



Little Crow

Solar Park

Little Crow Solar Park, Scunthorpe

STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND WITH ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

DEADLINE 2

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Pegasus Group & EA
May 2021

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

**STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND
(SOCG)**

AGREED DOCUMENT

BETWEEN:

- I. LITTLE CROW SOLAR PARK; AND**
- II. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY**

ON BEHALF OF INRG SOLAR (LITTLE CROW) LTD

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PLANNING | **DESIGN** | **ENVIRONMENT** | **ECONOMICS**

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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 Integral on behalf of INRG Solar (Little Crow) Ltd ("the applicant") and Environment Agency ("as prescribed consultee").

INRG Solar (Little Crow) Ltd

- 1.2 Founded in 2009, INRG Solar Ltd has established itself as one of the largest developers of solar parks in the UK. As an independent developer, INRG Solar have experience of a variety of energy projects including solar, batteries and peaking plants. INRG Solar have a proven track record in delivering projects and have developed and sold numerous ground mounted solar schemes ranging between 5MW to 50MW.

Environment Agency

- 1.3 The Environment Agency is an executive non-departmental public body, sponsored by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs. Within England they are responsible for: regulating major industry and waste; treatment of contaminated land; water quality and resources; fisheries; inland river, estuary and harbour navigations; conservation and ecology. They are also responsible for managing the risk of flooding from main rivers, estuaries and the sea. Their vision is to create a better place for people and wildlife.

Purpose of Document

- 1.4 The document has been structured to reflect the matters and topic relevant between the Applicant and Environment Agency with regards to ground conditions. This document is intended to summarise clearly the agreements reached between the parties on matters relevant to the examination of the Application and assist the Examining Authority.

Status of this Version

- 1.5 The Statement of Common Ground was originally prepared in March 2020 and subsequently modified and updated in agreement with both parties.

1.6 The Statement of Common Ground was agreed in February 2021 and submitted to the Examining Authority to assist in the examination of the Application.

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

Section 2: Scheme Overview

Section 3: Ground Conditions & Land Contamination

Section 4: Matters Raised in Rule 6 Letter

Section 5: Matters Not Agreed

Section 6: Declarations

2. SCHEME OVERVIEW

- 2.1 The Applicant has applied for an order granting development consent for the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of Little Crow Solar Park, a ground mounted solar park with an intended design capacity over 50MWp (megawatts peak) with associated development. The application was made on 4 December 2020 and was accepted for examination on 23 December 2020.
- 2.2 An operational lifespan of 35 years would be sought linked to the first export date from the development. The development will progress in accordance with a phasing plan. A single substation compound will serve the development, and this will be required for the duration of the development and retained thereafter. The substation compound would be located near the northern boundary of the application site and to the east of the existing double row of 132kV overhead electricity pylons which traverse the site.
- 2.3 The proposal comprises seven land use zones or works zones, these are: -
- Work No. 1: Arrays of Ground Mounted Solar Panels
 - Work No. 2A: Battery Energy Storage System
 - Work No. 2B: Battery Energy Storage System (alternative location)
 - Work No. 3: Formation of Ecological Corridors
 - Work No. 4: Substation Building and Compound
 - Work No. 5: Upgrade to Main Access Track
 - Work No. 6: Perimeter Development Buffer
 - Work No. 7: Temporary Construction and Decommissioning Compound
- 2.4 These work zones are presented on the drawing "Works Plan" (Document Ref 2.8 LC DRW). The general arrangement for the overall layout is presented on drawing "Works Detail – Whole Site Plan" (Document Ref 2.10 LC DRW).

3. GROUND CONDITIONS & LAND CONTAMINATION

3.1 The lead consultant on behalf of the applicant on ground conditions and land contamination is Integrale. The consultation that has taken place with the EA in relation to the issues raised within this SoCG is summarised below:

Table 3.1 Ground Conditions & Land Contamination Consultation with EA

Stage/Date	Details
Pre-Application September 2018	EA consulted by Integrale Ltd on behalf of Applicant at pre-application stage of Development Consent Order. Phase 1 Ground Conditions Desk Study (Ref 1844, Version 4, July 2018 submitted by Integrale Ltd to EA.
September 2018	EA Response Letter to Pre-Application Enquiry of 28 th September 2018 confirmed EA had reviewed the 'Phase I Ground Conditions Desk Study' and is in agreement with the conclusions reached. EA also in agreement with limited intrusive investigation proposed.
Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Direction December 2018 to January 2019	At the same time as the statutory pre-application consultation, applicant made request to the Secretary of State, via Planning Inspectorate, for EIA Scoping Direction. Planning Inspectorate issue Screening Direction after consultation with prescribed bodies under regulation 10(6) of the EIA Regulations 2017.
S42 PEIR consultation December 2018 to March 2019.	EA consulted by Applicant with S42 PEIR (Preliminary Environmental Information Report). Information pack issued to EA on 18 January 2019. This included Integrale Phase 1 Ground Conditions Desk Study Report (No. 1844 Version 5, November 2018).
February 2019	EA responded to consultation, in letter 1 st February 2019, Ref. AN/2019/128531/01-L01. EA confirmed in agreement with the conceptual model adopted and conclusions reached. EA also in agreement with targeted intrusive investigation proposed. EA recommended inclusion of requirement within the DCO for investigation and assessment, detailed remediation strategy and verification of any remediation, if required.

<p>Post-Statutory Engagement March 2019 to January 2020</p>	<p>Informal consultation and continued engagement undertaken between March 2019 and April 2020 to keep stakeholders informed of progress and to agree Statement of Common Ground with prescribed consultees.</p>
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3.2 It is agreed that the desk studies, conceptual modelling and intrusive investigation, analyses and monitoring are appropriate for the development context proposed. The relevant information sufficient for the DCO process, has been provided by the Application in respect of contaminated land and groundwater.

3.3 In the event that unexpected contaminated land is identified during ground investigation or construction, the protocol to be followed will be detailed in the Construction Environmental Management Plan to be provided for each phase of the authorised development under Schedule 2, Part 1 Requirement 8(2)(h) of the DCO. It is agreed that the Environment Agency will be added as a specific consultee to the discharge of this Requirement.

4. MATTERS RAISED IN RULE 6 LETTER

4.1 The Examining Authority has made a request through their Rule 6 letter requesting that the applicant seek to include the following matters within the SoCG with the Environment Agency.

Matter	Environment Agency Response
<p>(i) Assessment of hydrological, water quality, water resource and wildlife effects, including but not limited to surface water crossings, run-off, the risk of flooding, and contamination of surface and groundwaters</p>	<p>Hydrological, water quality, and contamination of surface and groundwaters are covered in section 3 of this SoCG.</p> <p>Wildlife effects would be a matter for the wildlife bodies (the EA would only be involved if the project had impacts on aquatic ecology in a watercourse).</p> <p>Run-off and the risk of flooding (for this project) all falls under the remit of the</p>

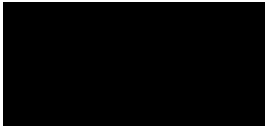
	lead local flood authority – North Lincolnshire Council.
(ii) Mitigation and enhancement measures, including likely effectiveness, monitoring procedures and method for securing such measures within the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO)	The only mitigation measures of concern to the EA will be if unexpected contamination is discovered and this will be dealt with through the CEMP – this is already covered in the SoCG.
(iii) Drafting of the dDCO, including the Articles and Requirements	The only part of the dDCO of interest to the EA is the securing of the CEMP and this is considered appropriate as drafted, with the inclusion of the EA as consultee, as agreed in paragraph 3.3 above.

5. MATTERS NOT AGREED

- 5.1 There are no outstanding matters with regards to ground conditions.
- 5.2 An Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan supports the application but is not considered through this SoCG.

6. AGREEMENT ON THIS STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

6.1 This Statement of Common Ground has been jointly prepared and agreed by:

FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY	
NAME	Annette Hewitson
SIGNATURE	
POSITION	Principal Planning Adviser
DATE	21 st May 2021

FOR THE APPLICANT	
NAME	Dr Kay Boreland
SIGNATURE	Dr Kay Boreland
POSITION	Technical Director
ON BEHALF OF	Intégrale for INRG Solar (Little Crow) Ltd
DATE	21 st May 2021

