



Longfield Solar Farm

Statement of Common Ground – National Grid Electricity Services
Operator

Deadline 1B

Document Reference : EN010118/EX/8.4

Revision 1.0

August 2022

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

[This document is provided in draft form. It has been prepared by the Applicant and issued to NGESO in draft form, but no comments have been received. An updated version will be submitted at Deadline 2.]

- 1.2.1 This SoCG has been prepared by (1) Longfield Solar Energy Farm Ltd as the Applicant and (2) National Grid Electricity Services Operator (NGESO).
- 1.2.2 Collectively, Longfield Solar Energy Farm Ltd and NGESO 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 NGESO in relation to the Application is outlined in **Table 2-1**.

Table 2.1 - Record of Engagement

| Date | Form of correspondence | Key topics discussed and key outcomes |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 16/06/2022 | Face to face meeting | Discussion of Longfield grid connection date |
| 20/07/2022 | Face to face meeting | Discussion of Longfield grid connection date |
| 17/08/2022 | Face to face meeting | Discussion of Longfield grid connection date |
| Recurring monthly | Face to face meeting | Discussion of Longfield grid connection date |

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) NGESO in relation to the issues addressed in this SoCG.

3. Issues

3.1 Grid Connection

| Ref | Sub-topic | Applicant Comment | Stakeholder Response | Status |
|-----|---|--|----------------------|--------|
| 1 | Grid connection date for Longfield | <p>At time of writing (August 2022) there is an ATV issued by NGEN to Longfield for signature. This ATV has a connection date of October 2028. This date is 3 years later than the date contained in the original offer (October 2025).</p> <p>The Applicant are currently in direct engagement with NGET and NGEN, with the objective of exploring all opportunities to improved grid connection date.</p> <p>Dialogue with National Grid has progressed, and the Applicant now understands the connection context, i.e. the project understands and has sight of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Future outages which are scheduled in the local network specific to the Longfield works.- Some of the future reinforcement works and diversions which are scheduled for the local network, and direction to NOAH report for scheduling of these works.- The tec register for information to see other potential clients who may be “competing” with the Longfield works for outages on the local network. <p>The Applicant is now seeking to appoint an appropriately qualified design team to progress engagement with National Grid, through to April 2023 as a minimum. This appropriately qualified design team should consist of:</p> | Agreed | Agreed |

| Ref | Sub-topic | Applicant Comment | Stakeholder Response | Status |
|-----|-----------|---|----------------------|--------|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- A UKBP/TP144 Assessed individual, who is willing to undertake a part-time secondment into National Grid on behalf of Longfield Solar DCO. This is for the purpose of taking the design to NGET gateway 3 Stage of having a design ready for procurement, having explored design options to optimise connection date.- A power systems consultant to undertake studies, for example a study to evaluate connection options for the pre-connection of a temporary limited capacity single circuit connection on the Rayleigh Main to Braintree-Pelham circuit, only for a limited time until the 2-circuit mesh final solution is installed, thus giving export ability earlier than 2028. | | |

4. Signatories

4.1 Overview

4.1.1 The above SoCG is agreed between Longfield Solar Farm Limited (LFS Limited) (the Applicant) and NGENSO, 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 National Grid Electricity Services Operator | Name |
| | Job Title |
| | Date |
| | Signature |