



Hilfield Solar Farm and Battery Storage Facility

Statement of Common Ground - Noise

LPA Reference: 21/0050/FULEI (Hertsmere Borough Council)

PINS Reference: APP/N1920/W/22/3295268

17th October 2022

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Version	1	2	3
Comments	First Draft	Second Draft	Finalised Statement of Common Ground
Date	12 th October 2022	14 th October 2022	17 th October 2022
Authored By	Antony Best BSc (Hons) MIOA	Antony Best BSc (Hons) MIOA	Antony Best BSc (Hons) MIOA
Checked By	Neil Morgan MSc MIOA	Neil Morgan MSc MIOA	Neil Morgan MSc MIOA
Project Number	22-357	22-357	22-357

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) is agreed between Antony Best (for Elstree Green Limited; the Appellant) and David Watts (for the Combined Objectors Group; a Rule 6 Party) following the refusal of planning permission by the Local Planning Authority for the:

“Installation of renewable led energy generating station comprising ground-mounted photovoltaic solar arrays and battery-based electricity storage containers together with substation, inverter/transformer stations, site accesses, internal access tracks, security measures, access gates, other ancillary infrastructure, landscaping and biodiversity enhancements”

- 1.2 The purpose of this SoCG relates to noise, and is intended to identify the areas where the parties (the Appellant and the Rule 6 Party) are in agreement and to narrow down the issues that remain in dispute. This will allow the Public Inquiry to then focus on the most pertinent issues.

- 1.3 This SoCG sets out the agreed matters of fact and positions between the Appellant and the Rule 6 Party in relation to matters concerning noise. It covers:

- The impacts of noise arising from the Site when the Proposed Development is operational.

2. AREAS OF AGREEMENT

2.1 The Appellant and the Rule 6 Party are agreed on the following key principles, as regard to noise:

- Appropriate legislation, policy and guidance has been considered within the noise assessment submitted with the Application;
- Providing appropriate mitigation is incorporated into the final design of the Proposed Development adverse effects due to operational noise are unlikely at the residential receptors;
- The mitigation is likely to take the form of selecting appropriate manufacturer make and models, with appropriate mechanical engineering solutions such as shrouding and baffles to reduce noise breakout from the cooling systems associated with the inverter/transformers and battery storages units, as well as appropriate siting of the inverter/transformer centralised units, the detail of which will depend on the final site layout designs; and
- Appropriate mitigation can be secured through an appropriate planning condition, the agreed text of which is found below.

2.2 A suggested planning condition relating to noise was contained within the Rule 6 Party Statement of Case relating to noise, and is reproduced below:

"The Rating level of plant and equipment associated with the development shall be at least 10 dB below the background sound level at any affected residential properties and along any public footpath where the Rating level and Background sound level are as defined and determined in accordance with BS 4142:2014+A1:2019."

2.3 It was recognised by the Appellant that in order to meet the needs of both parties, some provision is required in any planning condition, to ensure that the impact of noise upon the amenity of the public rights of way is adequately controlled. To that end, and following discussion with the representatives of the Appellant and Rule 6 Party, it was agreed that the following condition would be suitable to all parties:

"The Rating level of plant and equipment associated with the development shall be at least 10 dB below the background sound level at any affected residential properties where the Rating level and Background sound level are as defined and determined in accordance with BS 4142:2014+A1:2019."

The sound level of the ambient noise shall not be more than 1 dB higher than the sound level of the ambient noise in the absence of the specific noise of plant and equipment associated with the development along any public right of way, where ambient noise and specific noise are as defined and determined in accordance with BS 7445-1:2003"

2.4 It is suggested that the planning conditions in Paragraph 2.3 provide appropriate protection to the amenity of residents and users of public rights of way whilst being suitable, precise and enforceable.

3. MATTERS OF DISAGREEMENT

- 3.1 It is suggested that, subject to the agreement of a suitably worded planning condition which would ultimately ensure the Appellant has to select appropriate technology and mitigations as part of the design and procurement process, that there are no substantive areas of disagreement that would fundamentally alter the agreed planning condition.

4. DECLARATION

This Statement has been certified as a Statement of Common Ground and is agreed by Antony Best, on behalf of Appellant, and David Watts, on behalf of the Rule 6 party.

Signed on behalf of the Appellant by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Best', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Name: Antony Best

Position: Director – Inacoustic Ltd

Date: 17th October 2022

Signed on behalf of the Rule 6 party by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Watts', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Name: David Watts

Position: Technical Director – Acoustical Investigation & Research Organisation Ltd

Date: 18th October 2022