

Springwell Solar Farm

Statement of Commonality

EN010149/APP/7.26
November 2024
Springwell Energyfarm Ltd



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1. Introduction

1.1. Overview

- 1.1.1. This Statement of Commonality of Statements of Common Ground has been prepared on behalf of Springwell Energyfarm Limited (the 'Applicant'). This document provides the Examining Authority (ExA) with the position on Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) between the Applicant and relevant statutory consultees and Interested Parties in relation to the proposed Springwell Solar Farm. It will be updated throughout the course of the Examination.
- 1.1.2. The Applicant is seeking development consent for the construction and operation of a new solar farm with battery storage at land north of Sleaford, close to the settlements of Blankney, Scopwick, Kirkby Green and Ashby de la Launde (the "Site"), within the administrative boundaries of North Kesteven District Council ("NKDC") and Lincolnshire County Council ("LCC") (the "host authorities").
- 1.1.3. The Proposed Development falls within the definition of a 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project' (NSIP) under Section 15 of the PA 2008, as the capacity exceeds 50MW and, as such, is required to be consented by a DCO.
- 1.1.4. The PA 2008 prescribes that the SoS is responsible for determining the DCO Application, with the power to appoint an Examining Authority (ExA) of an appointed person(s) to manage and examine the Application. The ExA, appointed through the Planning Inspectorate, will make procedural decisions and examine the Application. The ExA will make a recommendation to the SoS who will then decide whether to grant a DCO Application. Where a relevant National Policy Statement has effect the SoS will determine the application for development consent in accordance with that relevant NPS.

1.2. Description of Development

- 1.2.1. Springwell Solar Farm is a proposed solar farm that will generate energy for export to the National Grid (the 'Proposed Development').
- 1.2.2. A summary of the description of the Proposed Development can be found in Section 3.1 of the **Environmental Statement (ES) Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010149/APP/6.1]**. The terminology used in this document is defined in the Glossary **[EN010149/APP/6.1]**.
- 1.2.3. The main objective of the Proposed Development is to generate low-carbon renewable energy that can contribute to addressing the urgent

need to decarbonise the UK's energy supply. The **Statement of Need [EN010149/APP/7.1]** provides further details.

1.3. Structure of the Statement of Commonality

1.3.1. The area This Statement of Commonality document is structured as follows:

- Section 2 details the structure of each SoCG document and provides a list of the SoCGs that are being produced;
- Section 3 addresses the status of each SoCG; and
- Section 4 sets out the commonality between SoCGs and a summary of their position.

2. Position

2.1. Structure of SoCGs

- 2.1.1. Each SoCG adopts a standard format to ensure consistency in the approach taken to documenting matters agreed, matters subject to an ongoing discussion, or matters not agreed upon.
- 2.1.2. Each of the SoCGs are structured in the following way:
- Section 1 provides an introduction to the SoCG, including a description of the document and the relevant party;
 - Section 2 provides a summary of engagement between the Applicant and the relevant party so far; and
 - Section 3 provides a schedule of matters raised by the relevant party and the Applicant's responses to these.

2.2. List of SoCGs

- 2.2.1. Following continuous ongoing engagement with relevant statutory consultees, the Applicant has prepared a number of SoCGs prior to the acceptance of the Application.
- 2.2.2. However, it should be noted that there are a number of additional SoCGs with other stakeholders which are in the process of being drafted and will be submitted in due course following acceptance.
- 2.2.3. In particular, there are no SoCGs being submitted with the host and neighbouring local planning authorities of Lincolnshire County Council and North Kesteven District Council at this stage, but they are in the process of being drafted following the in-depth engagement held. These will be submitted post acceptance of the application.
- 2.2.4. In terms of those submitted at this stage, this includes:
- Anglian Water Services Ltd
 - Cadent Gas Ltd
 - National Grid Electricity Transmission
 - Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service
 - Exolum Pipeline System Ltd

3. Status of SoCGs

3.1. Summary of Current Position

- 3.1.2. This section confirms the current status of each SoCG as of the submission of the DCO.
- 3.1.3. Table 3.1 provides a high-level position on the status of each SoCG and where necessary includes further detail to aid the understanding of the status.
- 3.1.4. In terms of the terms used in Table 3.1, these are as follows –
- Final SoCG - the final SoCG has been agreed upon by both parties, with no outstanding matters to resolve.
 - Draft SoCG - the SoCG has mainly been agreed upon between both parties, but there are a number of issues still outstanding, and it is yet to be signed off.
 - Initial draft SoCG – the initial SoCG has been drafted by the Applicant (using matters identified from meetings with the party alongside responses to Statutory Consultation, Relevant Representations) and is with the party for review, this has not had feedback by the party and is not signed off.
 - Not yet submitted – the Applicant is progressing these SoCGs with the intent to submit drafts at subsequent deadlines.

Table 3.1 – Current Status of SoCGs

2.	Document Ref.	3.	Relevant Party	4.	Position at submission
5.	7.21	6.	Anglian Water Services Ltd	7.	Draft SoCG
8.	7.22	9.	Cadent Gas Ltd	10.	Draft SoCG
11.	7.23	12.	National Grid Electricity Transmission	13.	Draft SoCG
14.	7.24	15.	Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service	16.	Draft SoCG
17.	7.25	18.	Exolum Pipeline System Ltd	19.	Draft SoCG
-		20.	Lincolnshire County Council	21.	Not yet Submitted
-		22.	North Kesteven District Council	23.	Not yet Submitted

-	24.	Environment Agency	25.	Not yet Submitted
-	26.	Natural England	27.	Not yet Submitted
-	28.	Historic England	29.	Not yet Submitted

4. Summary

4.1.1. This section provides a summary of the main topics covered by the draft SoCGs submitted as part of the Application submission and identifies where there is a commonality in the topics between the SoCG parties.

4.1.2. Table 4.1 has been produced to set out the topics covered across the SoCGs and the status of the matter at submission with the relevant part. The colour coding used within this table has been described below.

Cell	Status
	Agreed
	Subject to further discussions
	Currently subject to disagreement
	Not applicable

4.1.3. The colours of each cell correspond to the status table in each individual SoCG.

Table 4.1 – Summary of Commonality with relevant stakeholders

DOC REF.	PARTY	TOPICS																						
		Principle of Development	BESS / Fire Safety	Cumulative impacts	Climate Change	Cultural Heritage / Historic Environment	Health	Land Use / Agriculture	Air Quality	Construction Traffic	Noise	Landscape and Visual	Highways and Transport	Water Quality	Flood Risk / Drainage	Waste Management	Decommissioning	Land Interest/ CA / PPs	Draft DCO	Impact on existing apparatus/infrastructure	Land contamination	Ecology and biodiversity	Economic Impacts	
-	Lincolnshire County Council																							
-	North Kesteven District Council																							
7.21	Anglian Water Services Ltd																							
7.22	Cadent Gas Ltd																							
7.23	National Grid Electricity Transmission																							

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7.24	Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service																							
7.25	Exolum Pipeline System Ltd																							



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