
EAST YORKSHIRE SOLAR FARM

**East Yorkshire Solar Farm
EN010143**

**DRAFT Statement of Common Ground between East Yorkshire
Solar Farm Limited and Northern Powergrid (Yorkshire) Plc
Document Reference: EN010143/APP/8.15**

The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

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Statement of Common Ground

Signatures FINAL VERSION TO BE SIGNED

This Statement of Common Ground has been prepared and agreed by East Yorkshire Solar Farm Limited and Northern Powergrid.

Helen Standing, NSIP Development Manager on behalf of East Yorkshire Solar Farm Limited

Date:.....

Signed:.....

Name, Position, on behalf of Northern Powergrid.

Date:.....

Signed:.....

1. Introduction and Purpose

1.1 Purpose of this Statement of Common Ground

- 1.1.1 This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared to support an application (the Application) made to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero for a Development Consent Order (DCO) under section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 for the proposed East Yorkshire Solar Farm (the Scheme). The Application has been submitted by East Yorkshire Solar Farm Limited (the Applicant).
- 1.1.2 This SoCG has been prepared between (1) the Applicant and (2) Northern Powergrid (Yorkshire) Plc (NP) (jointly referred to as the Parties).
- 1.1.3 NP is a statutory undertaker responsible for maintaining and operating electricity and gas transmission networks across the UK. NP is listed as a prescribed consultee in Schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 and so has been consulted throughout the preparation of the Application.
- 1.1.4 The Examining Authority requested the SoCG include the following matters as set out in the Rule 6 Letter **[PD-002]**:
- a. Effect on existing apparatus;
 - b. Connection matters;
 - c. Compulsory Acquisition affecting Northern Powergrid land and assets; and
 - d. Protective Provisions.
- 1.1.5 It can be taken that any matters not specifically referred to in sections 2 and 3 of this SoCG are not of material interest or relevance to NP's representations and therefore have not been considered in this document.
- 1.1.6 This SoCG has been produced to confirm to the Examining Authority where agreement has been reached between the Parties, where agreement has not been reached (and that is the parties' final position) and where discussions are still ongoing. This SoCG will be revised and updated as discussions between the Parties progress during the Examination.

1.2 Description of the Scheme

- 1.2.1 The Scheme comprises the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of a solar photovoltaic electricity generating facility with a total capacity exceeding 50 megawatts and export connection to the national grid, at National Grid's Drax Substation. A detailed description of the Scheme is included in Chapter 2: The Scheme, Environmental Statement Volume 1 which was submitted with the DCO Application **[APP-054]** and a description of the development to be authorised is set out in Schedule 1 of the draft DCO **[AS-008]**.

1.3 Format of Document and Terminology

- 1.3.1 Section 2 of this SoCG summarises the engagement the Parties have had with regard to the Scheme.

1.3.2 Section 3 of this SoCG summarises the issues that are ‘agreed’, ‘not agreed’ or are ‘under discussion’. ‘Not agreed’ indicates a final position where the Parties have agreed to disagree, whilst ‘Agreed’ indicates where the issue has been resolved. The Parties have also indicated the likelihood that agreement will be reached on each item.

1.3.3 Abbreviations used within the SoCG are provided in Table 1-1 below.

Table 1-1 Abbreviations

Abbreviation/Term	Definition
DCO	Development Consent Order
NP	Northern Powergrid

2. Record of Engagement

2.1 Record of Engagement

2.1.1 The tables below set out a summary of the meetings and correspondence between the Parties in relation to the Scheme.

Table 2-1 Schedule of Meetings and Correspondence during the Pre-application Stage

Date	Form of correspondence and attendees	Summary of topics discussed and outcomes
3 May 2023	Letter	Letter from the Applicant to NP informing them of the S42 Statutory Consultation period.
9 May 2023	Email	Email from the Applicant to NP informing them of the S42 Statutory Consultation period.
31 August 2023	Letter	Letter from the Applicant to NP informing them of the Targeted Consultation period.
1 September 2023	Email	Email from the Applicant to NP informing them of the Targeted Consultation period.
26 January 2024	Email	Email from the Applicant NP informing them of the Relevant Representation period.
24 January 2024	Letter	Letter from the Applicant NP informing them of the Relevant Representation period.
08 March 2024	Relevant Representation	Relevant Representation response from regarding the protection of NP's assets.
May 2024	Email	Ongoing communication between the Applicant's solicitors and NP's solicitors regarding a bespoke set of protective provisions for NP's benefit.

3. Areas of Discussion between the Parties

3.1 Effects on Existing Apparatus and Protective Provisions

Table 3-1 Effects on Existing Apparatus and Protective Provisions

Ref	Relevant Application document	Summary of description of Matter	NP Current Position	Applicant's Current Position	Status
3.1.1	Section 42 Response	Protected Provisions	NP state that as a statutory utility company they must at all times protect their assets to ensure their obligations to maintain electrical supplies are not compromised.	The Applicant agrees with this position.	Agreed.
3.1.2	Section 42 Response	Compulsory Acquisition.	NP's primary duties are to operate, maintain and develop its network in an efficient way and NP would ask BOOM Power to consider any additional land take at an early stage should relocation or diversion of NP's assets be a possibility. Such land will need to be both sourced, funded and secured by BOOM Power.	The Applicant agrees with this position. The Book of Reference [AS-012] describes the Order land, and identifies the interests potentially affected by the Order following diligent inquiry by the Applicant.	Agreed.
3.1.3	Section 42 Response	Replacement equipment.	Work to NP's infrastructure must be completed by NP or one of NP's appointed contractors.	The Applicant notes this comment. Works to NP assets are not proposed or required as part of the	Under Discussion.

				<p>Scheme. Schedule 14 of the draft DCO [AS-008] sets out the Protective Provisions for utility undertakers, and sets out that the Applicant must afford to the utility undertaker the necessary facilities and rights for works to NP’s infrastructure if they were to occur. Negotiations are also underway between the Applicant and NP regarding a bespoke set of protective provisions for NP’s benefit.</p>	
3.1.4	Relevant Representation	Protective Provisions.	<p>The project has a direct impact on NP’s existing critical national infrastructure which serves significant numbers of customers in the local and wider area. NP’s rights for these assets are essential in maintaining an uninterrupted power supply to the customers they serve. The proposed development seeks to interfere with NP’s existing apparatus. NP therefore reserves the right to review the position as the scheme progresses and protect</p>	<p>The Applicant is in discussions with NP regarding a bespoke form of protective provisions noting that the assets are currently protected under Part 1 of Schedule 14 of the draft DCO [AS-008]. The Applicant understands that these protective provisions, when agreed and completed, will allow NP to withdraw its representation. The Applicant is confident that</p>	Under Discussion.

its existing apparatus including with bespoke protective provisions in the Order. The accompanying Compulsory Purchase Order for the development seeks to acquire land and interests which, if acquired, would adversely affect NP's ability to use, access, maintain and where necessary upgrade its equipment. In addition to the technical impacts of the proposed development, NP has concerns over the proposed protective provisions contained within the draft Order as they do not take into account site specific issues and do not accord with NP's standard protective provision requirements.

agreement will be reached with NP at an early stage of the Examination to address its concerns.

3.1.5	Connection Sought	No comment from NP on connection matters.	The Scheme does not propose any connection to the NP network.	Under Discussion.
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