

Springwell Solar Farm

Draft Statement of Common Ground - Cadent Gas Ltd

EN010149/APP/7.22
November 2024
Springwell Energyfarm Ltd
Planning Act 2008

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 2008 ('the 2008 Act').
- 1.1.2 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 Cadent Gas Limited is a British regional gas distribution company that owns, operates and maintains the largest natural gas distribution network in the United Kingdom.
- 1.2.2 Some of these assets are in the vicinity of the Proposed Development and furthermore have a direct interface between Cadent Gas Limited assets and those proposed by the project.

1.3 Purpose of this document

- 1.3.1 This SoCG has been prepared as part of the Application. This SoCG is a 'live' document that has been prepared by Springwell Energyfarm Limited and Cadent Gas Limited.
- 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 Cadent Gas Limited and Springwell Energyfarm Limited 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 Cadent Gas 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 Cadent Gas Limited in relation to the Application.

Table 1 – Record of Engagement

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key topics discussed and key outcomes
24/01/23	Non-statutory consultation	No response received to non-statutory consultation.
03/07/23	Email	Email from Cadent Gas following EIA Scoping to advise on assets close to the Proposed Development and likely access requirements. Issued shapefile and current assets identified and arranged introductory meeting.
20/07/23	Email	Email from Cadent Plan sharing initial interaction plans based on shapefile information.
17/08/23	Meeting	Key topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the project and discussion around asset protection. • Request for Cadent to send through SSW22 and other key documents for consideration in Stage 2 design.
17/08/23	Email	Email from Cadent with SSW22 document
12/12/23	Email	Email to Cadent Gas from the Applicant advising of dates for statutory consultation and offering a meeting on updated proposals. Email to Cadent Gas requesting more information on the offset distance

		required for assets within the Proposed Development.
11/01/24	S42 consultation	No response received to s42 consultation.
21/03/24	Email	Email to Cadent Gas requesting more information on the offset distance required for assets within the Proposed Development.
17/05/24	Email	Email to Cadent Gas requesting meeting to discuss Stage 3 design and DCO application, including approach to Statement of Common Ground.
24/06/24	Meeting	Key topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Confirmation of previous agreements• Examples of enactment within EDFR Concept Design• Discussion on Statutory Consultation and Draft Protective Provisions



4. Current Position

Position of the Applicant and Cadent Gas Limited

- 4.1.1. The following tables set out the position of the Applicant and Cadent Gas 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	Preparation before works start	<p>Covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plant Protection Team to be engaged prior to any site works. - Cathodic protection inspection pre and post works - Offsets from assets <p>Further detail can be found in section 2 SPRI-05-MM-00105 Introduction Meeting - Cadent Gas and EDFR P0 P01.1</p>	<p>Interfaces between Springwell Energyfarm Limited and Cadent Gas Limited assets have been identified; discussions and agreements have been incorporated into the Springwell Energyfarm Limited concept design.</p> <p>Springwell Energyfarm Limited acknowledges the guidelines set out by Cadent Gas Limited and will work with Cadent Gas Limited during detailed design and site works to finalise the interfaces and conduct appropriate protection of Cadent Gas Limited assets.</p> <p>Further detail can be found in SPRI-05-MM-00105 Introduction Meeting - Cadent Gas and EDFR P0 P01.1, SPRI-05-PR-00012 Springwell Stakeholder Introduction</p>	<i>Agreed</i>

			<p>Meeting - Cadent Gas P1 P01.1,</p> <p>SPRI-05-RP-00041 Cadent-2023-07-RW-INT-Springwell Solar Farm - KJM Markup 31.07.23 P1 P01.1</p> <p>SPRI-05-MM-00154 Springwell Stakeholder Pre-DCO Submission Meeting - Cadent Gas 24.06.2024 P1 P01.1</p> <p>SPRI-05-PR-00022 Springwell Stakeholder Pre-DCO Submission Meeting - Cadent Gas P1 P01.1</p>	
2	Statutory Consultation Feedback - No feedback received during consultation	Not issued.	Springwell Energyfarm Limited believes that everything regarding this interface is being agreed through ongoing meetings even without the formal Statutory Consultation Feedback.	Agreed
3	Crossing Deeds	Crossing deeds need to be put in place after any DCO consent being granted but before construction	Springwell Energyfarm Limited agrees that the details of the deeds can be confirmed at a later date, pre-construction.	Agreed
4	Protective Provisions	Discussions progressing	Discussions progressing	Under Discussion

Signatures

This statement of Common Ground is agreed upon:

On behalf of Cadent Gas Limited

Name:

Signature:

Date:

On behalf of the Applicant

Name:

Signature:

Date:

