

Cottam Solar Project

Statement of Commonality Revision D

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Issue Sheet

Report Prepared for: Cottam Solar Project Ltd.

Statement of Commonality

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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this Document

1.1.1 This document has been prepared to provide the Examining Authority (ExA) with the position on Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) between Cottam Solar Project Ltd. (the 'Applicant') and statutory consultees, statutory undertakers and other Interested Parties (the 'parties') in relation to the proposed Cottam Solar Project (the 'Scheme').

1.1.2 This document provides a final position on the commonality on specific points reached between the Applicant and other parties in discussions relating to SoCGs at Deadline 5 (being 27 February 2024).

1.2 Structure of this Document

1.2.1 This Statement of Commonality is structured as follows:

- Section 2 details the structure of each SoCG document. **Table 2.1** provides a full list of SoCGs produced and offers an overview of the status of each SoCG;
- Section 3 sets out the commonality between SoCGs; and
- Section 4 provides a narrative on specific topic areas for each SoCG.

2 Statements of Common Ground

2.1 Structure of SoCGs

2.1.1 Each SoCG has sought to adopt a standard format to ensure consistency in the approach taken to documenting those matters agreed, matters subject to ongoing discussion or matters not agreed, other than where an individual party has expressed a preference for an alternative format.

2.1.2 Each SoCG is structured as follows:

- Section 1 provides an introduction to the SoCG, identifies the relevant parties and describes the purpose of the document;
- Section 2 summarises the parties' engagement undertaken to date; and
- Section 3 details those matters agreed, those matters under discussion and those matters which have not been agreed.

Table 2.1: List of and Status of SoCGs

Doc. Ref.	Party	Deadline 1	Deadline 2	Deadline 3	Deadline 4	Deadline 5	Deadline 6
EX1/C8.3.1	Nottinghamshire County Council & Bassetlaw District Council	Draft Submitted to Party No comments have yet been received. Discussions Ongoing.	Meeting held 14/11 and Rev A SoCG submitted.	No further update	No further update	Submitted. Final signed SoCG	
EX1/C8.3.2	Lincolnshire County Council	Draft Submitted to Party. Comments have been received on Cultural Heritage only. Discussions Ongoing.	No further update	Updated draft submitted to set out actions agreed at meeting held 14/12 in relation to the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI).	Updated draft submitted to set out updated position on areas of agreement and those still under discussion.	Submitted. Agreed version submitted. Signed version to follow at Deadline 6.	
EX1/C8.3.3	West Lindsey District Council	Draft Submitted to Party. No comments have yet been received. Discussions Ongoing.	No further update	Updated draft submitted to include Council's suggested text on consideration of cumulative sites.	No further update submitted but Council have provided comments and queries to Applicant on the SoCG	Submitted. Final signed SoCG	
EX1/C8.3.4	Historic England	Draft Submitted to Party. Comments have been received. Discussions Ongoing.	No further update	No further update	No further update	Submitted. Final signed SoCG	
EX1/C8.3.5	National Highways	Submitted. Final signed SoCG with all matters agreed.					
EX1/C8.3.6	UK Health Security Agency	Submitted. Final signed SoCG with all matters agreed.					
EX1/C8.3.7	Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board	Submitted. Final signed SoCG with all matters agreed.		Seeking agreement to the wording of Article 6(1)(h) of the draft DCO (application and modification of statutory provisions) [EX3/C3.1_E]	The IDB have confirmed agreement to the wording of Article 6(1)(h) of the draft DCO (application and modification of statutory provisions) [EX4/C3.1_F].		
EX1/C8.3.8	The Environment Agency	Draft Submitted to Party. Comments have been received. Discussions Ongoing.	EA confirmed all matters agreed except EMF still under discussion.	An EMF Risk Assessment has been submitted at Deadline 3.	No update for this deadline. EMF matter is under discussion.	Submitted. Final signed SoCG with all matters agreed.	
EX1/C8.3.9	Network Rail	Draft Submitted to Party. No comments have been received to date.	Draft submitted to Network Rail's solicitors for comment. No further update	No further update	Updated draft submitted to set out updated position on areas of agreement and those still under discussion.	Submitted. SoCG agreed; signed version to follow at Deadline 6.	

EX1/C8.3.10	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust	Submitted. Final signed SoCG with all matters agreed.					
EX1/C8.3.11	Natural England	Draft Submitted. Comments received. Discussions Ongoing.	Discussions ongoing. Rev A version submitted. Now with NE for signing.	Signed Rev B version submitted.			
EX1/C8.3.12	Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust	Submitted. Final signed SoCG with all matters agreed.					
EX1/C8.3.13	Gate Burton Energy Park, Tillbridge Solar Project and West Burton Solar Project	Draft Submitted. Discussions Ongoing.	Signed Rev A version submitted				
EX1/C8.3.14	Anglian Water	Draft Submitted. Comments have been received. Discussions Ongoing	Signed Rev A version submitted				
EX4/C8.3.15	Scunthorpe and Gainsborough Water Management Board				Draft version submitted	Final signed SoCG with all matters agreed.	

3 Commonality

3.1.1 This section of the Statement provides an overview of the topics covered in the SoCGs. **Table 3.1** presents, at a high level, where there is commonality in the topics discussed between the Applicant and the parties, , or where matters discussed have reached a final position of 'Not Agreed'.

3.1.2 Where a topic is not relevant to a particular party, the cell has been greyed out. Where the topic is relevant to the party, the status is shown as follows:

Figure 3.1: Summary of Commonality Key

Cell	Status
	Matter agreed
	Matter subject to ongoing discussion
	Matter not agreed
	Matter not relevant to parties

3.1.3 The colour of each cell corresponds to the status figure (as above) in each individual SoCG.

3.1.4 Following the Summary of Commonality in **Table 3.1**, **Section 3.2** outlines the principal outstanding matters upon which the Applicant and the parties have not reached an agreement..

Table 3.1: Summary of commonality with parties

SoCG Party	Topic																		
	Principle of Development/ General	Alternatives and Design Evolution	Climate Change	Landscape and Visual Impact	Ecology and Biodiversity	Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage	Ground Conditions and Contamination	Minerals	Cultural Heritage	Transport and Access	Noise and Vibration	Glint and Glare	Air Quality	Socio-Economics, Tourism and Recreation	Soils and Agriculture	Waste	Other Environmental Matters	Draft Development Consent Order	
Nottinghamshire County Council & Bassetlaw District Council									Part Agreed										
Lincolnshire County Council	Part agreed			Part agreed					Part agreed						Part agreed	Part agreed			
West Lindsey District Council	Part agreed	Not agreed		Part agreed					Part agreed	Part agreed	Part agreed			Part agreed	Part agreed				Part agreed
Historic England									Part agreed										
National Highways																			
UK Health Security Agency																			
Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board																			
The Environment Agency																			
Network Rail	Part agreed																		Part agreed
Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust																			
Natural England																			
Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust																			
Gate Burton Energy Park, Tillbridge Solar Project and West Burton Solar Project																			
Anglian Water																			

Scunthorpe and Gainsborough Water Management Board																			
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4 Positions at Deadline 5

4.1.1 This section provides a summary of the position reached across all SoCGs submitted to Deadline 5.

4.2 Nottinghamshire County Council & Bassetlaw District Council

4.2.1 A final signed SoCG [EX5/C8.3.1_B] is submitted for Deadline 5 with all matters agreed apart from some cultural heritage matters as detailed within the Cultural Heritage Position Statement submitted as Appendix A to the SoCG with Lincolnshire County Council [EX5/C8.3.2_D]. Nottinghamshire County Council and Bassetlaw District Council share the same view on heritage matters as Lincolnshire County Council.

4.3 Lincolnshire County Council

4.3.1 An agreed SoCG [EX5/C8.3.2_D] is submitted for Deadline 5 but has not yet been signed by the parties. The signed version will be submitted at Deadline 6. The SoCG includes agreement on all matters except some matters relating to the principle of development, landscape and visual, cultural heritage, soils and agriculture and waste. These matters have been agreed in part with the Council as detailed within the SoCG and accompanying Cultural Heritage and Landscape and Visual Position Statement appendices to the SoCG.

4.4 West Lindsey District Council

4.4.1 A final signed SoCG [EX5/C8.3.3_B] is submitted for Deadline 5. Agreement has been reached with the Council on climate change, ecology and biodiversity, glint and glare, air quality and other environmental matters. Agreement in part has been reached on all other matters except alternatives and design evolution. The position of the Council and the Applicant on these outstanding matters is set out within the SoCG.

4.5 National Highways

4.5.1 All matters were agreed between the parties within a signed version of the SoCG for Deadline 1 [REP-066].

4.6 UK Health Security Agency

4.6.1 All matters were agreed between the Parties within a signed version of the SoCG by Deadline 1 [REP-067].

4.7 Upper Witham Internal Drainage Board

4.7.1 All matters were agreed between the Parties within a signed version of the SoCG by Deadline 1. At Deadline 4, written confirmation from the IDB that it has provided consent under section 150 of the Planning Act 2008 to the disapplication of the legislative provisions set out in Article 6 of the DCO was appended to the signed version of the SoCG [REP4-062].

4.8 The Environment Agency

4.8.1 The Parties have agreed all matters within a signed version of the SoCG submitted at Deadline 5 [EX5/C8.3.8_A].

4.9 Network Rail

4.9.1 A final agreed version of the SoCG [EX5/C8.3.9_B] is submitted at Deadline 5 following discussions between the Applicant and Network Rail, however this has not yet been signed by the parties. The signed version will be submitted at Deadline 6.

4.10 Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust

4.10.1 All matters were agreed between the Parties within a signed version of the SoCG by Deadline 1 [REP-071].

4.11 Natural England

4.11.1 All matters were agreed between the parties within a signed version of the SoCG by Deadline 3 [REP3-046].]

4.12 Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust

4.12.1 All matters were agreed between the parties within a signed version of the SoCG by Deadline 1 [REP-073].

4.13 Gate Burton Energy Park, Tillbridge Solar Project and West Burton Solar Project

4.13.1 All matters were agreed between the parties within a signed version of the SoCG by Deadline 2 [REP2-066]. Nevertheless, the parties have continued discussions and continue to work together on the Joint Report on Interrelationships (JIR), an update of which is submitted for Deadline 5. [EX5/C8.1.8_D]. This is anticipated to be the final version of the JIR to be submitted by Cottam Solar Project although it will continue to be updated and submitted into the ongoing West Burton examination and forthcoming Tillbridge examination in due course and the Applicant will continue to engage with the other developers in those updates as necessary.

4.14 Anglian Water

4.14.1 All matters were agreed between the parties within a signed version of the SoCG by Deadline 2 [REP2-068].

4.15 Historic England

4.15.1 The areas of agreement and disagreement between the parties were set out at Deadline 1 and this position has not changed during the course of further discussions. A final signed version of the SoCG has been provided for Deadline 5 which clarifies the areas of disagreement between the parties [EX5/C8.3.4_A].

4.16 Scunthorpe and Gainsborough Water Management Board

4.16.1 A signed version of the SoCG with all matters agreed between the Applicant and the Scunthorpe and Gainsborough Water Management Board is submitted for Deadline 5 [EX5/C8.3.15_A].