



# SUNNICA ENERGY FARM

EN010106

8.20 Draft Statement of Common Ground with National Grid Gas  
plc

Planning Act 2008

Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010



Planning Act 2008

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

**Sunnica Energy Farm**

Draft Statement of Common Ground with National Grid Gas plc

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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 ground mounted solar photovoltaic ("PV") panel arrays 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) and cabling between the Sites and to the Burwell National Grid Substation Extension;
  - 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) National Grid Gas plc (“NGG”).

1.2.2 NGG is the owner and operator of the gas transmission network across the UK and have apparatus within the Order Land.

1.2.3 Collectively Sunnica and NGG are referred to as ‘the Parties’.

## 1.3 Terminology

1.3.1 In the table 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” where these points will be 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 NGG’s representation and therefore have not been considered in this document.

## 2 Record of Engagement

2.1.1 The Parties have been engaged in consultation since the beginning of the proposed Scheme. A summary of the key meetings and correspondence that has taken place between Sunnica and NGG in relation to the Application is outlined in **Table 1**.

**Table 1: Record of Engagement pre application.**

Date	Form of correspondence	Key topics discussed and key outcomes (the topics should align with the Issues tables)
24 November 2020	Online Meeting	All parties meeting held. An overview of the Scheme was provided by Sunnica and proposals for substation extension Options 1 and 2 were presented.
10 February 2021	Online Meeting	All parties meeting held. Overview of National Grid Gas asset interactions provided by Sunnica Protective provisions also discussed and National Grid legal to be instructed.

Date	Form of correspondence	Key topics discussed and key outcomes (the topics should align with the Issues tables)
02 March 2021	Online Meeting and Email	High level discussion on technical deliverability of the Scheme including construction requirements for National Grid gas assets.
05 March 2021	Email	Email from National Grid Gas's lawyers sending draft protective provisions.
16 March 2021	Email	Email from Sunnica's lawyers in relation to negotiation of protective provisions.
30 March 2021	Email	Email from National Grid Gas's lawyers in relation to negotiation of protective provisions.
01 June 2021	Email	Email from Sunnica's lawyers sending comments on protective provisions.
23 July 2021	Email	Email from National Grid Gas's lawyers in relation to negotiating protective provisions.
17 August 2021	Email	Email from National Grid Gas's lawyers with comments on protective provisions.
20 August 2021	Email	Email from Sunnica's lawyers in relation to negotiating protective provisions and potential SoCG.
03 September 2021	Email	Email from Sunnica's lawyers with comments on draft protective provisions.
04 November 2021	Online Meeting	All parties meeting between Sunnica and National Grid. Protective provisions were discussed and details provided on respective legal teams.

**Table 2: Record of Engagement since the application was submitted.**

Date	Form of correspondence	Key topics discussed and key outcomes (the topics should align with the Issues tables)
14 January 2022	Email	Email from Sunnica's lawyers requesting an update on the draft protective provisions.
26 January 2022	Email	Email from National Grid Gas's lawyers confirming that negotiations on the protective provisions are on hold whilst engineering discussions are ongoing.
01 March 2022	Email	Email from Sunnica's lawyers requesting an update on the draft protective provisions.
18 July 2022	Email	Email from Sunnica's lawyers requesting an update on the draft protective provisions.
1 August 2022	Email	Email from National Grid Gas's lawyers with comments on protective provisions.

Date	Form of correspondence	Key topics discussed and key outcomes (the topics should align with the Issues tables)
19 August 2022	Email	Email from National Grid Gas's lawyers requesting an update on whether a SoCG will be submitted on 30 <sup>th</sup> August 2022.
24 August 2022	Email	Email from Sunnica's lawyers with comments on the protective provisions, requesting a general update from National Grid Gas and confirming an SoCG won't be submitted on 30 <sup>th</sup> August as the Examination timetable has changed following the adjournment of the first part of the Preliminary Meeting.
30 August 2022	Email	Email from Sunnica's lawyers in relation to negotiating the protective provisions.
30 September 2022	Email	Email from National Grid Gas's lawyers in relation to negotiating the protective provisions.
28 October 2022	Email	Email from Sunnica's lawyers sending the draft SoCG for review.
14 December 2022	Meeting	Meeting between NGG, Sunnica and their legal teams to discuss the status of the protective provisions and for the Applicant to give an update on Option 2 and Option 3 for connecting into the Burwell Substation, including the upcoming change request to remove Option 2 from the Application.

- 2.1.2 It is agreed that this is an accurate record of the key meetings and consultation undertaken between the Parties in relation to the issues addressed in this SoCG.
- 2.1.3 Both Parties have agreed that engagement to date has been positive and collaborative and that this engagement will need to continue throughout the DCO process, detailed design and construction stage and beyond.
- 2.1.4 The issues and matters highlighted in Tables 3, 4 and 5 summarise the key issues that have been in discussion between the Parties.

## 3 Issues

### 3.1 Matters Agreed

3.1.1 **Table 3** below details the matters agreed with NGG.

**Table 3: Matters agreed**

Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
None	None	None

### 3.2 Matters Under Discussion

3.2.1 **Table 4** below details the matters under discussion with NGG.

**Table 4: Matters under discussion**

Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Under Discussion
Development Consent Order	Protective Provisions	The protective provisions are subject to negotiation between the Parties but it is expected they will be agreed by the end of the examination.

### 3.3 Matters Not Agreed

**Table 5** below details the matters not agreed with NGG.

**Table 5: Matters not agreed**

Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Not Agreed
None	None	None



## 4.0 SIGNATURES

This Statement of Common Ground is agreed:

### **On behalf of National Grid Gas plc:**

Name

Signature

Date

### **On behalf of the Applicant:**

Name

Signature

Date