



SUNNICA ENERGY FARM

EN010106

Draft Statement of Common Ground with Moulton Parish Council

Planning Act 2008

Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010



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(Examination Procedure) Rules 2010**

Sunnica Energy Farm

Draft Statement of Common Ground with Moulton Parish 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 application for the proposed Sunnica Energy Farm Development Consent Order ("the Application") made by Sunnica Limited ("Sunnica") to the Secretary of State for the 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) Moulton 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 Moulton Parish Council is an interested party to the Examination of the Application.

1.2.4 Collectively Sunnica and Moulton 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 Moulton 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 Moulton 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.
01/08/2022	Email from Moulton Parish Council	Parish Council stating they are not able to meet requested response timeframe of 15 th August due to holiday period. Timescale will depend on when a planning meeting can be convened.
23/08/2022	Email from Moulton Parish Council	Parish Council stating SoCG was discussed at a planning meeting on 22 nd August, and they do

Date	Form of engagement	Summary of engagement
		not feel that their original objections have been answered satisfactorily. The Parish Council also stated there has been no active engagement and at they do not feel that there is any common ground.
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.
04/10/2022 – 12/10/2022	Emails from Moulton Parish Council and Sunnica	Correspondence between parties to agree time and date for a meeting to discuss SoCG.
17/10/2022	Meeting via Microsoft Teams	Meeting held between Sunnica and representatives from Moulton Parish Council to discuss matters included in the SoCG.
21/10/2022	Email from Sunnica	Third draft of SoCG sent to Parish Council. Links also provided in email to relevant application documents not previously considered by Parish Council.
07/10/2022	Email from Moulton Parish Council	Amended version of SoCG sent to Sunnica by Parish Council
07/10/2022	Email from Sunnica	Sunnica proposed not to incorporate amendments suggested by Parish Council as they either did not reflect an agreed position or they repeated points raised in the Relevant Representations.

2.1.2 It is agreed that this is an accurate record of the engagement between (the parties 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 Moulton Parish Council.

Table 2: Matters agreed

Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
Renewable Energy	Need for renewable energy in the UK	The Parties are agreed that there is a need to develop sources of renewable energy in the UK.

3.2 Matters Under Discussion

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

Table 3: Matters under discussion

Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Under Discussion
Noise and Vibration	Noise impacts	Whether or not the predicted construction noise impacts from vehicle movements associated with the Scheme are acceptable.
Traffic	Construction traffic	Whether or not the predicted construction traffic impacts are acceptable.
Battery Storage Units	BESS fire risk	Whether or not the proposed Outline Battery Fire Safety Management Plan adequately manages risks to the local community and environment in the event of a fire.
Cultural Heritage	Impact on archaeology	Whether or not the effects of the Scheme on archaeology and proposed mitigation measures are acceptable.

3.3 Matters Not Agreed

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

Table 4: Matters not agreed

Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Not Agreed
The Scheme	Scale and location	Whether or not the scale of the Scheme is acceptable in a rural setting.
Socio-economics and Land Use	Agricultural land and food security.	Whether or not it is acceptable to use agricultural land for a utility scale solar farm, giving due consideration to food security.
Ecology and Nature Conservation	Ecological mitigation	Whether or not the ecological mitigation measures proposed are acceptable.