



Longfield Solar Farm

Statement of Common Ground – Network Rail

Deadline 1B

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Revision 1.0

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Longfield Solar Energy Farm Ltd

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this document

- 1.1.1 This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared as part of the proposed Longfield Solar Farm Development Consent Order (the Application) made by Longfield Solar Energy Farm Ltd (The Applicant) to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (the Secretary of State) pursuant to the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008).
- 1.1.2 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.
- 1.1.3 The purpose of this SoCG is to set out the position of the parties, so far as they relate to matters of concern for National Highways, arising from the construction and operation of the proposed Development Consent Order in interrelation with National Highways' assets in general and with the proposed A12 Chelmsford to A120 Widening scheme. This SoCG has been produced to confirm to the Examining Authority (ExA) where agreement has been reached between the parties, and where agreement has not (yet) been reached. SoCGs are an established means in the planning process of allowing all parties to identify and 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) Longfield Solar Energy Farm Ltd as the Applicant and (2) Network Rail Infrastructure Limited (NRL).
- 1.2.2 Collectively, Longfield Solar Energy Farm Ltd and NRL are referred to as 'the parties'.

1.3 Terminology

- 1.3.1 In the table in the Issues chapter of this SoCG:
 - “Agreed” indicates where the issue has been resolved.
 - “Not Agreed” indicates a final position, and
 - “Under discussion” indicates where these points will be the subject of on-going discussion wherever possible to resolve, or refine, the extent of disagreement between the parties.

2. Record of Engagement

2.1 Summary of consultation

2.1.1 The parties have been engaged in consultation since the beginning of the proposed development. A summary of the meetings and correspondence that has taken place between Longfield Solar Energy Farm Ltd and National Highways in relation to the Application is outlined in **Table 2-1**.

Table 2.1 - Record of Engagement

Date	Form of correspondence	of Key topics discussed and key outcomes (the topics should align with the Issues tables)
2 August 2022	Teams meeting	Discussion over right of access that NRL hold. Location confirmed by reference to the Land Plan. Discussion as to what NRL are required to input in the Statement of Common Ground.

2.1.2 It is agreed that this is an accurate record of the key meetings and consultation undertaken between (1) Longfield Solar Energy Farm Ltd and (2) NRL in relation to the issues addressed in this SoCG.

3. Issues

3.1 NRL's role as statutory undertaker

Ref	Sub-topic	Stakeholder Comment	Applicant's Response	Status
1	Compulsory acquisition powers and the impact on NRL's undertaking	Protective Provisions are included in the dDCO at Deadline 1B, which are based on NRL's standard form of provisions and prevent compulsory powers being used in relation to NRL's interests unless agreed with the Applicant.		Under Discussion
2	Carrying out works in the proximity of NRL's operational railway network	Protective Provisions are included in the dDCO at Deadline 1B, which protect NRL's operational railway network.	The Protective Provisions to be included in the dDCO are to also include the protection of NRL's existing rights	Under Discussion
3	Inclusion of Protective Provisions in the dDCO for the benefit of NRL	Protective Provisions are included in the dDCO at Deadline 1B. NRL has provided its standard form of Protective Provisions which the Applicant is currently reviewing. Parties expect to be able to reach agreement in this respect during the examination.		Under Discussion

4. Signatories

4.1 Overview

4.1.1 The above SoCG is agreed between Longfield Solar Farm Limited (LFS Limited) (the Applicant) and NRL, as specified below.

Duly authorised for and on behalf of **Longfield Solar Limited**

Name

Job Title

Date

Signature

Duly authorised for and on behalf of **Network Rail Infrastructure Limited**

Name

Job Title

Date

Signature