4.1 – Summary of Commonality with relevant stakeholders

Docu ment Ref.	Party	Topics																										
		Planning Policy	BESS/ Fire Safety	Cumulative Impacts	Location of the Substation	Cultural Heritage / Historic Environment	Aerodrome Height Safeguarding	Land Use / Agriculture	Consultation	Construction	Glint and Glare	Precision Approach Radar	Landscape and Visual	PRoW and Permissive Footpaths	Traffic and Transport	Bird Strike Safeguarding	Water, Flood Risk & Drainage	Waste Management	Decommissioning	Lands and Compulsory Acquisition	Draft DCO	Impact on existing apparatus/infrastructure	Land contamination	Ecology and Biodiversity	Population/Economic Impacts	Grid Connection	Design	Approach to EIA
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