

# Heckington Fen Solar Park

EN010123

## Statement of Common Ground with National Grid Electricity Transmission plc

Applicant: Ecotricity (Heck Fen Solar) Limited

Document Reference: 7.6g

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

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February 2024

### Track Changes



**STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND**

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Prepared By	Heckington Fen Energy Park Project Team National Grid Electricity Transmission	
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Rev 1	September 2023	Deadline 1
<a href="#">Rev 2</a>	<a href="#">February 2024</a>	<a href="#">Deadline 5 – Final</a>

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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 Electricity Transmission (“NGET”).

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.~~

Common ground is agreed on all matters.

2. MATTERS TO BE AGREED

Reference and Status	Topic	NGET’s Position	Applicant’s Position
1. <del>Under Discussion</del> <u>Agreed</u>	Effects on and protection of assets and operations including Bicker Fen Substation and overhead lines.	Discussions on the Protective Provisions are concluded <del>but discussions on other commercial terms</del> for the protection of NGET <del>are ongoing but expected to be resolved well within the examination timetable.</del>	Carrying out works in the proximity of NGET’s operational network is covered under the agreed <u>form</u> Protective Provisions included in the <u>final</u> dDCO <u>submitted at Deadline 5</u> , which protect NGET’s operational network. Specifically, part of the Proposed Development (rights in respect of which are granted for the benefit of both NGET and the Applicant) is for new plant and electrical assets at the Bicker Fen Substation in close proximity to NGET’s existing assets. <del>NGET and the Applicant are also discussing commercial terms in respect of the protection of NGET’s assets, which remain ongoing but are expected to be concluded during the course of Examination.</del>
2. Agreed	Connection agreement	Agreed <u>and no further comments.</u>	A connection agreement is in place between Ecotricity Generation Limited (a sibling group of the Applicant (Ecotricity (Heck Fen Solar) Limited)) and National Grid Electricity System Operator. Under the Connection Agreement, National Grid are obliged to provide a connection to the Applicant.
3. Agreed	Drafting of the dDCO including Protective Provisions	<del>Agreed</del> <u>The Protective Provisions included in the dDCO have been agreed between the parties.</u>	<del>Agreed</del> <u>The agreed</u> form Protective Provisions <u>between the parties</u> are included in the dDCO <del>(document reference 3.1, version 3), which</del>

Reference and Status	Topic	NGET’s Position	Applicant’s Position
		<p><u>The side agreement has also been agreed between the parties and is out for signature.</u></p> <p><u>Following legal completion of the side agreement, NGET will withdraw its outstanding objection to the Applicant's project.</u></p>	<p><del>have been negotiated and agreed between NGET and the Applicant.</del> <u>submitted at Deadline 5.</u></p> <p><u>The parties have concluded negotiations on the commercial side agreement required by NGET. The side agreement is now agreed by the parties and out for signature by the Applicant and NGET.</u></p> <p><u>Following legal completion of the side agreement, the Applicant understands that NGET will withdraw its outstanding representations in respect of the Proposed Development and granting of the DCO.</u></p>
<p><u>4. Agreed</u></p>	<p><u>Discharging of Requirements and Phasing</u></p>	<p><u>The parties agree that it is crucial for NGET to have the flexibility and ability to discharge its own phase of works for the NGET substation extension works (Work No. 6B and 6C); Requirement 3 of the DCO (for submission of the phasing plan) is therefore worded as a notification only and needs to remain this way in the final DCO.</u></p>	<p><u>The Applicant agrees with NGET's position and notes that all relevant planning authorities (RPAs) have now agreed to receive a notification only, rather than approval, of the phasing plan under Requirement 3 of the DCO. This position is outlined in the statement of common ground with the RPAs submitted at Deadline 5.</u></p>

**3. SIGNATORIES**

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

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

Name:	Laura White
Job Title:	Senior Development Manager
Date:	
Signature:	

Duly authorised for and on behalf of National Grid Electricity Transmission.

Name:	
Job Title:	
Date:	
Signature:	