



# SUNNICA ENERGY FARM

EN010106

8.13 Statement of Common Ground with Cambridgeshire County Council, Suffolk County Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council and West Suffolk 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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# Table of contents

<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Pages</b>
<b>1 Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Purpose of this document	1
1.2 Parties to this Statement of Common Ground	2
1.3 Terminology	2
<b>2 Record of Engagement</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3 Issues 10</b>	
3.1 Matters Agreed	10
3.2 Matters Under Discussion	20
3.3 Matters Not Agreed	22
<b>4 Signatures</b>	<b>25</b>

## Table of Tables

Table 1: Record of Engagement .....	2
Table 2: Matters agreed.....	10
Table 3: Matters under discussion .....	20
Table 4: Matters not agreed.....	22

# 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 photovoltaic ('PV') farm across Sunnica East Site A, Sunnica East Site B and Sunnica West Site A. 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;
  - 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. Office/warehouse (Sunnica East Site A and Sunnica East Site B only)
  - j. Fencing and security measures;
  - k. Drainage;
  - l. Internal access roads and car parking;
  - m. Landscaping including habitat creation areas; and
  - n. 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) Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC), (3) Suffolk County Council (SCC), (4) East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC) and (5) West Suffolk Council (WSC).

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 CCC, SCC, ECDC and WSC are interested parties to the Examination of the Application.

1.2.4 Collectively Sunnica, CCC, SCC, ECDC and WSC 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 CCC’s, SCC’s, ECDC’s or WSC’s representations and therefore have not been considered in this document. It is recognised however that engagement between all parties will need to continue due to their joint interest in matters arising from the Scheme.

## 2 Record of Engagement

2.1.1 A summary of the meetings and correspondence that has taken place between the parties in relation to the Application is outlined in **Table 1**. There has been constant email correspondence between the parties to discuss the sharing of information, arrangement of meetings and for them to comment on draft documentation, but this table reflects the key meetings and correspondence of note that have taken place between the parties.

**Table 1: Record of Engagement**

Date	Form of correspondence	Key topics discussed and key outcomes (the topics should align with the Issues tables)
13/02/2019	Initial Briefing Meeting with ECDC and WSC	Key topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to the Scheme</li> <li>• Consultation</li> </ul>

Date	Form of correspondence	Key topics discussed and key outcomes (the topics should align with the Issues tables)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental</li> <li>• Programme</li> </ul>
19/02/2019	Initial Briefing Meeting with SCC and CCC	Key topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to the Scheme</li> <li>• Planning</li> <li>• Consultation</li> <li>• Environmental and Scoping</li> <li>• Programme</li> </ul>
01/03/2019	Email from Sunnica to the CCC, ECDC, SCC and WSC	Provided advance copy of the community information leaflet.
13/03/2019	Email from Sunnica to CCC, ECDC, SCC and WSC	Provision of the EIA Scoping Report and Transport Scoping Note.
25/03/2019	Initial Briefing Meeting with CCC	Key topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to the Scheme</li> <li>• Transport</li> <li>• Archaeology</li> </ul>
03/06/2019	Joint Transport Meeting with CCC and SCC	Key topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updates on access points</li> <li>• Cable route</li> <li>• Access routes</li> <li>• Traffic data</li> </ul>
03/06/2019	Email from SCC	Raised concern about lorries from Felixstowe using the Kentford junction and travelling through Kennett.
03/06/2019	Email from Sunnica to SCC	Response to Graham Gunby's concern about lorries from Felixstowe using the Kentford junction and travelling through Kennett.
07/06/2019	Email from SCC	Advice on A14/A11 junction
19/06/2019	Landscape and Heritage Workshop with CCC, ECDC, SCC and WSC	Key topics included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design updates</li> <li>• Heritage and landscape viewpoints and assessment methodology</li> </ul>
24/06/2019	Ecology Workshop with CCC, ECDC, SCC and WSC	Key topics included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update from Sunnica on the changes to the Scheme since EIA Scoping</li> <li>• Summary of ecological baseline to date</li> <li>• Review and discussion of key ecological constraints and consideration of approaches for avoidance, mitigation and enhancement</li> </ul>

Date	Form of correspondence	Key topics discussed and key outcomes (the topics should align with the Issues tables)
17/07/2019	Public Rights of Way (PRoW) Workshop with CCC	Key topics included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design update</li> <li>• Viewpoints on PRoWs</li> <li>• Permissive paths</li> <li>• Green infrastructure</li> </ul>
18/07/2019	Archaeology Workshop with CCC and SCC	Key topics included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design updates</li> <li>• Archaeological evaluation strategy</li> <li>• Archaeological mitigation strategy</li> </ul>
30/09/2019	Email from Sunnica to ECDC and WSC	Confirmation on methods and monitoring for baseline noise survey
08/10/2019	Email from Sunnica to CCC and SCC	Confirmation of Scheduled Monuments consent for geophysical surveys.
31/10/2019	Planning Performance Agreement Meeting 1 with CCC, ECDC, SCC and WSC	Key topics included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning Performance Agreement</li> <li>• Non-statutory consultation feedback</li> <li>• Design updates</li> <li>• Local Authority Engagement</li> <li>• Cumulative Effects assessment</li> </ul>
20/11/2019	Landscape and Non-Motorised Users Workshop with CCC, ECDC, SCC and WSC	Key topics included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design update and design principles</li> <li>• Approach to Non-Motorised Users</li> </ul>
04/12/2019	Ecology Workshop with CCC, ECDC, SCC and WSC	Key topics included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feedback received during non-statutory consultation</li> <li>• Ecology surveys</li> <li>• Biodiversity net gain</li> <li>• Decommissioning</li> <li>• Details of lighting</li> </ul>
27/01/2020	Email from Sunnica to CCC	Sharing of the preliminary geophysics report
16/03/2020	Email from SCC	Provision of feedback on the Preliminary Environmental Risk Assessment
07/05/2020	Heritage Meeting with CCC, ECDC, SCC and WSC	Key topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update on the Scheme design</li> <li>• Scheduled Monuments, particularly those around Burwell</li> <li>• Update on built heritage context for the Scheme (baseline)</li> <li>• Geophysical survey progress</li> <li>• Proposed trial trenching strategy</li> </ul>

Date	Form of correspondence	Key topics discussed and key outcomes (the topics should align with the Issues tables)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Structure of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report</li> </ul>
12/11/2020	Email from CCC	Approval of Sunnica West WSI for archaeology trial trenching
16/12/2020	Planning Performance Agreement Meeting with CCC, ECDC, SCC and WSC	Key topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statutory consultation</li> <li>EIA update</li> <li>Planning policy</li> <li>Programme</li> </ul>
18/12/2020	Email from SCC	Approval of Sunnica East WSI for archaeology trial trenching
16/12/2020	Planning Performance Agreement Meeting with SCC	Key topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statutory consultation</li> <li>EIA update</li> <li>Planning policy</li> <li>Programme</li> </ul>
05/02/2021	Landscape and Visual Meeting with CCC, ECDC, SCC and WSC	Key topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landscape assessment methodology</li> <li>Local Landscape Character Areas</li> <li>Visual assessment methodology</li> <li>Viewpoints</li> <li>Design</li> </ul>
26/02/2021	Heritage Meeting with CCC, ECDC, SCC and WSC	Key topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update on Scheme design</li> <li>Visualisations</li> <li>Fieldwork</li> <li>Feedback from statutory consultation</li> <li>Programme</li> </ul>
01/03/2021	Socio-economics and human health Meeting with CCC, ECDC, SCC and WSC	Key topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Socio-economics</li> <li>Human Health</li> </ul>
17/03/2021	Lead Local Flood Authority and Internal Drainage Board Meeting with CCC and SCC	Key topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design update</li> <li>Water Environment Features</li> <li>Key issues and scope of assessment</li> <li>Assessment outcomes, mitigation and enhancements</li> </ul>
25/03/2021	Transport meeting with CCC, ECDC, SCC and WSC	Key topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design update</li> <li>Site Accesses</li> <li>Abnormal loads</li> <li>Cumulative impacts</li> <li>Traffic data</li> </ul>



Date	Form of correspondence	Key topics discussed and key outcomes (the topics should align with the Issues tables)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction period</li> <li>• PRowS</li> </ul>
01/04/2021	Email from Sunnica to CCC, ECDC, SCC and WSC	Provision of technical note outlining the management of heritage areas.
29/04/2021	Heritage and Ecology Meeting with CCC, ECDC, SCC and WSC	<p>Key topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heritage offset areas</li> <li>• Stone curlew requirements</li> <li>• Landscape proposals</li> <li>• Grassland planting</li> </ul>
24/06/2021	Email from Sunnica to SCC	Consultation on access route through Worlington at junction adjacent to Walnut Tree Pub
27/08/2021	Email from CCC	Approval of updated archaeological trial trenching plan for the stone curlew plots at Sunnica East.
27/08/2021	Transport update meeting with CCC and SCC	<p>Key topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updates on design since PEIR</li> <li>• Update on traffic forecast and trip generation</li> <li>• Site access</li> <li>• Consultation</li> <li>• Burwell substation extension options</li> </ul>
20/10/2021	Email from Sunnica to CCC	Provision of updated Sunnica West Site Archaeological Trial Trenching Report following completion of W01 trenching.
26/04/2022	Meeting between CCC, SCC, WSC and ECDC	Transport matters were discussed in relation to the Relevant Representations and the SoCG. Meeting minutes were distributed following the meeting.
27/04/2022	Meeting between CCC, SCC, WSC and ECDC	Landscape and Visual Amenity matters were discussed in relation to the Relevant Representations and the SoCG. Meeting minutes were distributed following the meeting
27/04/2022	Meeting between CCC, SCC, WSC and ECDC	Socio-economics matters were discussed in relation to the Relevant Representations and the SoCG. Meeting minutes were distributed following the meeting.
04/04/2022	Meeting between Suffolk Wildlife Trust, RSPB, Wildlife Trust BCN (on behalf of ECDC), Natural England, CCC and WSC	Ecology working group meeting in relation to issues raised in the Relevant Representations and development of the SoCGs.
10/05/2022	Meeting between CCC, SCC, WSC and ECDC	Cultural heritage matters were discussed in relation to the Relevant Representations and the SoCG. Meeting minutes were distributed following the meeting.

Date	Form of correspondence	Key topics discussed and key outcomes (the topics should align with the Issues tables)
10/06/2022	Meeting between Suffolk Wildlife Trust, RSPB, Wildlife Trust Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire (BCN) (on behalf of ECDC), Natural England, CCC and WSC	Ecology working group meeting in relation to issues raised in the Relevant Representations and development of the SoCGs.
13/07/2022	Meeting between CCC, SCC, WSC and ECDC	<p>Key topics of discussion included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic survey locations to fill gaps</li> <li>• Construction staff vehicle occupancy – sensitivity test and reliance on mini-buses – parameters for assessment</li> <li>• Proposed Temporary Traffic Management / Site Access Management Plan document – example and structure with one location to be presented for comments.</li> <li>• Link sensitivity for ES methodology.</li> </ul>
14/07/2022	Meeting between CCC, SCC, WSC and ECDC	<p>Key topics discussed included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes to the application</li> <li>• Update on Relevant Representations and SoCG</li> <li>• Planning Performance Agreement</li> <li>• Context of the Scheme in relation to s105/104 of the Planning Act 2008</li> </ul>
4/10/2022	Meeting between CCC, SCC, WSC and ECDC and the Applicant	Meeting to discuss Transport Assessment related matters and site access and highways designs.
18/10/2022	Meeting between CCC, SCC, WSC and ECDC and the Applicant	Discussion on the Detailed Archaeological Mitigation Strategy and SoCG.
27/10/2022	Meeting between CCC, SCC, WSC and ECDC and the Applicant	Discussion of documentation submitted at Deadline 1 and look ahead to Deadlines 2 and 3, including completion of draft SoCG for issue.
27/10/2022	Meeting between CCC, SCC, WSC and ECDC and the Applicant	Discussion of socio-economic assessment.
04/11/2022	Meeting between CCC, SCC, WSC and ECDC and the Applicant	Discussion of LVIA assessment.
09/11/2022	Meeting between CCC, SCC, WSC and ECDC and the Applicant	Agreement of SoCG submitted at Deadline 2.

Date	Form of correspondence	Key topics discussed and key outcomes (the topics should align with the Issues tables)
24/11/2022	Meeting between CCC, SCC and the Applicant	Meeting to discuss Site Access Plans.
25/11/2022	Meeting between CCC, SCC, WSC and the Applicant.	Discussion on Cultural Heritage points in the SoCG and Sunnica West Site B.
25/11/2022	Meeting between SCC, WSC, ECDC and the Applicant.	Meeting to discuss the Construction Employment Technical Note.
01/12/2022	Meeting between CCC, SCC, WSC and ECDC and the Applicant	Discussion of LVIA assessment, landscape design, arboriculture, ecology and mitigation.
15/12/2022	Meeting between CCC, SCC, WSC and ECDC and the Applicant	Agreement of SoCG submitted at Deadline 4.
24/01/2022	Meeting between CCC, SCC, WSC and ECDC and the Applicant	Agreement of SoCG submitted at Deadline 6.
25/01/2022	Meeting between CCC, SCC, WSC and ECDC and the Applicant	Discussion of socio-economic impacts and mitigation.
31/01/2023	Meeting between CCC, SCC, WSC and ECDC and the Applicant	Discussion of LVIA assessment, landscape design, archaeology, arboriculture, ecology and mitigation.
08/02/2023	Meeting between CCC, SCC and the Applicant	Meeting to discuss outstanding traffic issues.
06/03/2023	Meeting between CCC, SCC, WSC and ECDC and the Applicant	Discussion seeking agreement of SoCG to be submitted at Deadline 8.
07/03/2023	Meeting between CCC, SCC, WSC and ECDC and the Applicant	Discussion seeking agreement of SoCG to be submitted at Deadline 8.

- 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 as at the date of this SoCG.
- 2.1.3 The issues and matters highlighted in **Table 2** to **Table 4** summarise the key issues that have been in discussion between the parties.

## 3 Issues

### 3.1 Matters Agreed

3.1.1 **Table 2** below details the matters agreed with CCC, SCC, ECDC and WSC.

**Table 2: Matters agreed**

Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
General	Legislation and policy	<p>The Scheme should be considered under Section 105 of the Planning Act 2008.</p> <p>NPS EN-1, NPS EN-3, NPS EN-5, and in light of the Government’s pronouncements in respect of transitional effects of the draft NPSs, Draft NPS EN-1, Draft NPS EN-3, and Draft NPS EN-5 should be ‘important and relevant’ considerations for the purposes of S105(2) of the Planning Act 2008.</p> <p>Draft NPS EN-3 contains technology specific policy relating to large-scale solar development. It is considered more relevant in this case than the currently designated EN-3, notwithstanding that it is yet to be designated.</p>
		<p>The parties agree that the Environmental Statement (ES) has identified all applicable legislation and national policy pertaining to the following assessments undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the Scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate change <b>[APP-038]</b>.</li> <li>• Cultural heritage <b>[APP-039]</b>.</li> <li>• Ecology and nature conservation <b>[APP-040]</b>.</li> <li>• Flood risk, drainage and water resources <b>[APP-041]</b>.</li> <li>• Landscape and visual amenity <b>[APP-042]</b>.</li> <li>• Noise and vibration <b>[APP-043]</b>.</li> <li>• Socio-economics and land use <b>[APP-044]</b>.</li> <li>• Transport and access <b>[APP-045]</b>.</li> <li>• Air quality <b>[APP-046]</b>.</li> <li>• Human health <b>[APP-047]</b>.</li> </ul>

Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other topics [APP-048].</li> <li>• Effect interactions [APP-049].</li> </ul> <p>The application of local policy within the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is agreed for the following assessments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate change [APP-038].</li> <li>• Cultural heritage [APP-039].</li> <li>• Flood risk, drainage and water resources [APP-041].</li> <li>• Noise and vibration [APP-043].</li> <li>• Transport and Access [APP-045]</li> <li>• Air quality [APP-046].</li> <li>• Human health [APP-047].</li> <li>• Other topics [APP-048].</li> <li>• Effect interactions [APP-049].</li> </ul>
	Study area definition and extents	<p>The parties agree that the study areas adopted by Sunnica within the following assessments reflect current best practice and standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate change [APP-038].</li> <li>• Cultural heritage [APP-039].</li> <li>• Ecology and nature conservation [APP-040].</li> <li>• Flood risk, drainage and water resources [APP-041].</li> <li>• Landscape and visual amenity [APP-042].</li> <li>• Noise and vibration [APP-043].</li> <li>• Socio-economics and land use [APP-044].</li> <li>• Transport and access [APP-045].</li> <li>• Air quality [APP-046].</li> </ul>

Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Human health [APP-047].</li> <li>• Other topics [APP-048].</li> <li>• Effect interactions [APP-049].</li> </ul> <p>The parties agree that the geographical extents of the adopted study areas are appropriate to identify the likely direct and indirect effects of the Scheme on sensitive features and receptors.</p>
	Application of expert/ professional judgements	<p>The identification of likely significant effects on sensitive features and receptors has been informed by professional judgement and the views of relevant technical specialists, where necessary. The parties agree that the application of professional judgement by its specialists within the following assessments are appropriate and robust:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate change [APP-038].</li> <li>• Cultural heritage [APP-039].</li> <li>• Ecology and nature conservation [APP-040].</li> <li>• Flood risk, drainage and water resources [APP-041].</li> <li>• Noise and vibration [APP-043].</li> <li>• Socio-economics and land use [APP-044].</li> <li>• Transport and access [APP-045].</li> <li>• Air quality [APP-046].</li> <li>• Human health [APP-047].</li> <li>• Other topics [APP-048].</li> <li>• Effect interactions [APP-049].</li> </ul>

Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
Baseline	Data collection methods, baseline data and the identification and sensitivity of relevant features and receptors	<p>The baseline conditions have been collated using desk-based and field-based techniques, and through consultation with stakeholders including the local authorities.</p> <p>The parties agree that the scope, coverage and timing of surveys undertaken to establish the baseline conditions and sensitive features and receptors are in line with best practice and appropriate to inform the assessment of direct and indirect effects reported in the following assessments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate change [APP-038].</li> <li>• Cultural heritage [APP-039].</li> <li>• Flood risk, drainage and water resources [APP-041].</li> <li>• Noise and vibration [APP-043].</li> <li>• Transport [APP-045]</li> <li>• Air quality [APP-046].</li> <li>• Human health [APP-047].</li> <li>• Other topics [APP-048].</li> <li>• Effect interactions [APP-049].</li> </ul>
Assessment findings	Assessment findings: construction, operation and decommissioning effects	<p>The assessment findings for the following topic assessments are considered acceptable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate Change [APP-038]</li> <li>• Cultural heritage [APP-039].</li> <li>• Flood risk, drainage and water resources [APP-041].</li> <li>• Noise and vibration [APP-043].</li> <li>• Transport and Access [APP-045]</li> <li>• Air quality [APP-046].</li> <li>• Human health [APP-047].</li> </ul>



Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other topics [APP-048].</li> <li>• Effect interactions [APP-049].</li> </ul>
	Assessment – Cumulative effects	<p>Regarding North Angle Solar Farm (CCC/20/051/FUL and CCC/21/237/VAR), this scheme lies to the west of Soham and outside of the study area defined for the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA). It was therefore scoped out of the assessment of likely direct cumulative landscape and visual effects presented in Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity of the Environmental Statement [APP-042]. This approach has been discussed with the local authorities.</p> <p>Further assessment has been undertaken to consider the Solar Farm to East of Breach Farm (21/00706/ESF) within Appendix A of [REP1-016].</p>
Ecology and Nature Conservation	Aquatic invertebrates	<p>The Applicant submitted a technical note providing further technical information to validate its conclusions in respect of aquatic invertebrates and in particular Chippenham Fen and Snailwell Poor's Fen SSSI and Fenland SAC. This was submitted at Deadline 2 [REP2-038].</p> <p>With the proposed removal of Sunnica West Site B, the nearest panels to the location of aquatic invertebrates are over 1km away; meaning that impacts will be able to be avoided.</p>
	Mitigation	<p>Whilst not specifically secured in CEMP but as a consequence of the depth parameters that have been set, the cable trench for Grid Connection Route B through the field known as EC04, as for all cables, is anticipated to be above the water table and will not affect groundwater flow. If groundwater were to reach the level of the trench, permeable backfill material will not impede groundwater flow across the trench, and the cable pipe itself is small compared to the extent of the aquifer. There will be no significant impediment to groundwater flow and, if any where present, peat will be left unaltered.</p> <p>It is agreed that the location of the cable trench through the previous Sunnica West Site B location is in a suitable location and will not adversely impact the small area of peaty soils.</p> <p>In the case of Havacre Meadows and Deal Nook CWS (and the River Kennett), through which a cable needs to pass, this is mitigated by the cable being installed by horizontal directional drilling with entry and exit pits set back at least 30 m from the CWS. This approach is included in the Construction Environmental Management Plan under Requirement 14 of Schedule 2 of the Draft DCO [REP3-012].</p>

Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
	Stone Curlew	Agreement has been reached on the monitoring arrangements for Stone Curlew as documented with the OLEMP submitted at Deadline 7 <b>[REP7-015]</b> .
Cultural Heritage	Other heritage assets	<p>The settings of other listed buildings (excluding the Chippenham Park complex), conservation areas, and non-designated heritage assets in East Cambridgeshire and West Suffolk Council would not be affected by the Scheme and no further mitigation is required.</p> <p>The settings of listed buildings in Suffolk would not be harmed by the Scheme and no further mitigation is required.</p> <p>U6006 Badlingham Lane would not be negatively affected by the Scheme in terms of built heritage or archaeology and no further mitigation is required in this respect.</p> <p>The settings of conservation areas in Worlington, Freckenham, Exning, Barton Mills and Newmarket would not be harmed by the Scheme and no further mitigation is required.</p> <p>Conservation areas in Freckenham and Exning would not be harmed by the Scheme, including by AIL deliveries.</p>
	Mitigation	<p>The following changes have been implemented following consultation with LPA's:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removal of Sunnica West Site B from the Scheme;</li> <li>• Inclusion of additional archaeological offset are within W04 in Sunnica West A; and</li> <li>• Removal of the B50 Bomber site for the developable area within the Scheme.</li> </ul> <p>The changes are described in the Second Change Application <b>[REP5-059]</b>.</p> <p>The bomber site is also to be the subject of licensing, and the OLEMP submitted at Deadline 7 provides information on the proposals for interpretation of the crash site with further details to be incorporated into the detailed LEMP.</p> <p>Changes to the Environmental Masterplan at Deadline 7 have been made to better encourage members of the public to observe the site.</p>
		<p>A Detailed Archaeological Mitigation Strategy <b>[REP5-066]</b> has been prepared and submitted. The draft DCO provides for the securing of archaeological mitigation through Requirement 13. An OHEMP has been prepared and has been updated as part of the OLEMP at Deadline 7.</p>

Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
Air Quality	Mitigation	The measures outlined within Chapter 14: Air Quality <b>[APP-046]</b> , are considered acceptable to mitigate potential impacts and manage potential effects during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases.
Climate Change	Mitigation - Approach to reduce fuel consumption and associated emissions	The Principal Contractor appointed for the construction phase will be responsible for preparing and implementing a Construction Resource Management Plan (CRMP), which will set out targets for fuel, waste and energy consumption. The contractor will also provide details on fuel storage, and management of spills/leaks during construction. These requirements and management measures are included within the Framework CEMP <b>[REP3-015]</b> and will be developed within the detailed CEMP(s) developed for the Scheme.
Noise and Vibration	Baseline – noise monitoring	Baseline noise monitoring was undertaken in accordance with guidance within BS 4142. Measurements were undertaken in such a way as to provide a representative sample of conditions, such as avoiding periods of adverse weather conditions, and school holiday periods (which are often considered to result in atypical sound levels). A small degree of uncertainty will always remain in the values taken from such a measurement survey; however, the method applied during measurement and assessment of noise data provides confidence that it is robust.
	Assessment – Burwell Substation extension low frequency ‘hums’ from transformers	Following acceptance of non-material changes to the DCO application, the proposed Options 1 and 2 Burwell Substation extension no longer forms part of the Scheme. As such, there are no proposed changes to the Burwell Substation and noise conditions will be unchanged at receptors affected by noise emissions from the Burwell Substation.
	Mitigation – S61 applications	The Framework CEMP has been updated, and was submitted at Deadline 5 <b>[REP5-043]</b> , and now includes a requirement for the detailed CEMP to set out proposals for how consultation will take place with local authorities to agree a suitable schedule for S61 applications.
	Mitigation - Piling	The requirement for a Piling Method Statement was added to the Framework CEMP submitted at Deadline 2 <b>[REP2-026]</b> . The Piling Method Statement will stipulate piling working hours and will require approval by the relevant LPA.

Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
Flood Risk, Drainage and Water Resources	Baseline modelling – availability for review	<p>The Flood Risk Assessment Part 1 Rev 1 <b>[AS-007]</b> uses data produced by the Environment Agency. No site specific hydraulic fluvial modelling has been carried out as part of this assessment. The current Environment Agency model has been reviewed. The revised climate change allowances are 19% for design purposes, the Environment Agency model includes 20% climate change allowance. The Environment Agency has stated during consultation that this should be acceptable. The credible maximum scenario has also been assessed, as agreed with the Environment Agency, using 22% climate change allowance as a sensitivity test to demonstrate the PV panels can operate in this scenario.</p> <p>For the outline design, no hydraulic drainage modelling has been undertaken for the drainage assessment. It is an outline assessment based on 100% Greenfield land; therefore greenfield runoff assessment calculation using HR Wallingford assessment tool has been used as the existing runoff rates.</p> <p>A hydraulic drainage model will be prepared for the BESS and Site Compound areas once these designs are set out at detailed design stage, with the results helping to inform the final detailed design. Catchment level Greenfield runoff rates, with an allowance for climate change, will be used for solar panel sites to confirm swale design and sizes. The modelling will ensure the principals of the drainage strategy are followed and this will not affect the Environmental Statement findings and conclusions.</p> <p>This approach is agreed with the local authorities.</p>
	Assessment – uncertainty within the Quick Storage Estimates (QSE) calculation	<p>Within the Flood Risk Assessment Part 1 Rev 1 <b>[AS-007]</b> the infiltration SuDS techniques, swales and basins, will be designed to mimic existing drainage conditions and accommodate the 1 in 100 year return period storm event plus a 40% increase allowance for climate change. The strategy has been assessed on the averages for QSE values, based on generally accepted experience that the average value is likely to be closer to the detailed design values. The maximum QSE volume is not a requirement to meet for design but a guide for establishing an outline drainage assessment to guide initial design parameters, which this is suitable to use for the outline strategy. The availability of land for attenuation is not a significant constraint, if additional attenuation is required, it would be provided within the site boundary.</p> <p>This approach is agreed with the local authorities.</p>
	Mitigation - exceedance flows	<p>Detailed drainage plans will be developed at detailed design stage. These will include the exceedance flow routes, and level/gradient data. This approach is agreed further with the local authorities.</p>

Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
	Mitigation – Flood zone compensation	The Applicant’s position is that the assessments show that no floodplain compensation is required. The Environmental Agency agree to the FRA Addendum <b>[EN010106/APP/8.66]</b> , which is being submitted at Deadline 4. This approach is agreed with the local authorities.
Human Health	Assessment – quality of life	<p>In response to concerns about the effect of the Scheme on quality of life, the quality of life for local communities has been considered in the assessments undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment and detailed within the following submission documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity of the Environmental Statement <b>[APP-042]</b>;</li> <li>- Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration of the Environmental Statement <b>[APP-043]</b>;</li> <li>- Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use of the Environmental Statement <b>[APP-044]</b>;</li> <li>- Chapter 13: Transport and Access of the Environmental Statement <b>[APP-045]</b>;</li> <li>- Chapter 14: Air Quality of the Environmental Statement <b>[APP-046]</b>; and</li> <li>- Chapter 15: Human Health of the Environmental Statement <b>[APP-047]</b>.</li> </ul>
Transport and Access	Assessment - Vehicle occupancy	The Parties have agreed to a cap on staff vehicle numbers at the level of 1.5. This is secured within Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan and Travel Plan <b>[REP7-017]</b> submitted at Deadline 7.
	Assessment – width of Elms Road and la Hogue Road	<p>The Applicant has proposed the provision of passing places at Elms Road and La Hogue Road to facilitate the passage of HGVs and other traffic during construction. The Applicant has provided updated plans both within the Transportation Technical Note <b>[REP2-041]</b> submitted at Deadline 2, and Annex C of the Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan and Travel Plan <b>[REP7-017]</b>. The principal of this is agreed.</p> <p>CCC and SCC will require Stage 1/2 Road Safety Audit. This will be carried out as part of the technical approval stage, as the Applicant controls adjacent land which could be used to address issues arising from an RSA if necessary. This matter is agreed on the basis that the Applicant commits to satisfactorily resolving matters which may arise as a result of the RSA.</p>
	Road Safety	The Applicant has responded to the LHAs’ concerns regarding road safety in a number of locations. It is agreed that the existing accident record does not indicate an underlying issue which requires specific mitigation. Notwithstanding this, the construction phase will generate a significant level of trips and the LHAs concerns relate to future conditions, where there would be a higher level of traffic than the existing conditions under which the accident record has derived from. The Councils have requested that the Applicant includes a commitment to monitoring road safety, including at this

Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Agreed
		location. The Applicant has included this within the Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan and Travel Plan <b>[REP7-017]</b> .
	Assessment – Link sensitivity	Whilst there may be points of detail which are not fully agreed, the Applicant and the Councils consider the matter to be resolved as it is agreed that any points of disagreement would not affect the overall conclusions of the assessment.
	Monitoring, Reporting and Enforcement – HGV Numbers	The Applicant has included a cap on HGV movements in the Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan and Travel Plan <b>[REP7-017]</b> at Deadline 7. This is in line with the level of HGV movements assessed in the ES.
Maintenance	Threshold of maintenance	In order to provide assurance to the Councils the Framework OEMP <b>[REP7-036]</b> has been updated at Deadline 7 to include a requirement that every 12 months from the date of final commissioning the Applicant will submit a maintenance schedule for the year ahead to the relevant planning authorities, excluding unforeseen emergencies, that require maintenance throughout the year.
BESS	Mitigation - Fire safety	In response to concerns about fire safety, the draft Development Consent Order is being updated at Deadline 4 and includes requirement 7 in Schedule 2 which secures the Battery Fire Safety Management Plan (“BFSMP”). The BFSMP is to be approved by the relevant County Councils authorities, in consultation with the fire and rescue services, the EA and the HSE. An updated OBFSMP was submitted to the Examination at Deadline 2 <b>[REP2-032]</b> , Deadline 5 <b>[REP5-050]</b> and Deadline 8.

## 3.2 Matters Under Discussion

3.2.1 **Table 3** below details the matters under discussion with CCC, SCC, ECDC and WSC.

**Table 3: Matters under discussion**

Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Under Discussion
Transport and Access	Assessment - Vehicle occupancy	<p>The LHAs consider that the Applicant should commit to and monitor a mode share equivalent to all staff travelling by car with a 1.5 vehicle occupancy throughout the construction period. This is on the grounds of promoting sustainable transport. The Applicant considers that there is sufficient scope within the approval process for the Final CTMP/TP to ensure that an appropriate mode share targets is included to satisfy the LHAs.</p> <p>The Applicant will update the Examining Authority prior to the end of examination on the status of the Vehicle Occupancy.</p>
	Site Access Proposals	<p>The Applicant and the LHAs have engaged on a number of technical points related to the Site Access Proposals. The Applicant has updated the Plans within Annex C of the Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan and Travel Plan <b>[REP7-017]</b> at Deadline 7. Additionally, the Applicant has commissioned a Haulier's review of the AIL routes, which has been shared with the LHAs, and provided indicative layouts for Temporary Traffic Management proposals. Road Safety Audits of key locations are scheduled for 14/03/23, with the LHAs in attendance. This matter remains under discussion, subject to the review of the aforementioned information.</p> <p>The Applicant will update the Examining Authority prior to the end of examination on the status of the Site Accesses.</p>
	Monitoring, reporting and enforcement of the F-CTMP/TP	<p>In Chapter 13 of the Local Impact Report, the Councils outlined a number of requests in terms of the monitoring, reporting and enforcement of the Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan and Travel Plan. The Applicant has made substantive updates to the Monitoring, Reporting and Enforcement sections within the Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan and Travel Plan submitted at Deadline 7 <b>[REP7-017]</b>, which the Applicant considers addresses the Councils' comments. This matter remains under discussion subject to the review of the updated F-CTMP.</p>

Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Under Discussion
		The Applicant will update the Examining Authority prior to the end of examination on the status of the monitoring, reporting and enforcement of the F-CTMP/TP.
	Side Agreement	Discussions on the Side Agreement are progressing and should be concluded prior to the end of the examination. The Applicant will update the Examining Authority prior to the end of examination on the status of the Side Agreement.
Socio-economics	Mitigation – Compensation package for local communities	An Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan has been submitted as part of the DCO Application <b>[APP-268]</b> and updated at Deadline 7 <b>[REP7-044]</b> . This seeks to secure the potential improvements, mitigation and compensation to local communities that could be implemented as part of the Scheme.
S106	Provision of S106	Discussions on the S106 are progressing and should be concluded prior to the end of the examination. The Applicant will update the Examining Authority prior to the end of examination on the status of the S106.
Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and Permissive Paths	Provision of accessible routes	Discussions are continuing on the provision of permissive routes through the Scheme and potential impacts on users of existing PRoWs, including noise, health etc.  The Applicant will update the Examining Authority prior to the end of examination on the status of the PRoW.



### 3.3 Matters Not Agreed

3.3.1 **Table 4** below details the matters not agreed with CCC, SCC, ECDC and WSC.

**Table 4: Matters not agreed**

Topic	Sub-topic	Details of Matters Not Agreed
General	Local policy	<p>The application of local policy within the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has not been agreed for the following assessments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ecology and Nature Conservation [APP-040]</li> <li>• Landscape and Visual Amenity [APP-042]</li> <li>• Socio-economics and land use [APP-044]</li> </ul>
Ecology and Nature Conservation	Baseline surveys	Agreement has not been reached on the approach to the baseline arable flora ecology surveys undertaken for the Scheme.
	Assessment – Biodiversity Net Gain	The methodology for calculating BNG, as highlighted by the Councils within their Deadline 6 and 7 submissions, has not been agreed between the Parties. The approach to accounting for Stone Curlew mitigation is not agreed.
	Assessment findings: construction, operation and decommissioning effects	Agreement has not been reached on the assessment of arable flora ecology, stone curlew, farmland bird, including skylarks, undertaken for the Scheme.
	Mitigation	Agreement has not been reached on the mitigation for arable flora, farmland birds, watercourses, acid grassland and invertebrates.
	Residual effects	Agreement has not been reached on the residual effects for certain species such as skylarks, farmland birds, arable flora as a result of the Scheme.
	Stone Curlew	Agreement has not been reached on the approach to habitat provision for stone curlew.

	Stone Curlew	Agreement has not been reached on the management arrangements for Stone Curlew to determine the effectiveness of the proposed mitigation.
Landscape and Visual Amenity	Baseline	Agreement has not been reached on the data collection methods, baseline data and the identification and sensitivity of relevant features and receptors assessment of the Scheme in respect of tree and hedgerow survey information.
	Assessment	Except where agreement is indicated in the LIR, agreement has not been reached on the findings within the assessment on construction, operation and decommissioning effects in relation to the Landscape and Visual impacts of the Scheme.
	Mitigation	The Councils and Applicants current position in terms of mitigation planting has been set out in Environmental Mitigation Parcel Schedules <b>[REP7-063]</b> submitted by the Applicant and The Joint Councils' position on 'parcel by parcel' mitigation and residual effects <b>[REP7-072]</b> .
Socio-Economics and Land Use	Baseline	Agreement has not been reached on the baseline employment information used within the Socio-economics and land use assessment <b>[APP-044]</b> to determine the baseline employment figures utilised within the Environmental Statement.
	Assessment – Employment / GVA figures	Agreement has not been reached on the employment assumptions related to travel area and leakage proportions used within the Environmental Statement. Therefore agreement has not been reached on the Employment and GVA figures within the assessment to determine the effects of the Scheme on the local economy.
	Assessment – Tourism effects on local economy	Agreement has not been reached on the assessment of tourism effects on the local economy within the Environmental Statement.
Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and Permissive Paths	Local Policy	The application of local policy with regards to PRoWs has not been agreed.
Discharge of Requirements	Fee agreement	Agreement has not been reached on the fees to be paid by the undertaker to the relevant Planning Authorities for applications to discharge Requirements is under discussion.

Scheme size	Removal of parcels	<p>The Councils and the Applicant do not agree on the removal of the following developable parcels from the Scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• E05</li> <li>• E12</li> <li>• E13</li> <li>• W03 to W12</li> </ul> <p>The latest positions of the Councils on the above are set out in <i>SCC's response to Action Point 7</i> of ISH4 <b>[REP7-073]</b></p> <p>The latest position of the Applicant on the above are set out on page 43, Section 2, in 8.97 Applicant's response to LPA Deadline 6 Submissions <b>[REP7-057]</b>.</p>
Noise	Assessment	Agreement has not been reached on the potential noise impacts of Option 3 substation, in relation to noise and the acceptability of receptor locations.
	Mitigation	Whether proposed construction working hours are appropriate.
Cultural Heritage	Chippenham Park complex	<p>The Scheme will result in harm to the setting of the Chippenham Park complex (Grade II registered park, Grade II* and II listed buildings and non-designated heritage asset). The level of harm remains as a current point of disagreement, as the Councils consider that there is a high degree of less than substantial harm, which combined with the landscape impacts, mean that parcels W02-W012 and W17 should be removed from the Scheme.</p> <p>The Applicant considers that there is less than substantial harm arising to the RPG from the Scheme and that the benefits of the Scheme, being the provision of low carbon electricity utilising an available substation connection, including provision of solar arrays within West Site A, outweigh the heritage harm caused and that no fields in Site West A need to be removed from the Scheme.</p> <p>The Applicant has confirmed the position in relation to the removal of trees within the Avenue section in its Deadline 5 submission <b>[REP5-060]</b>.</p>

## 4 Signatures

This Statement of Common Ground is agreed:

**On behalf of Suffolk County Council:**

Name: Andrew Cook, Executive Director of Growth, Highways and Infrastructure

Signature:

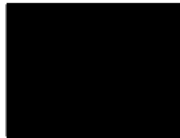


Date: 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023

**On behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council:**

Name Steve Cox

Signature

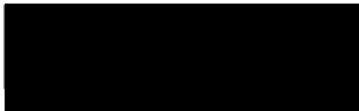


Date 10 March 2023

**On behalf of West Suffolk Council:**

Name Julie Baird

Signature

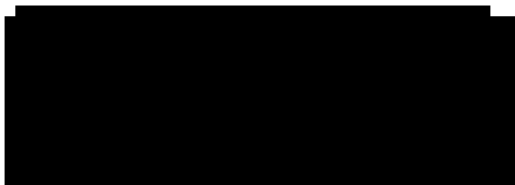


Date 9 March, 2023

**On behalf of East Cambridgeshire District Council:**

Name Simon Ellis Planning Manager

Signature



Date 10/03/2023

**On behalf of the Applicant:**

Name Luke Murray

Signature



Date 10/03/2023