



SUNNICA ENERGY FARM

EN010106

Draft Statement of Common Ground with Reach Parish Council

Planning Act 2008

Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010



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**The Infrastructure Planning
(Examination Procedure) Rules 2010**

Sunnica Energy Farm

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Author	Sunnica Energy Farm Project Team

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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) Reach 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 Reach Parish Council is an interested party to the Examination of the Application.
- 1.2.4 Collectively Sunnica and Reach 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 Reach 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 Reach 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.
06/08/2022	Email from Reach Parish Council	Reach Parish Council will formally respond to the SoCG after they have reviewed the Change Request
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.

- 2.1.2 It is agreed that this is an accurate record of the key meetings and consultation undertaken between (1) Sunnica and (2) Reach 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 1** below details the matters agreed with Reach Parish Council.

Table 2: Matters agreed

Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
		This draft of the SoCG is being issued in advance of substantive discussions between the Parties. The Applicant's objective is to move matters that can be agreed to this section as discussions proceed between the parties during the examination.

3.2 Matters Under Discussion

3.2.1 **Table 2** below details the matters under discussion with Reach Parish Council.

Table 3: Matters under discussion

Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Under Discussion
Landscape and Visual Amenity	Visual effects	The visual effects of the substation on Weirs Drove and the landscape surrounding the substation.
Human Health	BESS	Whether there are health risks associated with the battery energy storage system (BESS) and whether there are safety risks to the local community.
Environment	BESS	Whether there are environmental risks associated with the battery energy storage system (BESS) and thus pose risks to the local environment.

3.3 Matters Not Agreed

3.3.1 **Table 3** below details the matters not agreed with Reach Parish Council.

Table 4: Matters not agreed

Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Not Agreed
		All matters under section 2.2 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 2.2.