



Mallard Pass

Solar Farm

Mallard Pass Solar Farm

Statement of Commonality (Tracked)

Deadline 5 - September 2023

EN010127

EN010127/APP/8.1.4

Glossary

The glossary used for the Statement of Common Ground can be found within the Chapter 0 Glossary of the Environment Statement [APP-030].

1.0 Introduction

Overview

- 1.1 This Statement of Commonality of Statements of Common Ground has been prepared on behalf of Mallard Pass Solar Farm Limited (the 'Applicant'). This document provides the Examining Authority (ExA) with the position on Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) between the Applicant and statutory consultees and Interested Parties in relation to the proposed Mallard Pass Solar Farm. It will be updated throughout the course of the Examination.
- 1.2 The Applicant is seeking development consent for the construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of a solar photovoltaic (PV) array electricity generating facility with a total capacity exceeding 50 megawatts (MW) and export connection to the National Grid.
- 1.3 The Proposed Development falls within the definition of a 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project' (NSIP) under Section 15 of the PA 2008, as the capacity exceeds 50MW and, as such, requires a DCO to proceed.
- 1.4 The PA 2008 prescribes that the SoS is responsible for determining the DCO Applications, with the power to appoint an Examining Authority (ExA) of an appointed person(s) to manage and examine the Application. The ExA, appointed through the Planning Inspectorate, will make procedural decisions and examine the Application. The ExA will make a recommendation to the SoS who will then decide whether to grant a DCO Application. Energy NPSs have an effect on decisions by the SoS on applications for energy developments that are nationally significant under the PA 2008.

Description of Development

- 1.5 The Proposed Development comprises the construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of a solar photovoltaic (PV) array electricity generating facility with a total capacity exceeding 50 megawatts (MW) and export connection to the National Grid.
 - 1.6 The Mallard Pass DCO Project comprises those parts of the Mallard Pass Project which are to be consented to by a DCO, namely:
 - The Solar PV Site - the area within the Order limits that are being proposed for PV Arrays, Solar Stations and the Onsite Substation.
 - Onsite Substation - comprising electrical infrastructure such as the transformers, switchgear and metering equipment required to facilitate the export of electricity
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from the Proposed Development to the National Grid. The Onsite Substation will convert the electricity to 400kV for onward transmission to the Ryhall Substation via the Grid Connection Cables.

- Mitigation and Enhancement Areas - the area within the Order limits that are being proposed for mitigation and enhancement.
- Highway Works Site - the areas that are being proposed for improvement works to facilitate access to the Solar PV Site
- Grid Connection Corridor - the proposed corridor for the Grid Connection Cables between the Onsite Substation and the National Grid Ryhall Substation.

Structure of the Statement of Commonality

1.7 This Statement of Commonality document is structured as follows:

- Section 2 details the structure of each SoCG document and provides a list of the SoCGs that are being produced;
 - Section 3 addresses the status of each SoCG; and
 - Section 4 sets out the commonality between SoCGs and a summary of their position.
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2.0 Position

Structure of SoCGs

2.1 Each SoCG adopts a standard format to ensure consistency in the approach taken to documenting matters agreed, matters subject to an ongoing discussion, or matters not agreed upon.

2.2 Each of the SoCGs are structured in the following way:

- Section 1 provides an introduction to the SoCG, including a description of the document and the relevant party;
- Section 2 provides a summary of engagement between the Applicant and the relevant party so far; and
- Section 3 provides a schedule of matters raised by the relevant party and the Applicant's responses to these.

2.3 It is noted that not all matters may be covered in the existing drafts. The drafts represent a point in time and further matters may be raised as engagement continues with the relevant stakeholders. These will be presented in future drafts.

List of SoCGs

2.4 The Rule 6 letter identified a number of statutory consultees and interested parties with which SoCGs were to be prepared. Accordingly, SoCGs are being prepared with the following stakeholders:

- Lincolnshire County Council
 - Rutland County Council
 - South Kesteven District Council
 - Environment Agency
 - Historic England
 - Natural England
 - Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust
 - Anglian Water
 - Mallard Pass Action Group
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2.5 The Rule 8 letter (23rd May 2023) discusses at Annex B, that Annex F of the Rule 6 Letter (13th April 2023) identifies the matters to be discussed with these parties. Each SoCG corresponds to these topics where identified to be relevant.

2.6 In addition to the above statutory consultees listed by the Examining Authority in the Rule 6 letter a SoCG has been prepared and agreed with National Highways and was submitted to the ExA at Procedural Deadline A.

Statutory Undertakers

2.7 Further to the Rule 8 Letter, the Applicant has taken the following approach with the statutory undertakers referred to.

2.8 Protective provisions have been agreed between the Applicant and:

- (i) Anglian Water;
- (ii) Cadent Gas;
- (iii) National Grid Electricity Transmission;
- (iv) National Gas Transmission; National Grid Electricity Distribution;
and
- (v) Network Rail Infrastructure Limited.

2.9 With the protective provisions having been agreed ~~and objections either having been, or shortly expected to be withdrawn~~, the Applicant does not consider an SoCG to be required for these parties save for Anglian Water, where a SoCG has been progressed and finalised.

2.10 The position on the objections for each party is as follows:

- [Anglian Water withdrew their objection to the Proposed Development following agreement of the protective provisions on 12 June 2023;](#)
- [Cadent Gas withdrew their objection to the Proposed Development following agreement of the protective provisions and completion of the side agreement on 10 July 2023;](#)
- [National Grid Electricity Transmission and National Gas Transmission withdrew their objection to the Proposed Development following agreement of the protective provisions on 7 June 2023;](#)

- National Grid Electricity Distribution withdrew their objection to the Proposed Development following agreement of the protective provisions and completion of the side agreement on 24 August 2023;
- The protective provisions with the Environment Agency are now agreed, subject to confirmation of the final plan to be referenced within the protective provisions. Once this is confirmed following the site visit, the protective provisions will be in agreed form and the Environment Agency will withdraw their objection to the Proposed Development. Withdrawal of the EA's objection is anticipated by Deadline 6;
- The protective provisions and Framework Agreement with Network Rail have been agreed on 20 August 2023 and is in the process of being signed and completed. Completion of the agreement is anticipated imminently and the withdrawal of NR's objection is anticipated prior to the end of the Examination.

2.92.11 The latest position on discussions with Network Rail in relation to land and engineering matters is set out in other Deadline 54 submissions and it is considered that a SoCG is not otherwise needed.

2.12 Whilst a SoCG is being progressed with the Environment Agency, the Applicant notes that it is in active discussions with the Environment Agency in respect of protective provisions with further emails exchanged—between Deadline 43 and Deadline 54. However, it can be confirmed that the wording of the protective provisions have been agreed between both parties, including the easement to protect the Gwash to Glen Pipeline, confirmation is just awaited that the plan that is agreed that is to be referred to by the Protective Provisions.

~~2.10 — The Applicant anticipates the protective provisions will be agreed before the end of the Examination — the Applicant is awaiting to receive suggested drafting on the additional provisions to deal with the Proposed Development's interaction with the Gwash Glen Pipeline from the EA for consideration.~~

3.0 Status of SoCGs

Summary of Current Position

3.1 This section confirms the current status of each SoCG as of Deadline ~~4~~5 of the Examination on ~~25 July 2023~~ 05 September 2023.

3.2 Table 3.1 provides a high-level position on the status of each SoCG and where necessary includes further detail to aid the understanding of the status.

3.3 The terms used in Table 3.1 (below) are as follows:

- Final SoCG - the final SoCG has been agreed upon by both parties, with no outstanding matters to resolve.
- Draft SoCG - the SoCG has mainly been agreed upon between both parties, but there are a number of issues still outstanding, and it is yet to be signed off. The final column indicates if updated Drafts of the SoCGs submitted at Deadline 5 to reflect later discussions. Where updated Drafts are not submitted, at Deadline 5, the previously submitted SoCG still stands. The Draft SoCGs submitted at Deadline 2 still reflect the current position with these parties at Deadline 3.
- ~~Not yet submitted – the Applicant is progressing these SoCGs with the intent to submit drafts at subsequent deadlines.~~

Table 3.1 – Current Status of SoCGs

Document Ref.	Relevant Party	Position at Deadline <u>5</u> 4	<u>Submitted at Deadline 5</u> <u>Yes/No</u>
8.2	Environment Agency	Draft SoCG	<u>Yes</u>
8.3	National Highways	Final SoCG	<u>No</u>
8.4	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust	Final SoCG	<u>No</u>
8.5	Historic England	Draft SoCG	<u>No</u>
8.6	Natural England	Draft SoCG	<u>Yes</u>
8.7	Anglian Water	Final SoCG. It is also understood that	<u>No</u>

		Anglian Water will be shortly withdrawing their representations in relation to the Proposed Development.	
8.8	Lincolnshire County Council	Draft SoCG	<u>Yes</u>
8.10	Rutland County Council	Draft SoCG	<u>Yes</u>
8.9	South Kesteven District Council	Draft SoCG	<u>Yes</u>
8.11	Mallard Pass Action Group	Draft SoCG	<u>No</u>

Commonality

Summary

4.1 This section provides a summary of the main topics covered by the draft SoCGs submitted ~~at this deadline (Deadline 54)~~ and identifies where there is a commonality in the topics between the SoCG parties.

4.2 Table 4.1 has been produced to set out the topics covered across the SoCGs and the status of the matter at this deadline with the relevant party. The Colour coding used within this table has been described further below.

Cell	Status
	Agreed
	Subject to further discussions
	Currently subject to disagreement
	Not applicable

4.3 The colours of each cell correspond to the status table in each individual SoCG.

4.4 This is with the exception of Mallard Pass Action Group, whose SoCG takes a different format from others and so is not included in the table below.

Table 4.1 – Summary of commonality with relevant stakeholders

DOC REF.	PARTY	TOPICS																					
		Need / Site Selection	Mitigation + Enhancement	Climate Change	Cultural Heritage	Biodiversity Net Gain	Land Use + Agriculture	Air Quality	Construction Traffic	Noise	Landscape and Visual	Highways and Transport	Water Resources	Flood Risk	Public Rights of Way / Access	Decommissioning	Land Interest/ CA	Draft DCO/Requirements	Impact on existing apparatus/infrastructure	Land contamination	Ecology and biodiversity	Archaeology	Socio-Economic Impacts
8.8	Lincolnshire County Council	Green	Grey	Green	Grey	Grey	Yellow	Green	Grey	Green	Red	Yellow	Green	Grey	Red	Grey	Grey	Yellow	Grey	Grey	Green	Red	Grey
8.10	Rutland County Council	Yellow	Grey	Green	Grey	Grey	Yellow	Grey	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Grey	Yellow	Grey	Grey	Grey	Yellow	Grey	Grey	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
8.9	South Kesteven	Yellow	Grey	Green	Grey	Grey	Yellow	Grey	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Grey	Yellow	Grey	Grey	Grey	Yellow	Grey	Grey	Green	Green	Yellow

