THE DROVES
SOLAR FARM

The Droves Solar Farm

Statement of Commonality (Clean)

Prepared by: DWD
Date: October 2026
PINS reference: EN0110013
Document reference: APP/5.10.5 (Revision 5)
APFP Regulation Reg 5(2)(q)
Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010



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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 Droves Solar Farm (the Scheme) made by The Droves 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.

1.1.3 This document has been updated at Deadline 6 to reflect the final positions of the Statements of Common Ground. The document references have not been updated from the original submission. Please refer to the **Guide to the Application [APP/1.3.8]** for the list of current versions of documents.

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 prepared eleven SoCGs which were submitted at Deadline 1. As outlined within the **Deadline 2 Cover Letter [REP2-001]**, a twelfth SoCG with Breckland Council was promised for submission at Deadline 3, which the Applicant provided. The final list of SoCGs is reflected below:

- SoCG with Breckland Council [APP/5.11.4]
- SoCG with Norfolk County Council [APP/5.12.4]
- SoCG with Environment Agency [APP/5.13.4]
- SoCG with Historic England **[REP5-018]**
- SoCG with Natural England [APP/5.15.4]
- SoCG with National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc [APP/5.16.2]
- SoCG with National Highways [APP/5.17.3]
- SoCG with Anglian Water Services Limited **[REP5-026]**

- SoCG with Norfolk Wildlife Trust [APP/5.19.2]
- SoCG with Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk [APP/5.20.4]
- SoCG with National Energy System Operator Limited (NESO) [APP/5.21.2]; and
- SoCG with Defence Infrastructure Organisation **[REP5-034]**.

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 6.

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.
- 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 for this Deadline
APP/5.11.4	Breckland Council (BC)	A final SoCG has been submitted at Deadline 6. The 'not agreed' matters within this final SoCG are with regards to: Cumulative Impact, Land Use / Agriculture, Community Benefit, Landscape and Visual, draft DCO and Grid Connection and Uncertainty of Development. This final SoCG has not been signed as BC did not have any available persons to sign this into Deadline 6. BC has indicated that it is possible to sign this final SoCG following Deadline 6 and ahead of the close of Examination on 6 November 2026. The Applicant will work with BC to submit a signed SoCG ahead of the close of examination, acknowledging that acceptance of this is at the ExA's discretion.
APP/5.12.4	Norfolk County Council (NCC)	A final and signed SoCG has been submitted at Deadline 6. The 'not agreed' matters within this final SoCG are with regards to: Landscape and Visual, Ecology and Biodiversity, and water, flood risk and drainage.

Document Ref.	Relevant Party	Position for this Deadline
APP/5.13.4	Environment Agency (EA)	A final and signed SoCG has been submitted at Deadline 6. The only matters 'not agreed' within this final SoCG are with regards to the draft DCO. There are also some matters which have been left as 'under discussion', related to rainwater harvesting (EA52) and permitted preliminary works (EA48). The Applicant considers that it has addressed the EA's concerns on these matters within updates to DCO Application documents submitted at Deadline 6; however, the EA is unable to confirm agreement until it has reviewed the submitted documents, despite the Applicant offering to share the updated versions prior to submitting them. As such, these matters remain 'under discussion' in the final version of the SoCG.
REP5-018	Historic England (HE)	A final and signed SoCG has been submitted at Deadline 5. The only matters 'not agreed' within this Final SoCG are with regards to; HER 1-12: Impacts to Designated Heritage Assets, HER 1-13: Impacts to Castle Acre Castle and Castle Acre Priory, and HER 1-14: Impacts to Castle Acre Conservation Area. As set out in the note to HER 1-12 to 1-14 in the SoCG, this disagreement is in a difference of professional judgement on the perceived levels of impact and effect.
APP/5.15.4	Natural England (NE)	A final and signed SoCG has been submitted at Deadline 6. The only matters which remain 'not agreed' are related to land use and agriculture, specifically 1-1(2) temporary impacts, 1-1(4) magnitude criteria, and 1-3 siting of permanent infrastructure.
APP/5.16.2	National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc (NGET)	A final and signed SoCG has been submitted at Deadline 6. All matters within this SoCG remain 'under discussion' and the Applicant and NGET will continue to engage on these matters after the close of the Examination.
APP/5.17.3	National Highways (NH)	A final and signed SoCG has been submitted at Deadline 6. The only matters which remain 'not agreed' are related to Lands and Compulsory Acquisition: Issues not relating to Protective Provisions, and Legal and DCO: Issues not relating to Protective Provisions.
REP5-026	Anglian Water Services Ltd (AW)	A final and signed SoCG has been submitted at Deadline 5, with all matters 'agreed'.

Document Ref.	Relevant Party	Position for this Deadline
APP/5.19.2	Norfolk Wildlife Trust (NWT)	A final and signed SoCG has been submitted at Deadline 6. The only matters which remain 'not agreed' are related to Curlew Mitigation and post construction monitoring.
APP/5.20.4	Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk (BCKLWN)	A final and signed SoCG has been submitted at Deadline 6. The 'not agreed' matters within this final SoCG are with regards to Cultural Heritage / Historic Environment, Landscape and Visual, Land Use / Agriculture / Soil and the draft DCO.
APP/5.21.2	National Energy System Operator Ltd (NESO)	A final and signed SoCG has been submitted at Deadline 6. This version does not have any matters 'not agreed'; however, the grid connection agreement matter at GC-02 remains 'under discussion' until the Scheme receives its 'Gate 2 status' and a subsequent Gate 2 offer is signed.
REP5-034	Defence Infrastructure Organisation	A final and signed SoCG has been submitted at Deadline 5, with all matters 'agreed'

4 Summary

4.1.1 This section provides a summary of the main topics covered by the SoCGs submitted at Deadline 6 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

Document 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/ Protective Provisions	Land contamination	Ecology and Biodiversity	Population/Economic Impacts	Grid Connection	Design	Approach to EIA	Community Benefit	Amenity
APP/5.11.4	Breckland Council																													
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[REP5-026]	Anglian Water Services Ltd																													

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		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/ Protective Provisions	Land contamination	Ecology and Biodiversity	Population/Economic Impacts	Grid Connection	Design	Approach to EIA	Community Benefit	Amenity
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