

# Heckington Fen Solar Park

EN010123

## Statement of Common Ground with National Grid Ventures (Viking Link Ltd)

Applicant: Ecotricity (Heck Fen Solar) Limited

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Pursuant to: APFP Regulation 5(2)(q)

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October 2023



**STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND**

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<b>Prepared By</b>	Heckington Fen Energy Park Project Team National Grid Viking Link Limited	
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**1. INTRODUCTION**

This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared by Ecotricity (Heck Fen Solar) Limited ("the Applicant") in conjunction with National Grid Viking Link Limited ("NGVL").

The proposed development comprises the construction, operation (including maintenance), and decommissioning of a ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generation and energy storage facility (hereafter referred to as "the Energy Park"), cable route to, and above and below ground works at, the National Grid Bicker Fen Substation (hereafter referred to as "the Proposed Development" (inclusive of Energy Park)) on land at Six Hundreds Farm, Six Hundreds Drove, East Heckington, Sleaford, Lincolnshire.

In the table below of this SoCG:

- "Agreed" indicates where the issue has been resolved
- "Not Agreed" indicates a final position of the parties that is not agreed, and
- "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.

It can be taken that any matters not specifically referred to in this SoCG are not of material interest or relevance and therefore have not been considered further. It is recognised however that engagement between all parties will need to continue due to their joint interest in matters arising from the Proposed Development.

The purpose of the SoCG is to identify the areas where the principal parties do not agree and remain in dispute. This will allow the Examination to focus on the most pertinent issues.

Summary of main issues agreed/not agreed

Based on engagement to date, common ground is expected to be agreed prior to the closure of the Examination.

## 2. MATTERS TO BE AGREED

Reference and Status	Topic	NGVL's Position	Applicant's Position
1. Under discussion	Effects on and protection of the Viking Link	<p>NGVL currently awaits plans and RAMS that meet its requirements in order to progress the discussions referred to by the Applicant.</p> <p>NGVL will also require the promoter to provide any requested de-rating study information in order to confirm there will be no impact on NGVL's assets.</p>	<p>Carrying out works in the proximity of NGVL's operational network is to be covered under Protective Provisions included in the dDCO.</p> <p>The cable from the Energy Park to Bicker Fen Substation will cross Viking Link's cable to the east of the Energy Park site. The exact method for crossing the cable is not yet agreed, but could comprise a drilled solution, as outlined in Appendix 4.1 Cable Crossing Method Statement (doc. ref. 6.3.4.1 - AS-017).</p> <p>The Applicant has requested any specific requirements from NGVL in respect of the protection of their assets. No answer has been received to date.</p>
2. Under discussion	Drafting of the dDCO including Protective Provisions	<p>Given the nature and importance of the Viking Link Interconnector, NGVL requires bespoke Protective Provisions to be included on the face of the dDCO to protect NGVL's assets and apparatus. These bespoke PPs are being prepared and negotiations will be progressed with in due course.</p>	<p>Protective Provisions for the benefit of electricity undertakers are included in the dDCO, which are based on standard form of provisions.</p> <p>As the holder of an electricity licence pursuant to the Electricity Act 1989, NGVL benefits from these standard Protective Provisions.</p> <p>However, NGVL has requested additional Protective Provisions in connection with the Proposed Development. The Applicant is awaiting confirmation from NGVL as to its additional requirements.</p>

**3. SIGNATORIES**

The above SoCG is agreed between Ecotricity (Heck Fen Solar) Limited (“the Applicant”) and National Grid Viking Link Limited, as specified below.

Duly authorised for and on behalf of Ecotricity (Heck Fen Solar) Limited

Name:	
Job Title:	
Date:	
Signature:	

Duly authorised for and on behalf of National Grid Viking Link Limited

Name:	
Job Title:	
Date:	
Signature:	

