



Little Crow

Solar Park

Little Crow Solar Park, Scunthorpe

DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND WITH ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

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DRAFT

LITTLE CROW SOLAR PARK LAND TO THE EAST OF STEEL WORKS, SCUNTHORPE

DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND (SOCG)

3RD DRAFT FOR ISSUE TO ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

BETWEEN:

- I. LITTLE CROW SOLAR PARK; AND**
- II. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY**

ON BEHALF OF INRG SOLAR (LITTLE CROW) LTD

Pegasus Group

First Floor | South Wing | Equinox North | Great Park Road | Almondsbury | Bristol | BS32 4QL

T 01454 625945 | **F** 01454 618074 | **W** www.pegasusgroup.co.uk

Birmingham | Bracknell | Bristol | Cambridge | Cirencester | East Midlands | Leeds | Liverpool | London | Manchester

PLANNING | **DESIGN** | **ENVIRONMENT** | **ECONOMICS**

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APPENDIX 1:	LAND USE ZONING PLAN
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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This draft Statement of Common Ground has been prepared as part of the application process for a Development Consent Order for the Little Crow Solar Park ["the Development"]. This draft document has been prepared jointly between INRG Solar (Little Crow) Ltd ["the applicant"] and Environment Agency ["as prescribed consultee"].

INRG Solar (Little Crow) Ltd

- 1.2 Founded in 2009, INRG Solar Ltd has established itself as one of the largest developers of solar parks in the UK. As an independent developer, INRG Solar have experience of a variety of energy projects including solar, batteries and peaking plants. INRG Solar have a proven track record in delivering projects and have developed and sold numerous ground mounted solar schemes ranging between 5MW to 50MW.

Environment Agency

- 1.3 The Environment Agency is an executive non-departmental public body, sponsored by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs. Within England they are responsible for: regulating major industry and waste; treatment of contaminated land; water quality and resources; fisheries; inland river, estuary and harbour navigations; conservation and ecology. They are also responsible for managing the risk of flooding from main rivers, estuaries and the sea. Their vision is to create a better place for people and wildlife.

Purpose of Document

- 1.4 This draft statement of common ground is a working document prepared jointly by the applicant and Environment Agency. The document has been structured to reflect the matters and topic relevant between the applicant and Environment Agency.
- 1.5 As this is a working document, the approach is to provide common ground text including comments made during the consultation phases, set out in a tabulated format for the EA to comment upon and then either agree, disagree or identify need for further negotiations.
- 1.6 The remainder of this document is split into the following sections:

Section 2: Development Description

Section 3: Ground Conditions & Land Contamination

Section 4: Declarations

2. DEVELOPMENT DESCRIPTION

- 2.1 Full description of the development is provided within the Environmental Statement [Chapter 4].
- 2.2 To summarise, the main element of the Development is the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of a ground mounted solar park with a maximum design capacity of up to 150MWp (megawatts peak) and battery storage capacity of up to 90MW. Battery storage will allow the development to fully utilise the network connection capacity when the solar park is not exporting at peak capacity. The battery element of the proposal would be available to store energy from and release electrical energy to the electricity network.
- 2.3 The solar and battery elements could either be delivered and connected to the electricity network independently of each other or at the same time. They could therefore be constructed and become operational either independently or together. An operational lifespan of 35 years is sought for each element and, subject to when they are constructed, the operational lifespans could run concurrently or interdependently.
- 2.4 A single main substation compound will serve the whole Development, and this will be required for the duration of the Development and retained thereafter.
- 2.5 The Works can be split into seven Development Zones, these are
- Works 1: Ground mounted solar photovoltaic arrays
 - Works 2: Battery Compound Yard
 - Works 3: Ecological corridors
 - Works 4: Central substation compound and connection to the national grid
 - Works 5: Main access track
 - Works 6: Perimeter development buffer
 - Works 7: Temporary construction & commissioning compound
- 2.6 The proposed land use zoning plan is provided at Appendix 1. The proposed layout drawings are provided at Appendix 2.

Solar Arrays

- 2.7 The PV modules would be static, mounted on aluminium metal racks. The racks will be laid out in multiple parallel rows running east to west across the various field enclosures. The distance between the arrays would respond to topography but would typically be between 3.5 metres to 6 metres. The maximum height of the solar panels fixed onto the framework would be under 2.5m. All PV modules will be south facing.
- 2.8 The arrays would be set within stock-proof fencing up to 2m in height with wooden supporting posts placed at intervals of c. 3.5m. The stock proof fencing would be either green or galvanised aluminium in finish. The minimum distance between the edge of the arrays and the stock-proof fence would be 3m. Land between and beneath the panels would be used for biodiversity enhancements and seasonal sheep grazing.
- 2.9 A CCTV system mounted on poles would be positioned at intervals along the inside face edge of the stock-proof fencing (between the fence and the arrays).

Battery Storage Compound

- 2.10 The battery storage compound consists of industrial batteries that can store energy and are able to release or absorb energy from the power network. Being able to absorb and release energy, the battery storage at Little Crow can be used to contribute towards the frequency balancing services, where the power is being generated or absorbed statically or dynamically depending on the system frequency.
- 2.11 The compound would be made secure by a 3m gated palisade fence. Battery containers would have a maximum length of 17m, maximum width of 3m and a maximum height of 4m. The maximum storage capacity of a single battery container would be c6MW. The battery containers would be dark green in colour. The maximum development footprint of the battery storage compound will be 55m by 100m and will be surfaced with stone chippings.

Substation

- 2.12 A single substation compound will be required for the Development and this will be constructed at the start of the development of the whole site. Following construction

and commissioning the substation compound will be adopted and become the property of the District Network Operator (DNO, who will maintain the compound throughout the lifetime of the Development. The decommissioning of the substation is not considered as part of the Application as this will be the property of the DNO and as such would be outside the gift of the developer to decommission.

- 2.13 The maximum development footprint of the substation yard will be 80m by 80m and will be surfaced with stone chippings. Under normal conditions the site would be unmanned.

Landscape and ecological management plan

- 2.14 The Development proposal presents considerable opportunity for landscape and biodiversity mitigation and enhancement. The Landscape and Biodiversity proposal are discussed in detail in the supporting Landscape and Ecological Management Plan.
- 2.15 Ecological and biodiversity measures are promoted across the entire site and these enhanced areas are shown as land zone 3, as shown on the zoning plan. Land between and beneath the panels would be used for biodiversity enhancements and seasonal sheep grazing. Tree planting would be introduced along the north east section of the development boundary.
- 2.16 The existing woodland plantations that surround the various field enclosures would continue to be managed by the landowner as part of its woodland forestry licence. The hedgerows surrounding the field edges will also be managed via the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan.

Access

- 2.17 It is proposed that construction traffic will arrive from the M180 junction 4, the A15, the A18, the B1208 and B1207 to the site access. From the M180 junction 4 vehicles will use the A15 northbound to the Briggate Lodge Roundabout and then travel east along the A18 towards Brigg. From the A18, vehicles will turn left onto the B1208. The B1208 measures between approximately 5.5 and six metres wide. Vehicles will travel along the B1208 to the junction with the B1207 and then continue straight ahead into the site access.

2.18 No construction vehicles associated with the development proposal would travel through Broughton.

Decommissioning

2.19 An outline decommissioning strategy is included within the Environmental Statement and sets out details of the decommissioning programme to be carried out after a 35 year generation period. It includes the methods for the removal of all the solar panels, cabins, structures, batteries, enclosures, equipment and all other apparatus above and below ground level from the site and details of their destination in terms of waste/recycling, and details of how the site is to be restored.

3. GROUND CONDITIONS & LAND CONTAMINATION

3.1 The lead consultant on behalf of the applicant on ground conditions and land contamination is Integrale. The consultation that has taken place with the EA in relation to the issues raised within this SoCG is summarised below:

Table 3.1 Ground Conditions & Land Contamination Consultation with EA

Stage/Date	Details
Pre-Application September 2018	EA consulted by Integrale Ltd on behalf of Applicant at pre-application stage of Development Consent Order. Phase 1 Ground Conditions Desk Study (Ref 1844, Version 4, July 2018 submitted by Integrale Ltd to EA.
September 2018	EA Response Letter to Pre-Application Enquiry of 28 th September 2018 confirmed EA had reviewed the 'Phase I Ground Conditions Desk Study' and is in agreement with the conclusions reached. EA also in agreement with limited intrusive investigation proposed.
Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Direction December 2018 to January 2019	At the same time as the statutory pre-application consultation, applicant made request to the Secretary of State, via Planning Inspectorate, for EIA Scoping Direction. Planning Inspectorate issue Screening Direction after consultation with prescribed bodies under regulation 10(6) of the EIA Regulations 2017.
S42 PEIR consultation December 2018 to March 2019.	EA consulted by Applicant with S42 PEIR (Preliminary Environmental Information Report). Information pack issued to EA on 18 January 2019. This included Integrale Phase 1 Ground Conditions Desk Study Report (No. 1844 Version 5, November 2018).
February 2019	EA responded to consultation, in letter 1 st February 2019, Ref. AN/2019/128531/01-L01. EA confirmed in agreement with the conceptual model adopted and conclusions reached. EA also in agreement with targeted intrusive investigation proposed. EA recommended inclusion of requirement within the DCO for investigation and assessment, detailed remediation strategy and verification of any remediation, if required.

Post-Statutory Engagement March 2019 to January 2020	Informal consultation and continued engagement undertaken between March 2019 and April 2020 to keep stakeholders informed of progress and to agree Statement of Common Ground with prescribed consultees.
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- 3.2 It is agreed that the desk studies, conceptual modelling and intrusive investigation, analyses and monitoring are appropriate for the development context proposed. The relevant information sufficient for the DCO process, has been provided by the Application in respect of contaminated land and groundwater.
- 3.3 An Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan supports the application but is not considered through this SoCG.

4. DECLARATIONS

- 4.1 To be provided at the appropriate stage.

