The Great Grid Upgrade

North Humber to High Marnham

NHHM-NG-CNS-REP-0041

# North Humber to High Marnham

## Volume 5: Reports and Statements

**Document 5.8.23 Statement of Common Ground - One Earth Solar Farm - Ørsted and PS Renewables**

**Final Issue A**

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nationalgrid

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# 1. Purpose of the Statement of Common Ground

1.1.1 This draft Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared by National Grid Electricity Transmission (National Grid / 'the Applicant') and One Earth Solar Farm (OESF) regarding the proposed North Humber to High Marnham Development Consent Order (DCO) application ('the Application').

1.1.2 Section 4 sets out the matters 'agreed' between the Parties, for which no further issues have been raised. It also identifies matters that remain 'under discussion', where agreement has not yet been reached and further negotiations are required to establish an agreed approach.

1.1.3 This SoCG is structured as follows:

- Section 1: An introduction to this SoCG and a description of its purpose
- Section 2: Gives a description of the project.
- Section 3: Summarises engagement between Parties to date
- Section 4: Summarises the key matters and captures the status of each issue / matter.
- Section 5: Sets out matters not agreed between the Parties.
- Section 6: Sets out the approvals and the signing off sheet between the Parties.

1.1.4 The aim of the SoCG is to clarify the shared understanding of any issues and facilitate an efficient resolution process. Any reference to 'the Parties' means National Grid and OESF

1.1.5 This draft SoCG has been prepared at an early phase of the DCO process, ahead of submission. It is intended to be a live and working document which will be updated as the project progresses and shared with OESF at key points for discussion. A final SoCG will be prepared ahead of the close of the DCO Examination. Unlike a final SoCG, this draft SoCG has not been officially signed by either party.

# 2. Project Description

2.1.1 The North Humber to High Marnham Project (the Project) is a new 400 kilovolt (kV) electricity transmission connection of approximately 90 kilometres (km) in overall length between two proposed new substations: the 400 kV Birkhill Wood Substation and 400 kV High Marnham Substation.

2.1.2 The proposed new substations are subject to separate planning applications. For more information, see **Application Document 5.4 Consents and Licences Required Under Other Legislation**.

2.1.3 The Project comprises:

- Approximately 90 km of new overhead line (Route Code 4AF) between the proposed new 400 kV Birkhill Wood Substation and 400 kV High Marnham Substation;
- Replacement and re-alignment of a section of the existing 400 kV overhead line (Route Code 4ZQ) between Brantingham and east of Broomfleet;
- Replacement and re-alignment of a section of the existing 400 kV overhead line (Route Code ZDA) between Ealand and west of Keadby;
- Line entry connections to a proposed new 400 kV Birkhill Wood Substation;
- Line entry connections to a proposed new 400 kV High Marnham Substation; and
- The Project would include other required works, for example, temporary diversions for works on existing overhead line routes, temporary access roads, highway works, temporary works compounds, work sites and ancillary works. The Project would also include utility diversions and drainage works. There would also be land required for environmental mitigation, offsetting, compensation and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).

2.1.4 A full description of the Project is provided in **Application Document 6.4 Environmental Statement Chapter 4 Description of the Project**.

# 3. Record of Engagement

## 3.1 Role of the Consultee in the process

3.1.1 One Earth Solar Farm Limited (OESF) as an SPV of Perigus Energy and Pedero Solar Limited is a proposed large-scale solar photovoltaic and battery energy storage development together with associated grid connection infrastructure.
OESF include solar PV modules and mounting structures, substations, underground cabling, transformer, switchgear, access infrastructure, drainage works, storage containers and landscaping, bio-diversity enhancement measures and temporary construction works. OESF would connect into the National Grid Transmission Network at High Marnham.

3.1.2 OESF is located within proximity to, and in places overlaps with the Order Limits of the Project, including within Route Section F: between Darlton to the proposed High Marnham Substation. The interface between the Project and OESF includes potential interactions relating to construction access, temporary works areas and proposed transmission infrastructure.

3.1.3 A localised non-statutory consultation was held for four weeks, between 9 July 2024 and 6 August 2024. That consultation introduced a potential alternative corridor for routeing and sought the views of the public and relevant stakeholders, including OESF (Perigus Energy and Ps Renewables). The OESF (Perigus Energy and Ps Renewables) submitted a response to this consultation on the 7 August 2024.

3.1.4 Statutory consultation pursuant to Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 was held for a period of eight weeks from 18 February 2025 to 15 April 2025. That consultation provided an opportunity to see how the proposals had developed, how previous feedback had been considered and sought the views of the public and stakeholders on the updated proposals. Prior to the start of the Project's Statutory Consultation period, the Project held a meeting with OESF on 13 February 2025 to discuss the Project's programme, consenting strategy, latest design and request feedback from OESF, the Project's lands update and OESF project updates. The Project shared interaction plans based on draft alignments, assumptions of the overhead line indicative alignment and limit of Deviation. Perigus Energy submitted a response on behalf of OESF, Orsted Hornsea Project Four, Kingfisher Solar Farm on 15 April 2025 to this consultation.

## 3.2 Summary of pre-application discussions

3.2.1 Table 3.1 provides an overview of the engagement that has taken place between National Grid and OESF

Table 3.1 – Summary of Engagement between National Grid and One Earth Solar Farm

| Date | Format | Topic | Description |
|---|---|---|---|
| 11/10/2023 | Email | **Initial contact with OESF** | The Project made initial contact with OESF, requested an initial meeting to share the Project's proposal and asked |

| Date | Format | Topic | Description |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | OESF to share information on OESF's proposal and plans in more detail. |
| 27/10/2023 | Email | **Shapefiles being shared** | OESF shared shapefiles of their non-statutory consultation to aid the Project with their design development. |
| 06/12/2023 | Meeting | **Initial meeting with OESF** | Overview of both the Project and OESF and initial discussion of potential interactions between the two projects. |
| 27/03/2024 | Meeting | **Progress meeting** | Discussion on the progress of the two projects and interactions between the Project and OESF |
| 20/06/2024 | Email | **Potential alternative corridor based on feedback for the Project** | The Project is looking at a potential alternative corridor that would have less impact on OESF. Invited OESF to attend the upcoming localised non-statutory consultation. |
| 04/07/2024 | Meeting | **Pre-Localised Non-Statutory Consultation meeting** | Discussed the Project's route corridor options and possible interactions between each corridor and OESF. |
| 09/07/2024 | Letter | **Localised non-statutory consultation notification** | Notification about the commencement of the localised non-statutory consultation and invited OESF to submit feedback. |
| 07/08/2024 | Email | **Feedback response on the localised non-statutory consultation** | OESF provided feedback on their preferred proposed route corridor that National Grid should adopt. |
| 19/08/2024 | Email | **OESF potential siting locations shared to the Project.** | OESF shared information in GIS format of potential siting locations for their substations |
| 24/01/2025 | Email | **The Project confirmed the proposed siting corridor** | The Project confirmed that the proposed alternative 'eastern' siting corridor between South Wheatley and High Marnham, consulted on in 2024, has not been taken forward and the Project has proceeded with the original 'Western' siting corridor, consulted on in 2023.<br>The Project requested design information regarding the OESF export cable routeing to the new High Marnham substation. |

| Date | Format | Topic | Description |
|---|---|---|---|
| 13/02/2025 | Meeting | **Pre-Statutory Consultation Briefing with OESF** | The Project shared feedback from the non-statutory consultation and the preferred corridor alignment. |
| 18/02/2025 | Letter | **Statutory consultation notification** | Notification about the commencement of the statutory consultation and invited OESF to submit feedback. |
| 28/02/2025 | Email | **The Project shared shapefiles** | The Project shared shapefiles of the preferred alignment that was being presented at their statutory consultation. |
| 04/03/2025 | Email | **OESF shared workplans** | OESF shared workplans in GIS format. |
| 15/04/2025 | Email | **Perigus Energy response to The Project's to the statutory consultation** | Response received from Perigus Energy to the Project's statutory consultation. Overarching response to three projects including OESF. Perigus Energy were unaware the Project had been communicating with the OESF directly and asked to be cc'd going forward. |
| 17/04/2025 | Email | **Potential Interactions with** | Shapefiles have been shared from both National Grid and OESF to understand potential interactions. |
| 13/06/2025 | Email | **Potential design change** | Potential minor re-alignment of the Project's overhead line and pylon positions in some areas of interaction with OESF were discussed |
| 07/08/2025 | Email | **Project interactions** | Continued commitment by both parties to progress Protective Provisions and construction interface arrangements |
| 17/09/2025 | Meeting | **Project interactions** | Discuss in detail interactions between the Project and OESF. |
| 06/10/2025 | Email | **Interaction plans** | The Project shared land take interaction plans. |
| 05/12/2025 | Email | **Shapefiles** | The Project shared latest shapefiles with OESF. |
| 17/02/2026 | Email | **Heads of Terms** | The Project initiated contact regarding issuing Heads of Terms to landowners. |
| 07/04/2026 | Email | **Shapefiles** | The Project shared latest shapefiles with OESF. |
| 08/04/2026 | Meeting | **Review overlapping land interests** | Review of the overlapping land interests and design considerations. |

| Date | Format | Topic | Description |
|---|---|---|---|
| 30/04/2026 | Email | **Surveys** | The Project informed of ongoing / upcoming intrusive surveys in areas of interaction with OESF |
| 02/07/2026 | Email | **Project interactions** | The Project shared an updated interaction schedule including traffic management information, as well as updated indicative permanent sterilization plans for discussion. |
| 11/09/2026 | Email | **Project interactions** | The Project shared updated indicative sterilization plans for discussion. |

# 4. Matters Agreed or Under Discussion

## 4.1 Overview

4.1.1 This section details the matters relevant to OESF which have been agreed or are under discussion between the parties.

4.1.2 The red, amber, green status shows, at a glance, the level of agreement with OESF, as seen in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1 – Agreement Status

| Status | Description |
|---|---|
| Not Agreed | Indicates a final position, where it has not been possible to resolve the issue to the agreement of both parties and there remains a difference of opinion. |
| Under Discussion | Indicates where issues are the subject of active on-going discussion. |
| Agreed | Indicates where an issue has been agreed or resolved satisfactorily to the agreement of both parties. |

Table 4.2 – Matters Agreed or Under Discussion in Relation to the Project

| ID | Matter | **Agreed Position** (working towards) | **One Earth Solar Farm (OESF) Position** (including actions to be taken by National Grid) | **Date** (last discussed / date agreed) | **Status** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| OES-01 | Principle of Cooperative Working | The Parties agree to ongoing engagement and information sharing to minimise land sterilisation, manage construction impacts, and ensure the long-term coexistence of both developments.<br>The Parties have agreed to share detailed plans to aid one another in the development of the respective designs.<br>National Grid has shared Final Design Freeze 4, the Interaction Schedule and sterilisation Plan and has provided updates on traffic management in the mutual areas. | OESF agree.<br>OESF has shared land take proposals with proposed temporary and permanent sterilisation areas as well as their anticipated construction timeline. | 29/09/2026 | Agreed |
| OES-02 | Interface Summary | National Grid notes that Approximately 1.7km of 400kV overhead line oversail the OESF land, which also comprises five new pylons (4AF247-249 & 4AF255-258), associated temporary works and future operational and maintenance access. One Earth has confirmed these areas are planned for solar panels, BESS, converter stations and substations. | Both Parties acknowledge that a number of interfaces will require ongoing coordination through detailed design and construction.<br>The Parties have also identified opportunities for shared infrastructure, where possible. | 29/09/2026 | Agreed |
| OES-03 | Design Change Near 4AF257 | The removal of the 2025 design pylon (4AF254) and subsequent repositioning of the remaining pylons would reduce impacts on the One Earth Solar Farm, with whom National Grid has engaged to minimise interactions. . As part of this optimisation, one intermediate pylon was removed, resulting in | OESF are satisfied with this outcome. | 29/09/2026 | Agreed |

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| | | pylon re-numbering across the affected section of the route. | | | |
| OES-04 | Key Interface at Pylon 4AF256 | Land surrounding pylon 4AF256 represents a key interface for the Parties respective projects.<br>National Grid's proposed haul road to pylon 4AF256, off Fledborough Road currently overlaps with OESF's proposed permanent access road in this location.<br>The Parties are in discussions in respect to whether the sharing of this access would be feasible.<br>National Grid seeks to retain the stringing work area around the proposed pylon 4AF256 permanently, to facilitate any reconductoring works in the future. National Grid asked if removable solar panels could be used here, to accommodate National Grid's overhead line reconductoring works in the future. | OESF to share details of their proposed permanent access so the parties can continue discussions concerning shared access in this location.<br>OESF confirmed the land parcel off Fledborough Road where the Project's proposed pylon 4AF256 is located is to be used for solar panels only. No substation nor BESS are proposed in that land parcel.<br>OESF advised having removable panels in that area of the field may not be as cost effective as not having panels at all. | 29/09/2026 | Under Discussion |
| OES-05 | National Grid Off-Sets | National Grid has proposed the following off-sets in respect to OESF assets:<br>• A 30m stand-off zone is required around the pylons to allow for maintenance access and limit the potential effects of Earth Potential Rise.<br>• Conductor Swing zone: Ideally no building or development to take place within this zone. Any proposal shall be outside the Statutory Clearances as per ENA43.8 and not interfere with maintenance requirements. The highest point shall not | OESF will review the proposed off-sets. | 29/09/2026 | Under Discussion |

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| | | be closer than 5.3m from lowest conductor.<br>• Conductor stringing areas are required for stringing operations during construction and future maintenance such as conductor replacement works. Panels in this area should be completely dismountable, leaving no hazards during stringing. | | | |
| OES-06 | Overlap of Planting Proposals | The Parties have identified an overlap of the proposed woodland planting area with OESF's proposed BNG area.<br>National Grid are planning to carry out woodland planting in the field to the north of the railway test tracks (span 4AF255 – 4AF256), near the overhead line. | National Grid to share details of the mitigation planting proposal for OESF to review.<br>OESF will review the planting proposal once received and provide feedback accordingly. | 29/09/2025 | Under Discussion |
| OES-07 | Shared Construction Access | The Parties have identified a possibility for a shared construction access off the A57 and shared maintenance access (existing farmer's track). | OESF haul road design would be the most onerous and therefore may suit both projects. National Grid requested sight of OESF haul road design once known, to review against National Grid's parameters.<br>OESF advised that its haul road design is being driven by the need to accommodate delivery of large HV transformers and therefore may need to be more substantial to accommodate this. | 17/09/2025 | Under Discussion |
| OES-08 | Public Right of Way | A Public Right of Way (PRoW) runs alongside the north and south of OESF's proposed substation land parcel. National Grid is proposing the 'traffic management' of this | OESF does not have the ability to stop or divert this PRoW under the powers of the agreed DCO. | 29/09/2026 | Under Discussion |

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| | | PRoW, no closure or diversion of the PRoW is anticipated. (Fledborough Foot Path 7). | | | |
| OES-09 | Grid Connection Cable Route | The Parties acknowledge that OESF's proposed 33kV and 400kV export cable routes in the High Marnham area may interact with the Project. Pylon 4AF256 is located outside the area classed as 'Grid Connection Cable Route', however, the working area, stringing position, accesses and scaffold areas are all located within. In addition, mitigation planting is proposed in the corner of the field to the northeast of 4AF256.<br>National Grid has requested detailed work plans (in GIS format) for all areas of interaction, including any cables. | OESF have indicative plans and have not started the detailed design stage for siting the proposed infrastructure yet. Once this process has been conducted, OESF will share suitable plans with National Grid. | 29/09/2026 | Under Discussion |
| OES-10 | Intrusive Survey Programmes | Both Parties agreed to share their survey programmes, including any pre-DCO intrusive surveys in proximity to the OEFS Order Limits. | OESF shared that all pre-application surveys are complete. OESF have no further surveys planned until commencement of detailed design which will be discussed with National Grid in advance.<br>National Grid to share any pre-DCO submission intrusive surveys in proximity to the OESF order limits. | 08/12/2025 | Under Discussion |
| OES-11 | Sterilisation Plans | National Grid shared indicative permanent areas that National Grid are proposing to maintain clear of assets in the areas of interaction with OESF, to allow operational access, future maintenance and reconductoring activities on National Grid's assets. | OESF to provide their feedback on the plans, as well as the proposed off-sets sought by National Grid. | 02/07/2026 | Under Discussion |

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| | | National Grid also details on the plans, the proposed indicative diversion works in relation to existing DNO and telecom utility assets, that would be required to facilitate the build of our overhead line. | | | |
| OES-12 | Overlap of Construction Programmes | The Parties recognise that the construction programmes for National Grid and OESF are expected to overlap. OESF has indicated that the western part of the solar farm may be constructed later in its programme, while National Grid has identified opportunities to coordinate enabling works and construction sequencing. | It has been suggested that National Grid will construct the overhead line within OESF order limits prior to the construction of the OESF solar panels, to minimise construction interactions.<br>Ongoing engagement is required to manage programme interfaces and minimise construction conflicts. | 06/12/2023 | Agreed |
| OES-13 | DNO and Utility Asset Diversions | National Grid highlighted several existing assets within OESF's Order Limits, which National Grid proposed to divert. The diversion designs are high level and subject to evolve. National Grid shared latest GIS shapefiles including the following proposed diversions:<br>1. The existing NGED 11kV overhead line between 4AF252-4AF253 is planned to be undergrounded. The indicative cable route is shown on the GIS, within a 25m limit of deviation that is included in the DCO Order Limits (NGED 15).<br>2. The existing NGED 11kV overhead line between 4AF256 and 4AF257 and the pole-mounted transformer are planned to be replaced by multiple underground cables and a new ground mounted substation. All the new apparatus are | OESF to provide an update on their position. | 17/09/2025 | Under Discussion |

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| | | planned to be installed within the swathe (NGED 18)<br>3. The existing BT/Openreach overhead line is planned to be undergrounded. The indicative cable route is shown on the GIS, within a 25m limit of deviation that is included in the DCO Order limits. | | | |
| OES-14 | Oversail at Pylon 4AF253 | National Grid's proposed overhead line oversail some of the OESF development in the south-west corner of the land parcel located north of pylon 4AF253. | OESF advised this is to be used for one of their substations and BESS. No proximity issues with National Grid's proposed overhead line are anticipated by OESF. The south-west corner of the field is to be used for topsoil storage or solar panels, and stand-off distances would be maintained with the overhead line. | 17/09/2025 | Agreed |
| OES-15 | Haul Road (S-23) | National Grid's proposed Haul Road (S-23) will cross the south-west corner of the OESF substation and BESS site, to the north of pylon 4AF253.<br>National Grid request that traffic on this section of haul road shall not be obstructed by OESF. | Coordination between National Grid and OESF is required. OESF confirmed there will be no fence at this location to allow free-flow access to National Grid. | 17/09/2025 | Agreed |

# 5. Matters Not Agreed

## 5.1 Overview

5.1.1 This section details the matters relevant to OESF which have not been agreed between the parties.

[TABLE TO BE INSERTED AT EXAMINATION TO INCLUDE MATTERS NOT AGREED. THERE ARE NO MATTERS NOT AGREED AT THIS STAGE]

# 6. Confirmation of Agreement

The above SoCG is agreed between National Grid and One Earth Solar Farm on the date specified below.

Signed for and on behalf of National Grid:

……

Date:

……

Signed for and on behalf of One Earth Solar Farm Limited:

……

Date:

……

National Grid plc
National Grid House,
Warwick Technology Park,
Gallows Hill, Warwick.
CV34 6DA United Kingdom

Registered in England and Wales
No. 4031152
nationalgrid.com