



# SUNNICA ENERGY FARM

EN010106

Draft Statement of Common Ground with Chippenham Parish  
Council

Planning Act 2008

Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010



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(Examination Procedure) Rules 2010**

**Sunnica Energy Farm**

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Council

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Purpose of this document

- 1.1.1 This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared in respect of the proposed Sunnica Energy Farm Development Consent Order ("the Application") made by Sunnica Limited ("Sunnica") to the Secretary of State for Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy ("Secretary of State") for a Development Consent Order ("the Order") under section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 ("PA 2008").
- 1.1.2 The order, if granted, would authorise Sunnica to construct, operate (including maintain) and decommission a ground mounted solar farm across Sunnica East Site A, Sunnica East Site B, Sunnica West Site A and Sunnica West B. The Scheme includes the following key components:
- a. Solar PV modules;
  - b. PV module mounting structures;
  - c. Inverters;
  - d. Transformers;
  - e. Switchgear;
  - f. Onsite cabling (including high and low voltage cabling);
  - g. One or more BESS (expected to be formed of lithium ion batteries storing electrical energy) on Sunnica East Site A, Sunnica East Site B, and Sunnica West Site A;
  - h. An electrical compound comprising a substation and control building (Sunnica East Site A, Sunnica East Site B, and Sunnica West Site A only);
  - i. Burwell National Grid Substation Extension, should Burwell National Grid Substation Extension Option 2 be taken forward;
  - j. Office/warehouse (Sunnica East Site A and Sunnica East Site B only)
  - k. Fencing and security measures;
  - l. Drainage;
  - m. Internal access roads and car parking;
  - n. Landscaping including habitat creation areas; and
  - o. Construction laydown areas.
- 1.1.3 This SoCG does not seek to replicate information which is available elsewhere within the Application documents. All documents are available in the deposit locations and/or the Planning Inspectorate website.

1.1.4 This SoCG has been produced to confirm to the Examining Authority (ExA) where agreement has been reached between the parties to it, and where agreement has not (yet) been reached. SoCGs are an established means in the planning process of allowing all parties to identify and so focus on specific issues that may need to be addressed during the examination.

## 1.2 Parties to this Statement of Common Ground

1.2.1 This SoCG has been prepared by (1) Sunnica as the Applicant and (2) Chippenham Parish Council.

1.2.2 Sunnica is a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) incorporated in December 2013 to construct, operate, and decommission the Sunnica Energy Farm.

1.2.3 Chippenham Parish Council is an interested party to the Examination of the Application.

1.2.4 Collectively Sunnica and Chippenham Parish Council are referred to as ‘the parties’.

## 1.3 Terminology

1.3.1 In the tables in the Issues chapter of this SoCG:

- a. “Agreed” indicates where the issue has been resolved.
- b. “Not Agreed” indicates a final position of the parties that is not agreed, and
- c. “Under discussion” indicates where these points are the subject of on-going discussion wherever possible to resolve, or refine, the extent of disagreement between the parties.

1.3.2 It can be taken that any matters not specifically referred to in the Issues chapter of this SoCG are not of material interest or relevance to Chippenham Parish Council’s representation and therefore have not been considered in this document.

## 2 Record of Engagement

2.1.1 A summary of engagement between Sunnica and Chippenham Parish Council in relation to the Application is outlined in **Table 1**.

**Table 1: Record of Engagement**

Date	Form of engagement	Summary of engagement
29/07/2022	Email from Sunnica	Issue of first draft SoCG.
08/08/2022	Email from Sunnica	Follow up email sent asking if the Parish Council had any questions or would like to arrange a call to discuss the SoCG

Date	Form of engagement	Summary of engagement
08/08/2022	Email from Sunnica	First draft SoCG resent to alternative contact after receiving out of office from original point of contact
08/08/2022	Email from Chippenham Parish Council	Parish Council stating the SoCG was under discussion with intention to provide response prior to 15 <sup>th</sup> August.
08/08/2022	Email from Sunnica	Acknowledging email response from Parish Council.
16/09/2022	Email from Sunnica	Issue of second draft SoCG that summarises the key points and also a request for a meeting to discuss the matters raised.
07/10/2022	Email from Sunnica	Follow up email sent asking if the Parish Council had reviewed the SoCG and if it would be possible to arrange a meeting to discuss.

2.1.2 It is agreed that this is an accurate record of the engagement between (1) Sunnica and (2) Chippenham Parish Council in relation to the issues addressed in this SoCG as at the date of this revision of the SoCG.

## 3 Issues

### 3.1 Matters Agreed

3.1.1 **Table 2** below details the matters agreed with Chippenham Parish Council.

**Table 2: Matters agreed**

Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
General	Support for renewable energy	The parties support renewable, sustainable energy and agree there is a need for the provision of renewable energy in the UK.

### 3.2 Matters Under Discussion

3.2.1 **Table 3** below details the matters under discussion with Chippenham Parish Council.

**Table 3: Matters under discussion**

Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Under Discussion
General	Justification for the Scheme.	What the purpose of the BESS is in the Scheme.
Methodology	Robustness of Assessment.	Whether or not the landscape assessment robustly and accurately assesses the likelihood of significant effects arising from the Scheme.
Land Use	Agricultural land and food security.	Whether or not Sunnica's assessment of the effect of the Scheme on best and most versatile agricultural land is in accordance with and compliant with planning policy. What weight should be attributed to food security in the decision making process.
Climate Change	Project carbon footprint.	Whether or not the greenhouse gas emissions assessment in the application accurately reports the carbon lifecycle of the Scheme.
Design	Scale and location of the Scheme and assessment of alternative sites.	Whether or not the scale and location of the Scheme is appropriate and whether alternative sites were adequately assessed.
Landscape and Visual Amenity	Visual effects.	Whether or not the visual effects of the Scheme have been robustly and accurately assessed. Whether or not proposed mitigation for visual effects is appropriate.
Landscape and Visual Amenity	Mitigation	Whether or not the Application has given sufficient consideration to the time required to establish screening associated with the mitigation of the visual effects of the Scheme.
Ecology	Wildlife impacts from fencing.	Whether or not adequate controls are included within the DCO application to ensure that the boundary treatments do not have unacceptable ecological effects.
Ecology	Biodiversity impacts.	Whether or not the Scheme will result in a loss of important biodiversity.



Human Health	Health risks of BESS.	Whether or not the proposed Outline Battery Fire Safety Management Plan adequately manages risks to the local community in the event of a fire.
Socio-economics	Community benefits.	Whether or not the Scheme provides appropriate community benefits.
Socio-economics	Impact on agricultural jobs.	Whether or not the Scheme will lead to a reduction in agricultural jobs.
Transport and Access	Traffic congestion.	Whether or not the Scheme will have acceptable impacts on the local road network during construction.
Decommissioning	Removal of equipment.	Whether or not the decommissioning environmental management plan is acceptable.

### 3.3 Matters Not Agreed

3.3.1 **Table 4** below details the matters not agreed with Chippenham Parish Council.

**Table 4: Matters not agreed**

Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Not Agreed
		All matters under section 3.2 remain under discussion and will continue to be discussed during the examination. As such no matters are entered in this section. The Applicant is committed to resolving the issues referred to in section 3.2.