

Springwell Solar Farm

Draft Statement of Common Ground -
Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service

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 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 Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service.
- 1.2.2 Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service are a statutory stakeholder defined for the Springwell Solar Farm Development Consent Order application. They are the responding fire and rescue service covering the Proposed Development.
- 1.2.3 Collectively, the Applicant and Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service 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 Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service 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 Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service.
- 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

- 2.1.1. 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.
- 2.1.2. 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 Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service in relation to the Application.

Table 1 – Record of Engagement

Date	Form of correspondence	Key topics discussed and key outcomes
16 June	Email	Request to meet with Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service to introduce the proposals, outline best practice on EDFR sites and agree an approach to creating the Emergency Response plan.
24 August 2023	Meeting	Introduction on the Project as presented at phase one consultation and approach to collaborating on key documents.
23 January 2024	Meeting	Discussion on updated design of Springwell Solar Farm presented for phase two consultation, including water storage, run off and battery safety management plan.
Phase two consultation	Phase two consultation	Lincolnshire County Council’s response included guidance from Lincolnshire F&RS.
18 March 2024	Email	Confirmation of position established on 23.01.24 in the absence of a standalone written response to phase two

consultation and request to meet later in the year.

25 March 2024	Email	Written response to the phase two consultation.
09 July 2024	Meeting	Discussion of feedback to phase two consultation, update on current parameters and assumptions and introductory conversation about protective provisions and the SoCG.



4. Current Position

Position of the Applicant and Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service.

- 4.1.1. The following tables set out the position of the Applicant and Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service, 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	National Fire Chief Council (NFCC) Guidance for design of Batter Energy Storage System (BESS) sites	NFCC Guidance is being used by the Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service as part of the project assessment. Further detail can be found in SPRI-05-MM-00109 Introduction Meeting - Lincolnshire FRS - Springwell BESS P0 P01.1	The Applicant confirms that the NFCC guidance is being used as a fundamental input to develop the design from the start. It will continue to be an input throughout the Applicant design stages into construction and operation. Further detail can be found in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SPRI-05-MM-00109 Introduction Meeting - Lincolnshire FRS - Springwell BESS P0 P01.1 - SPRI-05-MM-00136 Statutory Consultation Meeting - Lincolnshire FRS - Springwell BESS P1 P01.1 - SPRI-05-MM-00157 Springwell Stakeholder Meeting Pre-DCO Submission - Lincolnshire FRS P1 P01.1 	Agreed
2	Batter Energy Storage System (BESS) Safety Standards and Chemistry Type	What standards are applied and what type of BESS being installed.	The Applicant confirms NFPA 855 is being considered in the design. Strict testing regimes for BESS are being applied to reduce the risk of thermal runaway including UL9540A alongside	Agreed

			<p>other mitigation measures. LFP Li-ion batteries are being proposed due to their better safety credentials over NMC type.</p> <p>Further detail can be found in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SPRI-05-MM-00109 Introduction Meeting - Lincolnshire FRS - Springwell BESS P0 P01.1 - SPRI-05-MM-00136 Statutory Consultation Meeting - Lincolnshire FRS - Springwell BESS P1 P01.1 - SPRI-05-MM-00157 Springwell Stakeholder Meeting Pre-DCO Submission - Lincolnshire FRS P1 P01.1 	
3	Drenching System	Will the BESS site use a drenching system?	The Applicant confirms there are no current plans for this type of system across this large BESS site.	Agreed
4	Refuge Area During Fire Fighting Event	Defensive stance taken during a fire event. Will there be suitable areas for responders to monitor the situation from once equipment has been set up to control the event?	The Applicant confirms that suitable areas have been identified for responders to be stationed away from any fire event.	Agreed

Signatures

This statement of Common Ground is agreed upon:

On behalf of Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service

Name:

Signature:

Date:

On behalf of the Applicant

Name:

Signature:

Date:

