Little Crow
Solar Park

Little Crow Solar Park, Scunthorpe

DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND WITH PUBLIC HEALTH ENGLAND

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On behalf of INRG Solar (Little Crow) Ltd

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DRAFT

LITTLE CROW SOLAR PARK
LAND TO THE EAST OF STEEL WORKS, SCUNTHORPE

DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND (SOCG)

STATUS & DATE

DRAFT - MARCH 2020

BETWEEN:

I. LITTLE CROW SOLAR PARK; AND
II. PUBLIC HEALTH ENGLAND

ON BEHALF OF INRG SOLAR (LITTLE CROW) LTD

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PLANNING | DESIGN | ENVIRONMENT | ECONOMICS

APPENDICES:

APPENDIX 1:	LAND USE ZONING PLAN
APPENDIX 2:	PROPOSED LAYOUT PLAN
APPENDIX 3:	EMF REPORT

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This Statement of Common Ground has been prepared as part of the application process for a Development Consent Order for the Little Crow Solar Park ["the Development"]. This document has been prepared jointly between the applicant and Public Health England.

Public Health England

1.2 Public Health England I san executive agency of the Department of Health and Social Care, and a distinct organisation with operational autonomy. They provide government, local government, the NHS, Parliament, industry and the public with evidence-based professional, scientific expertise and support. They are responsible for:

- making the public healthier and reducing differences between the health of different groups by promoting healthier lifestyles, advising government and supporting action by local government, the NHS and the public
- protecting the nation from public health hazards
- preparing for and responding to public health emergencies
- improving the health of the whole population by sharing information and expertise, and identifying and preparing for future public health challenges
- supporting local authorities and the NHS to plan and provide health and social care services such as immunisation and screening programmes, and to develop the public health system and its specialist workforce
- researching, collecting and analysing data to improve understanding of public health challenges, and come up with answers to public health problems.

1.3 Purpose of Document

1.4 This statement of common ground is a working document prepared jointly by the applicant and Public Health England. The document has been structured to reflect the matters and topic relevant between the applicant and Public Health England.

1.5 As this is a working document, the general approach is to provide common ground text set out in a tabulated format for Public Health England to comment upon and then either agree, disagree or identify the need for further negotiations.

1.6 As the SoCG evolves, the aim will be to provide three distinct tables covering (i) matters that are agreed, (ii) matters which are subject to further negotiations, and (iii) matters not agreed.

1.7 The remainder of this document is split into the following sections:

Section 2: Development Description

Section 3: Public Health England Comments

Section 4: Declarations

2. DEVELOPMENT DESCRIPTION

2.1 The main element of the Development is the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of a ground mounted solar park with a maximum design capacity of up to 150MWp (megawatts peak) and battery storage capacity of up to 90MW. Battery storage will allow the development to fully utilise the network connection capacity when the solar park is not exporting at peak capacity. The battery element of the proposal would be available to store energy from and release electrical energy to the electricity network.

2.2 The solar and battery elements could either be delivered and connected to the electricity network independently of each other or at the same time. They could therefore be constructed and become operational either independently or together. An operational lifespan of 35 years is sought for each element and, subject to when they are constructed, the operational lifespans could run concurrently or interdependently.

2.3 A single main substation compound will serve the whole Development, and this will be required for the duration of the Development and retained thereafter. The substation compound would be located near the northern perimeter of the site and to the east of the existing double row of 132kV overhead electricity pylons which traverse the site and duly provides the point of connection to the local electricity network.

2.4 The Development area can be effectively split into seven land use zones, these are:-

- Zone 1: Ground mounted solar photovoltaic arrays
- Zone 2: Battery Compound Yard
- Zone 3: Ecological corridors
- Zone 4: Central substation compound and connection to the national grid
- Zone 5: Main access track
- Zone 6: Perimeter development buffer
- Zone 7: Temporary construction compound

2.5 The proposed land use zoning plan is provided at Appendix 1. The proposed layout drawings are provided at Appendix 2.

APPENDIX 1 – LAND USE ZONING PLAN

APPENDIX 2 – PLANNING APPLICATION DRAWINGS

Solar Arrays

2.6 All solar photovoltaic (PV) modules will be located within the fields enclosures / Zone 1 as defined on the zoning plan. The total solar output will not exceed 150MW with land coverage of the PV modules would be 800,000 sq m.

2.7 The PV modules would be static, mounted on aluminium metal racks. The racks will be laid out in multiple parallel rows running east to west across the various field enclosures. The distance between the arrays would respond to topography but would typically be between 3.5 metres to 6 metres. The maximum height of the solar panels fixed onto the framework would be under 2.5m. All PV modules will be south facing.

2.8 The mounting system will be primarily formed of piled posts set approximately 3.75m apart, except within areas of archaeological interest where the posts will be fixed into concrete pads resting on top of the ground. The PV modules would be dark blue, grey or black in colour with the frame constructed of anodized aluminium alloy.

2.9 For archaeological interests, a development exclusion zone has been provided around the area containing the former Gokewell Priory. No arrays or cable runs will go through this area. The area will be used to provide biodiversity measures and will be delineated with a stock-proof fence. The existing public right of way (Footpath 214) running through this area will be retained.

2.10 Inverters, transformers and associated switch gear which are required to convert the DC electricity produced by the arrays into AC energy, will be spread equally across the site. Insulated DC cables from the solar modules will be routed in channels fixed on the underside of the framework. The electrical cabling from each array will be concealed through shallow trenches linking the modules to the inverters and transformers and then to the main substation. AC cables will also be laid in trenches and would run directly to the main substation compound.

2.11 The arrays would be set within stock-proof fencing up to 2m in height with wooden supporting posts placed at intervals of c. 3.5m. The stock proof fencing would be either green or galvanised aluminium in finish. The minimum distance between the edge of the arrays and the stock-proof fence would be 3m. Land between and beneath the panels would be used for biodiversity enhancements and seasonal sheep grazing.

2.12 A CCTV system mounted on poles would be positioned at intervals along the inside face edge of the stock-proof fencing (between the fence and the arrays).

Battery Storage Compound

2.13 The battery storage compound consists of industrial batteries that can store energy and are able to release or absorb energy from the power network. Being able to absorb and release energy, the battery storage at Little Crow can be used to contribute towards the frequency balancing services, where the power is being generated or absorbed statically or dynamically depending on the system frequency.

2.14 When there is not enough power, batteries are discharged to balance under frequency, preventing black and brown outs. To balance over frequency, batteries are charged to prevent dangerous spikes across electricity infrastructure[1].

2.15 All batteries will be located within the Zone 2 as defined on the zoning plan. The total land coverage of the battery compound would not exceed 3,500 m sq. The total storage capacity would not exceed 90MW.

2.16 The compound would be made secure by a 3m gated palisade fence. Battery containers would have a maximum length of 17m, maximum width of 3m and a maximum height of 4m. The maximum storage capacity of a single battery container would be c6MW. The battery containers would be dark green in colour. The maximum development footprint of the battery storage compound will be 55m by 100m and will be surfaced with stone chippings.

[1] The National Electricity Transmission System is an islanded network with no AC connections to other networks. In order to manage the system frequency within the normal operating range 49.5Hz to 50.5Hz, National Grid relies on frequency balancing service providers to modulate their active power output or consumption in order to minimise the imbalance between generation and demand on the system. The extent of the required modulation is determined by the deviation of the system frequency from 50Hz. A change in grid frequency is caused by an imbalance of supply and demand.

Substation

2.17 A single substation compound will be required for the Development and this will be constructed at the start of the development of the whole site. Following construction and commissioning the substation compound will be adopted and become the property of the District Network Operator (DNO, who will maintain the compound throughout the lifetime of the Development. The decommissioning of the substation is not considered as part of the Application as this will be the property of the DNO and as such would be outside the gift of the developer to decommission.

2.18 The maximum development footprint of the substation yard will be 80m by 80m and will be surfaced with stone chippings. Under normal conditions the site would be unmanned.

Landscape and ecological management plan

2.19 The Development proposal presents considerable opportunity for landscape and biodiversity mitigation and enhancement. The Landscape and Biodiversity proposal are discussed in detail in the supporting Landscape and Ecological Management Plan.

2.20 Ecological and biodiversity measures are promoted across the entire site and these enhanced areas are shown as land zone 3, as shown on the zoning plan. Land between and beneath the panels would be used for biodiversity enhancements and seasonal sheep grazing. Tree planting would be introduced along the north east section of the development boundary.

2.21 The existing woodland plantations that surround the various field enclosures would continue to be managed by the landowner as part of its woodland forestry licence. The hedgerows surrounding the field edges will also be managed via the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan.

Access

2.22 It is proposed that construction traffic will arrive from the M180 junction 4, the A15, the A18, the B1208 and B1207 to the site access. From the M180 junction 4 vehicles will use the A15 northbound to the Briggate Lodge Roundabout and then travel east along the A18 towards Brigg. From the A18, vehicles will turn left onto the B1208. The B1208 measures between approximately 5.5 and six metres wide.

Vehicles will travel along the B1208 to the junction with the B1207 and then continue straight ahead into the site access.

2.23 No construction vehicles associated with the development proposal would travel through Broughton.

Construction phase & Temporary Construction Compound

2.24 As stated elsewhere in this section, the solar and battery elements could either be constructed and connected to the electricity network independently of each other or at the same time. If all elements were constructed as at the same time, then the construction period would take approximately 11 months (up to 47 weeks).

2.25 Construction activities will be carried out Monday to Friday 07:00-18:00 and between 08:00 and 13:30 on Saturdays. Where possible, construction deliveries will be coordinated to avoid HGV movements during the traditional AM peak hour (08:00-09:00) and PM peak hour (17:00-18:00).

2.26 During the construction phase (or phases) one main construction compound will serve the development proposal and this will be located off the main site entrance, thus reducing the distance delivery vehicles will need to travel after reaching the site's entrance.

2.27 The temporary construction compound would comprise: -

- Temporary portacabins providing office and welfare facilities for construction operatives
- Parking area for construction and workers vehicles
- Secure compound for storage
- Temporary hardstanding
- Wheel washing facilities
- Temporary gated compound
- Storage bins for recyclables and other waste

All construction vehicles will exit through the wheel wash area in order to reduce the spread of mud and dirt onto the local highway network. Temporary roadways may be utilised to access parts of the development site and this would be guided by weather conditions at time of construction.

Decommissioning

2.28 An outline decommissioning strategy is included within the Environmental Statement and sets out details of the decommissioning programme to be carried out after a 35 year generation period. It includes the methods for the removal of all the solar panels, cabins, structures, batteries, enclosures, equipment and all other apparatus above and below ground level from the site and details of their destination in terms of waste/recycling, and details of how the site is to be restored.

3. PUBLIC HEALTH ENGLAND COMMENTS

3.1 Comments put forward by Public health England as part of the statutory consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 are summarised below [relevant extract of letter from Public Health England to Little Crow Solar Park dated 3 April 2019]. EMF Assessment is provided at Appendix 3.

Table 3.1 Cultural Heritage Consultation Response

Public Health England Comments	***Applicant comments***	***Status e.g Agreed / not agreed N/A***
Environmental Public Health We note that the promoter has not addressed electromagnetic fields that may arise from the proposed development in the PEIR. We therefore recommend to the promoter that they confirm that the electrical equipment associated with the site will not have a public health impact as detailed in the guidance provided in the PHE scoping response.	A report assessing the EMF that may arise from the development supports the Development Consent Order application.	
Health and Wellbeing With respect to health and wellbeing considerations, we have no additional comments provided that prior to or at the time of the next consultation: The final ES contains a detailed Construction Environmental Management Plan, Construction Traffic Management Plan and decommissioning plan The KSI (Killed and Seriously Injured) rate on the roads should be given due attention in this consultation from planning, through to construction and commissioning of the solar park. The KSI is disproportionately high in North Lincolnshire and as such specific consideration should be given to possible impacts arising from the	The final Environmental Statement duly contains: Construction Environmental Management Plan; a construction Traffic Management Plan and Decommissioning Plan	

construction phase of the development and the final documentation should identify any likely impacts and possible mitigation.		

4. DECLARATIONS

4.1 To be completed when document is agreed by all parties.