



Little Crow

Solar Park

Little Crow Solar Park, Scunthorpe

STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND WITH HISTORIC ENGLAND (AGREED) DEADLINE 4

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

**STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND
(SOCG)**

MARCH 2021

BETWEEN:

- I. LITTLE CROW SOLAR PARK; AND**
- II. HISTORIC ENGLAND**

ON BEHALF OF INRG SOLAR (LITTLE CROW) LTD

Pegasus Group

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

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 Historic England.

Historic England

1.2 Historic England are the public body that helps people care for, enjoy and celebrate England's spectacular historic environment. They protect, champion and save the places that define who we are and where we've come from as a nation. They seek to work with communities and specialists to inspire interest, care and conservation, so everyone can keep enjoying and looking after the history that surrounds us all.

1.3 Historic England are the government's expert advisor on the nations heritage, and they have a statutory role in the planning system. Central to their role is the advice given to local planning authorities, government departments, developers and owners on development proposals affecting the historic environment.

1.4 Although a national body, they work from six offices around the country. Being local, the advice given benefits from their local knowledge and relationships, as well as our national expertise.

Purpose of Document

1.5 The document has been structured to reflect the matters and topic relevant between the Applicant and Historic England. 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

1.6 The Statement of Common Ground was originally prepared in March 2020 and subsequently modified and updated.

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

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

Section 2: Development Overview

Section 3: Matters in Agreement

Section 4: Matters Raised in Rule 6 letter

Section 5: Matters Not Agreed

Section 6: Agreement over Document

2. DEVELOPMENT 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. MATTERS IN AGREEMENT

3.1 The lead consultant on behalf of the applicant on cultural heritage and archaeology is Cotswold Archaeology

Table 8.1: Cultural Heritage Common Ground Text

<i>Applicant comments</i>	<i>Historic England Comments</i>	<i>Status e.g Agreed / not agreed N/A</i>
<i>Description</i>		
<p>A full and comprehensive Heritage Assessment has been completed for the proposed scheme. Assessment works have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural Heritage Baseline Study (Pegasus Group, August 2019). • Geophysical Survey Report (SUMO, September 2018). • Archaeological Watching Brief (Cotswold Archaeology, November 2018). • Archaeological Watching Brief (Cotswold Archaeology, November 2018). • Archaeological Watching Brief (Cotswold Archaeology, November 2018). <p>All works were undertaken in dialogue with and with agreement from Alison Williams (AW) Historic Environment Officer at NLC.</p>	<p>Appear sufficient in scope insofar as they address those issues raised by us in pre-app, but we cannot certify the quality and content of the work done or supplant the role of the Local Government Archaeological Curator.</p>	<p>Agreed</p>
<i>Methodology</i>		
<p>The ES Chapter, the Heritage Assessment and the methodology for the assessment of development effects have been informed by the following documents:</p>	<p>Noted</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF; 2019); • NPPF Planning Practice Guidance: Historic Environment (July 2019); • Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment, published by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA; January 2017); • Historic England’s Conservation Principles: Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment (published by English Heritage in 2008); • Historic England’s Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 2: Managing Significance in Decision Taking (2015); • Historic England’s Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets (2017). <p>The following sources of publicly available archaeological and historical information were consulted as part of the preparation of the Heritage Assessment, completed in August 2019.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Heritage List for England for designated heritage assets, such as Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monuments; • Historic England Archive data for information on non-designated heritage assets; • North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record for records of archaeology and heritage sites, finds and events recorded within the study area; 		
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online sources, including British Geological Survey and additional historic mapping. <p>A geophysical survey was undertaken at the Site in July - September 2018.</p> <p>Ground investigation works undertaken at the Site were subject to an archaeological watching brief in September 2018.</p> <p>A 24.4% sample of the Site was subject to archaeological fieldwalking in September 2018.</p> <p>In June and July 2019, an archaeological evaluation, comprising 155 trial trenches, was carried out across the Site.</p>		
<p><i>Baseline</i></p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A range of features of potential archaeological interest have been identified through the various studies and surveys undertaken. Some of these have been shown to be of little or no archaeological interest, and others that can be mitigated via design changes or recording in advance of development. • The site of a Cistercian priory is documented as lying beneath the remains of Gokewell Priory Farm, limited upstanding remains of which are visible within the Site. Whilst the later farm buildings reused the architectural fabric of the priory, leaving no original upstanding remains, it is likely that archaeological remains associated with the earlier priory survive within the area of the farm. 	<p>Noted</p>	

<p>'Key heritage assets in the area include the non-designated nunnery at Gokewell Farm, a site potentially of national importance depending upon the degree of below ground survival.' And 'It appears from your material that the scheme as proposed avoids the site of the Nunnery and this thus appears a proportionate response provided this balance survives scheme medications or further discoveries. On the basis of the work done to date (and in the expectation of your on-going positive dialogue with the Local Authority Archaeologist Ms Alison Williams) Historic England anticipates making no objection to the grant of a Development Consent Order for this scheme on heritage grounds.'</p>		
<p>Section 42 Planning Act 2008 – Historic England response to Statutory Consultation dated 4 March 2019. Essentially repeats comments made in response of September 2018</p>	<p>No further action required.</p>	<p>Agreed</p>

4. MATTERS RAISED IN RULE 6 LETTER

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 Historic England (HE).

Matter	Historic England Response
<p>(i) Collection and analysis of heritage data, survey areas, and the presentation of results.</p>	<p>As was set out in their response HE do not wish to 'supplant the role of the Local Government Archaeological Curator.' HE have focused their attention up designated assets and</p>


	more broadly the potential for impacts upon nationally important remains. HE are satisfied that the research and assessment works undertaken 'satisfied the issues raised by us in pre-app'.
(ii) Methodology for, and findings of, the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	HE have 'noted' the approaches utilised for assessing Cultural Heritage impacts in the EIA.
(iii) Impacts on the settings of designated assets	No impacts have been identified on the setting of any designated heritage impacts and to that HE have made no further comments.
(iv) Proposals for mitigation measures and monitoring and method for securing such measures within the dDCO	HE have 'noted and welcomed' the proposed exclusion zone around Gokewell Priory and the archaeological mitigation strategy.
(v) Drafting of the dDCO, including the Articles and Requirements	Noting that direct impacts upon Gokewell Priory have been addressed in (iv) HE regard the LPA archaeological curator as better placed to comment upon dDCO conditions in respect of the assessment and mitigation of archaeological impacts on site.


5. MATTERS NOT AGREED

5.1 There are no outstanding matters between applicant and Historic England

6. AGREEMENT ON THIS STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

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

FOR Historic England	
NAME	Tim Allen
SIGNATUR	
POSITION	Team Leader (Development Advice)
DATE	14 June 2021

FOR THE APPLICANT	
NAME:	Duncan Coe
SIGNATURE:	
POSITION:	Principal Heritage Consultant
ON BEHALF OF:	INRG Solar (Little Crow) Ltd
DATE:	14 June 2021

