

Springwell Solar Farm

Draft Statement of Common Ground –
Anglian Water Services Limited

1. Introduction

1.1. Overview

- 1.1.1 This Statement of Common Ground ('SoCG') has been prepared in respect of the application for the proposed Springwell Solar Farm Development Consent Order ('the Application') made by Springwell Energyfarm Ltd ('the Applicant') to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero under section 37 of the Planning Act 2008¹ ('the 2008 Act').
- 1.1.2 Springwell Solar Farm ("Springwell") is a proposed new solar farm and battery storage facility located in North Kesteven, Lincolnshire. The proposals also include infrastructure to connect Springwell to the National Grid, as well as any necessary supporting site infrastructure and environmental mitigation, including landscaping and ecological planting ("the Proposed Development").
- 1.1.3 The SoCG is being submitted to the Examining Authority as an agreed draft between both parties. It will be amended as the examination progresses in order to enable a final version to be submitted to the Examining Authority.

1.2 Parties to this Statement of Common Ground

- 1.2.1 This SoCG has been prepared by the Applicant and Anglian Water Services Limited.
- 1.2.2 Anglian Water Services Limited are a statutory stakeholder defined for the Springwell Solar Farm Development Consent Order application.
- 1.2.3 Collectively, the Applicant and Anglian Water Services Limited are referred to as 'the parties.'

1.3 Purpose of this document

- 1.3.1 This Statement of Common Ground ('SoCG') is being submitted to the Examining Authority as an agreed draft between both parties. This SoCG is a 'live' document and will be amended as the examination progresses in order to enable a final version to be submitted to the Examining Authority.
- 1.3.2 The SoCG has been prepared in accordance with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities' Guidance on the examination stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects ('DLUHC Guidance').
- 1.3.3 Paragraph 007 of the DLUHC Guidance comments that:
"A Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) is a written statement prepared jointly by the applicant and another party or parties, setting out any matters on which they agree, or indeed disagree. A SoCG helps to ensure that the evidence at the examination focuses on the material differences between the main parties and therefore makes best use of the lines of questioning pursued by the Examining Authority".
- 1.3.4 The aim of this SoCG is, therefore, to provide a clear position of the progress and agreement met or not yet met between Anglian Water Services Limited and the Applicant on matters relating to the Application.
- 1.3.5 The document will be updated as more information becomes available and as a result of ongoing discussions between the Applicant and Anglian Water Services Limited.

- 1.3.6 The SoCG is intended to provide information for the examination process, facilitate a smooth and efficient examination, and manage the amount of material that needs to be submitted.
- 1.3.7 This SoCG does not seek to replicate information which is available elsewhere within the Application documents. All documents are available in the deposit locations and/or the Planning Inspectorate website.
- 1.3.8 Once finalised, the SoCG will be submitted to the Examining Authority concerning the Application under section 37 of the 2008 Act for an order granting development consent for the construction of the Proposed Development.

1.4 Terminology

- 1.4.1 In the table in the issues chapter of this SoCG:
- “Agreed” indicates where an issue has been resolved.
 - “Not Agreed” indicates a position where both parties have reached a final position that a matter cannot be agreed between them.
 - “Under Discussion” indicates where points continue to be the subject of on-going discussions between parties.



2. Proposed Development Description

2. Introduction

- 2.1. The Proposed Development comprises the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of a solar photovoltaic (PV) array electricity generating facility with a total capacity exceeding 50 megawatts (MW), a Battery Energy Storage system (BESS) with an import and export connection to the National Grid.
- 2.2. The DCO would, amongst other things, authorise the Applicant to construct, operate and maintain the Proposed Development. The principal components of the Proposed Development include:
- Solar PV development including;
 - Ground-mounted Solar PV generating station. The generating station will include Solar PV modules and mounting structures;
 - Balance of Solar System (BoSS), which comprises inverters, transformers, and switchgear;
 - 400kV Grid Connection Corridor to connect the Springwell Substation and proposed National Grid Navenby Substation;
 - Satellite Collector Compounds comprising switchgear, transformers, ancillary equipment and operation, maintenance, security and welfare units;
 - A project substation (the ‘Springwell Substation’) compound, which will include substation, main collector compound, switching and control equipment, office/control/welfare/security buildings, storage areas, and provisions for vehicular parking and material laydown;
 - Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) compound, including batteries and associated inverters, transformers, switchgear and ancillary equipment and their containers, enclosures, monitoring systems, air conditioning, electrical cables, fire safety infrastructure and operation, maintenance, security and welfare facilities;
 - Underground cabling will connect the Solar PV modules and BESS compound to the BoSS, collector compounds, and the Springwell Substation.
 - Ancillary infrastructure works, including boundary treatments, security equipment, earthing devices, fencing, lighting, earthworks, surface water management, internal tracks and any other works identified as necessary to enable the development;
 - Landscaping, habitat management, biodiversity enhancement and amenity improvements; and
 - Works to facilitate vehicular access to the Site.

3. Record of Engagement

3.1. Summary of consultation

3.1.1. The parties have been engaged in consultation throughout the early stages of the project. Table 1 shows a summary of key engagement that has taken place between the Applicant and Anglian Water Services Limited in relation to the Application.

Table 1 – Record of Engagement

Date	Form of correspondence	Key topics discussed and key outcomes
18 April 2023	Email	Email from AWS to the Applicant sharing its Scoping response and template protective provisions. Response to AWS on 9 May 2023 to suggest topics for further discussion and welcoming ongoing engagement.
25 September 2023	Meeting	Introductory meeting to discuss the project, raw and potable water supplies, water recycling, asset interfaces and approach to engagement
12 December 2023	Email and letter (Section 42 notification)	Notification by the Applicant to AWS of the upcoming Phase Two Consultation
19 February 2024	Phase Two Consultation	Feedback included advice on protective provisions, water connections, impacts on and protection of AWS assets including those related to cable routes, rainwater harvesting, diversions and supervision.
24 September 2024	Meeting	Update meeting on project design progress, water usage assumptions, interface impacts including risks, draft SoCG and draft protective provisions

4. Current Position

Position of the Applicant and Anglian Water Services Limited

- 4.1.1. The following tables set out the position of the Applicant and Anglian Water Services Limited, following a series of meetings and discussions with respect to the key areas of the Proposed Development. This includes matters where discussions are ongoing.
- 4.1.2. As noted above, this is a 'live' document, and some aspects have yet to be agreed upon between both parties. The intention is to provide a final position in subsequent versions of the SoCG, addressing and identifying where changes have been made, and ultimately, documenting agreement by both parties on relevant points.

Table 2 - Topics Discussed

Ref.	Description of Matter	Stakeholder Comment	Applicant's Response	Status
1	Interaction of Assets	Prefer assets not to be disturbed	<p>Minimise interaction between EDFR and Anglian Water assets and avoid diversions if possible</p> <p>Post consent – asset protection investigations on exact depths etc.</p> <p>For every crossing point and nearby planned asset, undertake appropriate surveys, e.g. GPR, geophysical surveys, trial pits. Assessment based on the crossing design will be required and agreed in advance of works on site.</p> <p>Easement of 5m applied to Anglian Water Services Limited assets (stat-con feedback App 1 87(7))</p> <p>There will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - small piles for solar panels within 30m along with associated infrastructure e.g. fences - access track laid near or over pipeline plus ongoing use for construction and operation - planting and environmental mitigation sufficiently far away 	Agreed

- cable trenches near or over /
under pipeline

2	Non-potable water (construction and operation)	Preference is to use rainwater harvesting for non-potable water	Rainwater harvesting to be prioritised for construction and operational use as non-potable water.	Agreed
3	Potable water (construction and operation)	Preference is to use mains supply to permanent welfare. Bowser to temporary facilities	Future investigation into the connection to Anglian Water Services Limited planned post submission.	Agreed
4	Fire water tank filling	Filling of tanks needs to be covered by a water resource assessment in the future.	Assessment will be carried out post DCO submission.	Agreed
5	Crossings of assets	Asset protection team to be involved in the future, post DCO submission	The Anglian Water Services Limited asset protection team will be involved and agreements made around protection etc. prior to work starting on site.	Agreed
6	Sewage connection	"In Flow" system can be used to assess the sewage connection points through a pre-planning enquiry	This will be completed if necessary, but assumption is to use in-situ sewage treatment and then either grey water usage, local discharge, soak away or tank it away .	Agreed
7	Cathodic Protection	Cathodic protection to be put in place	Third party cathodic protection to be considered as part of the EDFR design and appropriate measures put in place.	Agreed
8	Sustainable Drainage Systems	Surface Water Drainage Strategy to be consulted on prior to construction – SuDs for Substation and BESS	Agreed	Agreed

9	Protective Provisions	PPs are in progress and to be agreed	PPs are in progress and to be agreed	Under Discussion
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Signatures

This statement of Common Ground is agreed upon:

On behalf of Anglian Water Service Limited

Name:

Signature:

Date:

On behalf of the Applicant

Name:

Signature:

Date:

