

# Cottam Solar Project

## Statement of Common Ground with Scunthorpe & Gainsborough Water Management Board

Prepared by: Mabbett

February 2024

PINS Ref: EN010133

Document reference: EX5/C8.3.15\_A

Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

Revision A



## Contents

<b><u>1</u></b>	<b><u>INTRODUCTION</u></b>	<b><u>3</u></b>
	PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT	3
	PARTIES TO THIS STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND	3
	TERMINOLOGY	3
<b><u>2</u></b>	<b><u>RECORD OF ENGAGEMENT</u></b>	<b><u>1</u></b>
	SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION	1
<b><u>3</u></b>	<b><u>ISSUES</u></b>	<b><u>5</u></b>
	MATTERS AGREED	5
	MATTERS UNDER DISCUSSION	9
	MATTERS NOT AGREED	10
<b><u>4</u></b>	<b><u>SIGNATORIES</u></b>	<b><u>11</u></b>
	OVERVIEW	11

## Issue Sheet

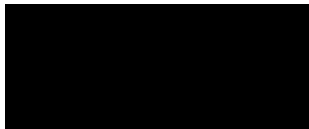
Report Prepared for: Cottam Solar Project Ltd.  
DCO Submission

### Statement of Common Ground Scunthorpe & Gainsborough Water Management Board

**Prepared by:**

Name: Lucy Antell

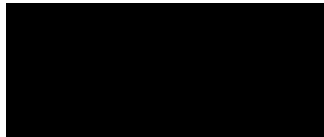
Title: Consultant | Water Environment Team



**Approved by:**

Name: Josh Rigby,

Title: Manager | Water Environment Team



---

Original Date: January 2024

Revision	Date	Prepared by	Approved
Rev A	February 2024	LA	JR

## **1 Introduction**

### **Purpose of this document**

- 1.1.1 This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared as part of the proposed Cottam Solar Project Development Consent Order (the Application) made by Cottam Solar Project Ltd (the Applicant) to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (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 on the Planning Inspectorate website.
- 1.1.3 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 DCO consenting process of allowing all parties to identify and focus on specific issues that may need to be addressed during the examination.

### **Parties to this Statement of Common Ground**

- 1.1.4 This SoCG has been prepared by (1) Cottam Solar Project Ltd as the Applicant and (2) Scunthorpe & Gainsborough Water Management Board.
- 1.1.5 Collectively, Cottam Solar Project Ltd and Scunthorpe & Gainsborough Water Management Board are referred to as 'the parties'.

### **Terminology**

- 1.1.6 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 ongoing discussion wherever possible to resolve, or refine, the extent of disagreement between the parties.

## 2 Record of Engagement

### Summary of consultation

2.1.1 The parties have been engaged in consultation since October 2021, just prior to the non-statutory consultation stage of the project which took place during November-December 2021. A summary of the meetings and correspondence that have taken place between Cottam Solar Project and Scunthorpe & Gainsborough Water Management Board in relation to the Application is outlined in **Table 2-1**. The IDB’s interest in the Scheme relates only to the Cottam 1 site and not the Scheme as a whole.

**Table 2.1 - Record of Engagement**

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key topics discussed and key outcomes
July 2023	Section 42 Consultation response from Scunthorpe & Gainsborough Water Management Board	None provided
July 2023	Relevant Representation - UWIDB-07 from Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board	Consultation with other IDBs “Only Cottam 1 is within the area relevant to Upper Witham IDB. For Cottam 2 and Cottam 3A/3B Scunthorpe & Gainsborough IDB should be consulted.” Consultation with Scunthorpe & Gainsborough sought.

July 2023	Relevant Representation from	None provided
December 2023	Meeting – Scunthorpe & Gainsborough Water Management Board Engineer to the Board - Lead Water Level Management Engineer	<p>Draft Development Consent Order [APP-016], Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy [APP-090] and Hydrology Chapter [APP-045].</p> <p>Comments raised:</p> <p>In agreement that the embedded mitigations included within the Hydrology Chapter [APP-045] and the provisions for IDB’s within the Draft Development Consent Order [APP-016] are sufficient.</p> <p>Additional commentary needs to be added with regards to max discharge rates from dewatering activities during the construction stage.</p> <p>Scunthorpe &amp; Gainsborough Water Management Board need to be added to the definition of “the Board” in Schedule 16 part 8.</p>

2.1.2 It is agreed that this is an accurate record of the key meetings and consultation undertaken between (1) Cottam Solar Project Ltd and (2) Scunthorpe & Gainsborough Water Management Board in relation to the issues addressed in this SoCG.

### 3 Issues

#### Matters Agreed

3.1.1 **Table 3.1** below details the matters agreed with the Scunthorpe & Gainsborough Water Management Board.

**Table 3.1: Matters Agreed**

Main Topic Ref	Sub-topic	Stakeholder Comments	Applicant Response
<p><u>Hydrology</u></p> <p><u>HY-01</u></p>	<p>Maintenance Access Strip and Embedded Mitigation</p>	<p><i>From Relevant Representations – RR-045</i></p> <p><i>Fencing, planting and solar panels are shown on the submitted documents within the maintenance access strip adjacent to a number of Board maintained watercourses preventing or obstructing access. All fencing, planting and solar panels need to be relocated 9m from the top of the bank as agreed following the initial consultation with the Board Environmental Statement Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage Table 10.1: Consultation.</i></p> <p><i>10.7 Embedded Mitigation. This states ‘8m easements have been established around all watercourses, including Main Rivers and Ordinary Watercourses and 9m from IDB assets’. However, the submitted plans show encroachment of fencing/planting/solar panels within the 9m distance to IDB watercourses which is unacceptable. Note the 9m is ‘from the top of the bank’ it is required to allow access for large plant to undertake maintenance.</i></p>	<p>The Applicant has discussed this matter with the IDB and both parties are in agreement that the scale of the project makes it impossible to provide the full details of the scheme at this stage. The Upper Witham IDB and S&amp;GWMB requirement of a 9m (from the bank top) clear strip adjacent to all the maintained watercourses is not fully defined on the current drawings. However, the Applicant can confirm that distances between IDB drains and proposed development/landscape mitigation will all be offset at a distance of at least 9m. Detailed drawings showing the required offsets will be provided to the IDB at the detailed design stage post DCO consent.</p> <p>Protective provisions for the benefit of the IDB are included in part 8 to Schedule 16 of the draft DCO [AS-012] which require that the IDB be consulted and approve any “specified</p>

			works" within 9m of any of the IDB's drains/watercourses.  Please also see the response to HY-03 below.
<u>Hydrology</u> <u>HY-02</u>	Identification of Watercourses	<p><i>"Figure 8.16.2: IDB watercourses not clearly identified."</i></p> <p>S&amp;GWMB have identified assets which may be impacted by the proposed scheme.</p> <p><b><u>S&amp;GWMB maintained watercourses</u></b></p> <p><b><i>Work Plan 2 (P2981_LPR_ZZ_ON_DR_Z_0064)</i></b></p> <p>Work Package 6A may impact on the 9m easement on both sides of Aisby Beck</p> <p><b><i>Work Plan 3 (P2981_LPR_ZZ_ON_DR_Z_0064)</i></b></p> <p><i>Work Package 1B may impact on the 9m easement on Corringham Beck, Yawthorpe Beck and River Eau ordinary watercourse (upstream of main river).</i></p>	<p>These IDB watercourses and drains have been considered throughout the layouts with a 9m offset as has been possible and as shown on <b>Landscape and Ecology Mitigation and Enhancement Plans (Figures 8.16.1 to 8.16.10) [APP-305 to APP-315]</b>. The Applicant has discussed this matter with the IDB and both parties are in agreement that the scale of the Scheme makes it impossible to provide the full information regarding detailed design at this stage.</p> <p>The Applicant notes that the drawings are based on the currently available data and mapping and in some cases the 'top of bank' is not defined. It notes that further survey work will be required to establish the 'top of bank' which will in turn give the 9m offset and required clear working access. The IDB can provide a shape file to confirm the locations during the detailed design stage post DCO consent.</p> <p>The Applicant will then provide a specific plan to the IDB at the detailed design stage (post DCO consent) to give clear details of all 9m</p>



			offsets to the IDB's maintained watercourses and drains.
<p><u>Hydrology</u> <u>HY-03</u></p>	<p>Provision of Works</p>	<p><i>Provision of any culverts, outfalls and other works within all watercourses (apart from Environment Agency main river.)</i></p> <p><i>Within the Upper Witham IDB &amp; S&amp;GWMB districts under the terms of the Land Drainage Act. 1991 the prior written consent of the Board is required for any proposed temporary or permanent works or structures within any watercourse including infilling or a diversion.</i></p> <p><i>Within the extended area of Upper Witham IDB &amp; S&amp;GWMB under the provisions of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, and the Land Drainage Act. 1991, the prior written consent of the Lead Local Flood Authority (Lincolnshire County Council) is required for any proposed works or structures in any watercourse outside those designated main rivers and Internal Drainage Districts. At this location this Board acts as Agents for the Lead Local Flood Authority and as such any works, permanent or temporary, in any ditch, dyke or other such watercourse will require consent from the Board.</i></p> <p><b><u>S&amp;GWMB maintained watercourses</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Work Plan 2 (P2981_LPR_ZZ_ON_DR_Z_0064)</u></b></p> <p>Work Package 6A may require a new culvert / bridge crossing or alteration to existing across Aisby Beck</p> <p>Work Package 6A may require a cable crossing beneath Aisby Beck</p>	<p>The IDB have asked for this item to be included within the Statement of Common Ground. The Applicant notes the requirements and will ensure that the project adheres to these as and when required. Protective provisions for the benefit of the IDB are included in part 8 to Schedule 16 of the draft DCO [AS-012] which require that the IDB be consulted and approve any "specified works" within 9m of any of the IDB's drains/watercourses or within the watercourse.</p> <p>S&amp;GWMB require any new or altered culvert / bridge crossing structure to be assessed using CIRIA C786 to demonstrate no obstruction to flow and no increase in water levels during a 1in10 year and 1in100 year rainfall event on the catchment.</p> <p>S&amp;GWMB require cable crossings beneath watercourse to be a minimum of 1m below the hard bed of a watercourse using directional drilling methods on WMB maintained watercourses.</p> <p>S&amp;GWMB require any new or altered discharge rates to be restricted to 1.4 litres per second</p>

		<b>Work Plan 3 (P2981_LPR_ZZ_ON_DR_Z_0064)</b> <i>The Proposed 'Drain' in between Work Packages 1B may require consent to discharge into Corringham Beck</i>	per hectare or no greater than greenfield runoff.
--	--	---	---



### Matters Under Discussion

3.1.2 None



### Matters Not Agreed

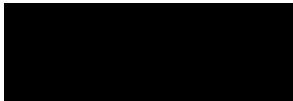
3.1.3 None

## 4 Signatories

### Overview

4.1.1 The above SoCG is agreed between Cottam Solar Project Ltd. (the Applicant) and **Scunthorpe & Gainsborough Water Management Board**, as specified below.

Duly authorised for and on behalf of **Cottam Solar Project Ltd.**

Name:	Eve Browning
Job Title:	Senior Project Development Manager
Date:	16/02/24
Signature:	

Duly authorised for and on behalf of **Scunthorpe & Gainsborough Water Management Board.**

Name:	Paul Jones
Job Title:	Engineer to the Board
Date:	15.02.24
Signature:	