

# Sea Link

## Volume 7: Other Documents

### Document 7.4: Statement of Commonality

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<b>Version</b>			
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March 2025	A	DRAFT	Issued with DCO application
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January 2026	D	DRAFT	Issued to PINS for Deadline 3

# Executive Summary

- Ex1.1.1 This Statement of Commonality (Statement) provides information regarding the status of the Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) and the position on matters discussed, which have been prepared in connection with the proposed Sea Link Project (the Proposed Project) submitted by National Grid Electricity Transmission (National Grid). The purpose of this Statement is to provide the Examining Authority (ExA) with the current position of the SoCGs between National Grid and prescribed consultees, local authorities and statutory undertakers in relation to the Proposed Project.
- Ex1.1.2 This Statement provides the position at Deadline 3 of the DCO Application and will be updated as the application progresses through the Examination phase as a record of the progress that is being made between the parties on the matters identified in the SoCGs.
- Ex1.1.3 This Statement details the format and terminology used and lists the stakeholders involved and provides a table of commonality for the prescribed consultees, local authorities and the statutory undertakers and a status summary of the SoCGs at Deadline 3. The table of commonality and status summary have been split into the prescribed consultees, local authorities and statutory undertakers.



# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Purpose of this Statement of Commonality

- 1.1.1 This Statement of Commonality (Statement) provides information regarding the Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) which have been prepared for the application (the Application) made to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero for a Development Consent Order (DCO) under section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008) for the proposed Sea Link Project (the Proposed Project). The Application was submitted by National Grid Energy Transmission (National Grid).
- 1.1.2 This Statement has been prepared to provide the Planning Inspectorate and the Examining Authority (ExA) with the current position regarding the SoCGs between National Grid and local authorities, other prescribed consultees and statutory undertakers (and similar bodies).
- 1.1.3 This Statement reflects the position at Deadline 3 (9 January 2026) and will be updated during the course of the Examination as a record of progress that is being made between the parties on the issues identified in the SoCGs. When sufficient progress has been made on agreements between parties, this Statement will also discuss areas of commonality between parties to enable efficient resolution of remaining issues.

## 1.2 Description of the Proposed Project

- 1.2.1 The Proposed Project is a proposal by National Grid to reinforce the transmission network in the Southeast and East Anglia. The Proposed Project is required to accommodate additional power flows generated from renewable and low carbon generation, as well as accommodating additional new interconnection with mainland Europe.
- 1.2.2 National Grid owns, builds and maintains the electricity transmission network in England and Wales. Under the Electricity Act 1989, National Grid holds a transmission license under which it is required to develop and maintain an efficient, coordinated, and economic electricity transmission system.
- 1.2.3 This would be achieved by reinforcing the network with a High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) Link between the proposed Friston substation in the Sizewell area of Suffolk and the existing Richborough to Canterbury 400kV overhead line close to Richborough in Kent.
- 1.2.4 National Grid is also required, under Section 38 of the Electricity Act 1989, to comply with the provisions of Schedule 9 of the Act. Schedule 9 requires license holders, in the formulation of proposals to transmit electricity, to:
- 1.2.5 Schedule 9(1)(a) ‘...have regard to the desirability of preserving natural beauty, of conserving flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features of special interest and of protecting sites, buildings and objects of architectural, historic or archaeological interest;’ and
- 1.2.6 Schedule 9(1)(b) ‘...do what [it] reasonably can to mitigate any effect which the proposals would have on the natural beauty of the countryside or on any such flora, fauna, features, sites, buildings or objects’.

1.2.7 The Proposed Project would comprise the following elements:

## The Suffolk Onshore Scheme

- A connection from the existing transmission network via Friston Substation, including the substation itself. Friston Substation already has development consent as part of other third-party projects. If Friston Substation has already been constructed under another consent, only a connection into the substation would be constructed as part of the Proposed Project.
- A high voltage alternating current (HVAC) underground cable of approximately 1.9 km in length between the proposed Friston Substation and a proposed converter station (below).
- A 2 GW high voltage direct current (HVDC) converter station (including permanent access from the B1121 and a new bridge over the River Fromus) up to 26 m high plus external equipment (such as lightning protection, safety rails for maintenance works, ventilation equipment, aerials, similar small scale operational plant, or other roof treatment) near Saxmundham.
- A HVDC underground cable connection of approximately 10 km in length between the proposed converter station near Saxmundham, and a transition joint bay (TJB) approximately 900 m inshore from a landfall point (below) where the cable transitions from onshore to offshore technology.
- A landfall on the Suffolk coast (between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness).

## The Offshore Scheme:

- Approximately 122 km of subsea HVDC cable, running between the Suffolk landfall location (between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness), and the Kent landfall location at Pegwell Bay.

## The Kent Onshore Scheme:

- A landfall point on the Kent coast at Pegwell Bay.
- A TJB approximately 800 m inshore to transition from offshore HVDC cable to onshore HVDC cable, before continuing underground for approximately 1.7 km to a new converter station (below).
- A 2 GW HVDC converter station (including a new permanent access off the A256), up to 28 m high plus external equipment such as lightning protection, safety rails for maintenance works, ventilation equipment, aerials, and similar small scale operational plant near Minster. A new substation would be located immediately adjacent.
- Removal of approximately 2.2 km of existing HVAC overhead line, and installation of two sections of new HVAC overhead line, together totalling approximately 3.5 km, each connecting from the substation near Minster and the existing Richborough to Canterbury overhead line.

1.2.8 The Proposed Project also includes modifications to sections of existing overhead lines in Suffolk (only if Friston Substation is not built pursuant to another consent) and Kent, diversions of third-party assets, and land drainage from the construction and operational

footprint. It also includes opportunities for environmental mitigation and compensation. The construction phase will involve various temporary construction activities including overhead line diversions, use of temporary towers or masts, working areas for construction equipment and machinery, site offices, parking spaces, storage, accesses, bellmouths, and haul roads, as well as watercourse crossings and the diversion of public rights of way (PROWs) and other ancillary operations.

## 1.3 Format of Document and Terminology

- 1.3.1 To ensure consistency in the approach taken to documenting matters agreed, matters under discussion or matters not agreed, each of the SoCGs adopts a standard format in order to provide clarity to other parties and ultimately the ExA.
- 1.3.2 Each SoCG has the following structure
- Section 1 provides an introduction to the SoCG and a description of its proposed purpose.
  - Section 2 summarises the engagement the Parties have had with regard to the Proposed Project.
  - Section 3 summarises by issue theme the issues that are ‘agreed’ (green status), ‘not agreed’ (red status) or are ‘under discussion’ (orange status).
- 1.3.3 The SoCG East Suffolk Council (ESC) and Suffolk County Council (SCC) does not follow the above structure, with Section 2 being the summary of issues and the record of engagement being added as an appendix. Section 1 remains the same.
- 1.3.4 Abbreviations used within this Statement of Commonality are shown in Table 1.1 below.

**Table 1.1 List of Abbreviations**

Abbreviation/Term	Definition
AW	Anglian Water
DCO	Development Consent Order
DDC	Dover District Council
EA	Environment Agency
EEAST	East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust
ExA	Examining Authority
ESC	East Suffolk Council
HHA	Harwich Haven Authority
HE	Historic England



Abbreviation/Term	Definition
HVAC	High Voltage Alternating Current
HVDC	High Voltage Direct Current
KCC	Kent County Council
LGP	London Gateway Port
MCA	Maritime and Coastguard Agency
MMO	Marine Management Organisation
NE	Natural England
NLP	Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape Partnership
NW	Northumbrian Water
PADDS	Principal Areas of Disagreement Summary Statement
PLA	Port of London Authority
PoR	Port of Ramsgate
PRoW	Public Right of Way
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SCC	Suffolk County Council
SoCG	Statement of Common Ground
SPHA	Sandwich Port and Haven Authority
SPR	Scottish Power Renewables
SW	Southern Water
TDC	Thanet District Council
TH	Trinity House
TJB	Transition Joint Bay
UK CoS	UK Chamber of Shipping

Abbreviation/Term	Definition
UKPN	UK Power Networks

## 2. List of Statements of Common Ground

- 2.1.1 National Grid has prepared SoCGs with local authorities, prescribed consultees, statutory undertakers and other interested parties.
- 2.1.2 No SoCGs with other parties were requested by the ExA through the Rule 6 letter which was published following the end of the Relevant Representation period and in advance of the Preliminary Meeting, on 19 September 2025.
- 2.1.3 The parties that National Grid is currently preparing SoCGs with are listed in Table 2.1 below. Further detail about the current position of each SoCG can be found in Section 5.

**Table 2.1 List of Stakeholders for SoCGs**

<b>Local Authorities</b>
Dover District Council (DDC)
East Suffolk Council (ESC)
Kent County Council (KCC)
Suffolk County Council (SCC)
Thanet District Council (TDC)
<b>Prescribed Consultees</b>
Environment Agency (EA)
Harwich Haven Authority (HHA)
Historic England (HE)
Marine Management Organisation (MMO)
Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)
Natural England (NE)
Port of London Authority (PLA)
Port of Ramsgate (PoR)
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
Sandwich Port and Haven Commissioners (SPHC)
Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape Partnership (NLP)
Trinity House (TH)
UK Chamber of Shipping (UKCoS)
London Gateway Port

<b>Statutory Undertakers (and similar bodies)</b>
Anglian Water (AW)
Cadent Gas Limited (CG)
East Suffolk Water Management Board (ESWMB)
East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust (EEAST)
EDF Nuclear General Limited (EDFNG)
EXA
Helios Energy
National Grid Ventures – LionLink (NGV)
National Trust
Network Rail
Northumbrian Water Group (NWG)
River Stour Internal Drainage Board (RSIDB)
Scottish Power Renewables (SPR)
Sizewell C
Southern Gas Networks Limited (SGN)
Southern Water (SW)
Suffolk Constabulary
UK Power Networks (UKPN)
Virgin Media
Vodafone

### 3. Summary of Current Position

3.1.1 This section provides the current position of each SoCG at Deadline 1A. As final versions of the SoCGs are agreed as the Examination progresses, they will be submitted alongside this Statement, with the position at each deadline added.

3.1.2 Table 3.1 provides a high-level position of SoCGs at the submission of the Application and Deadline 1A. The high-level positions used in the table are as follows, with additional positions to be provided as the Application progresses through Examination:

- **Final Signed SoCG all matters agreed** – The final version of the SoCG has been signed by both parties and all matters are agreed.
- **Final Signed SoCG with matters outstanding** – The final version of the SoCG has been signed by both parties. There remain areas of discussion or disagreement but both parties agree these issues will not be resolved during Examination.
- **Draft SoCG** – The SoCG has been drafted by the Applicant, it has been shared with the other party and comments have been addressed. Discussion is ongoing to reach a 'Final Signed SoCG all matters agreed' or 'Final Signed SoCG with matters outstanding'.
- **SoCG drafted / updated and shared with the other party** – The SoCG has been drafted / updated by National Grid and has been shared with the other party.
- **SoCG being prepared / updated but not yet shared with the other party** – The SoCG is being prepared / updated by National Grid but has not yet been shared with the other party.
- **SoCG to be prepared:** National Grid proposes to prepare an SoCG with these parties. The SoCG will be prepared and shared with the other party following the submission of the Application.



**Table 3.1 – SoCG High Level Position**

Document Reference	Party	Position at Submission	Position at Deadline 1 (18 November 2025)	Position at Deadline 1A (26 November 2025)	Position at Deadline 3 (9 January 2026)
<b>Local Authorities</b>					
7.4.5	Thanet District Council	SoCG drafted and shared with the other party	SoCG updated, but not shared with the other party yet	No change from position at Deadline 1	Draft SoCG
7.4.6	Dover District Council	SoCG drafted and shared with the other party	SoCG updated, but not shared with the other party yet	No change from position at Deadline 1	Draft SoCG
7.4.7	Kent County Council	SoCG drafted and shared with the other party	SoCG updated and shared with the other party	No change from position at Deadline 1	Draft SoCG
7.4.8	East Suffolk Council/Suffolk County Council	SoCG drafted and shared with the other party	As agreed with ESC and SCC, each party to have its own SoCG (no longer joint SoCG)  ESC and SCC SoCGs to be provided at Deadline 2	No change from position at Deadline 1	SoCG restructured and split into two (see below)

<b>Document Reference</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>Position at Submission</b>	<b>Position at Deadline 1 (18 November 2025)</b>	<b>Position at Deadline 1A (26 November 2025)</b>	<b>Position at Deadline 3 (9 January 2026)</b>
9.15	East Suffolk Council	N/A	N/A	N/A	SoCG updated and shared with the other party
9.23	Suffolk County Council	N/A	N/A	N/A	SoCG updated and shared with the other party
<b>Prescribed Consultees</b>					
7.4.1	Natural England	SoCG drafted and shared with the other party	No SoCG to be prepared (as indicated by NE)	No change from position at Deadline 1	No change from position at Deadline 1
9.29	Environment Agency	SoCG being prepared but not yet shared with the other party	SoCG being prepared but not yet shared with the other party	No change from position at Deadline 1	Draft SoCG
7.4.3	Historic England	SoCG drafted and shared with the other party	Draft SoCG	No change from position at Deadline 1	No change from position at Deadline 1
7.4.4	Marine Management Organisation	SoCG drafted and shared with the other party	SoCG updated and shared with the other party	No change from position at Deadline 1	Draft SoCG

<b>Document Reference</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>Position at Submission</b>	<b>Position at Deadline 1 (18 November 2025)</b>	<b>Position at Deadline 1A (26 November 2025)</b>	<b>Position at Deadline 3 (9 January 2026)</b>
7.4.9	Harwich Haven Authority	SoCG drafted and shared with the other party	SoCG updated and shared with the other party	No change from position at Deadline 1	No change from position at Deadline 1
7.4.10	Maritime and Coastguard Agency	SoCG drafted and shared with the other party	SoCG updated and shared with the other party	No change from position at Deadline 1	Draft SoCG
7.4.11	Port of London Authority	SoCG drafted and shared with the other party	SoCG updated and shared with the other party	No change from position at Deadline 1	Draft SoCG
7.4.12	Trinity House	SoCG drafted and shared with the other party	SoCG updated and shared with the other party	No change from position at Deadline 1	SoCG updated and shared with the other party
7.4.13	UK Chamber of Shipping	SoCG drafted and shared with the other party	SoCG updated and shared with the other party	No change from position at Deadline 1	Draft SoCG
7.4.14	Sandwich Port and Haven Commissioners	SoCG drafted and shared with the other party	No change from position at submission	No change from position at Deadline 1	No change from position at Deadline 1
7.4.15	Port of Ramsgate	SoCG drafted and shared with the other party	No change from position at submission	No change from position at Deadline 1	Draft SoCG

Document Reference	Party	Position at Submission	Position at Deadline 1 (18 November 2025)	Position at Deadline 1A (26 November 2025)	Position at Deadline 3 (9 January 2026)
9.42	Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape Partnership	N/A	SoCG drafted and shared with the other party	Draft SoCG	No change from position at Deadline 1
9.43	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	N/A	SoCG drafted and shared with the other party	No change from position at Deadline 1	Draft SoCG
	London Gateway Port	N/A	N/A	N/A	SoCG to be prepared
<b>Statutory Undertakers (and similar bodies)</b>					
9.46	Anglian Water (AW)	SoCG being prepared but not yet shared with the other party	SoCG updated and shared with the other party	No change from position at Deadline 1	No change from position at Deadline 1
9.51	Cadent Gas Limited (CG)	SoCG being prepared but not yet shared with the other party	SoCG shared with the other party	No change from position at Deadline 1	No change from position at Deadline 1
9.52	East Suffolk Water Management Board (ESWMB)	N/A	SoCG shared with the other party	No change from position at Deadline 1	No change from position at Deadline 1

<b>Document Reference</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>Position at Submission</b>	<b>Position at Deadline 1 (18 November 2025)</b>	<b>Position at Deadline 1A (26 November 2025)</b>	<b>Position at Deadline 3 (9 January 2026)</b>
9.53	EDF – Nuclear General Limited (EDF)	SoCG to be prepared	Final Signed SoCG all matters agreed	No change from position at Deadline 1	No change from position at Deadline 1
9.54	EXA Infrastructure UK Limited	SoCG being prepared but not yet shared with the other party	Final Signed SoCG all matters agreed	No change from position at Deadline 1	No change from position at Deadline 1
9.55	Helios Energy	N/A	Draft SoCG	No change from position at Deadline 1	No change from position at Deadline 1
9.56	Network Rail		SoCG shared with the other party	No change from position at Deadline 1	No change from position at Deadline 1
9.57	Northumbrian Water Group (NW)	SoCG being prepared but not yet shared with the other party	SoCG shared with the other party	No change from position at Deadline 1	No change from position at Deadline 1
9.58	River Stour Internal Drainage Board (RSIDB)	SoCG being prepared but not yet shared with the other party	SoCG shared with the other party	No change from position at Deadline 1	No change from position at Deadline 1



<b>Document Reference</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>Position at Submission</b>	<b>Position at Deadline 1 (18 November 2025)</b>	<b>Position at Deadline 1A (26 November 2025)</b>	<b>Position at Deadline 3 (9 January 2026)</b>
	Southern Water	SoCG being prepared but not yet shared with the other party	Not being updated at Deadline 1	No change from position at Deadline 1	No change from position at Deadline 1
9.59	Scottish Power Renewables (SPR)	SoCG being prepared but not yet shared with the other party	SoCG shared with the other party	No change from position at Deadline 1	No change from position at Deadline 1
9.60	Sizewell C		SoCG shared with the other party	No change from position at Deadline 1	No change from position at Deadline 1
9.61	Suffolk Constabulary		SoCG shared with the other party	No change from position at Deadline 1	No change from position at Deadline 2
9.62	UK Power Networks (UKPN)	SoCG being prepared but not yet shared with the other party	SoCG shared with the other party	No change from position at Deadline 1	SoCG updated and shared with the other party
9.63	Virgin Media	SoCG being prepared but not yet shared	SoCG shared with the other party	No change from position at Deadline 1	No change from position at Deadline 1

<b>Document Reference</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>Position at Submission</b>	<b>Position at Deadline 1 (18 November 2025)</b>	<b>Position at Deadline 1A (26 November 2025)</b>	<b>Position at Deadline 3 (9 January 2026)</b>
		with the other party			
9.64	Vodafone	SoCG being prepared but not yet shared with the other party	SoCG shared with the other party	No change from position at Deadline 1	No change from position at Deadline 1
9.65	National Trust	N/A	SoCG shared with the other party	No change from position at Deadline 1	No change from position at Deadline 1
9.67	National Grid Ventures – LionLink (NGV)	SoCG to be prepared	SoCG shared with the other party	No change from position at Deadline 1	No change from position at Deadline 1
	BT (UK to Netherlands 3,5, 8, 11, 12 and Farland North; Dumpton Gap-La Panne No. 2; UK to Belgium 1) (BT)	SoCG being prepared but not yet shared with the other party	SoCG not required	No change from position at Deadline 1	No change from position at Deadline 1
	East Suffolk Internal Drainage Board (ESIDB)	SoCG being prepared but not yet shared with the other party	See 9.52	N/A	N/A

<b>Document Reference</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>Position at Submission</b>	<b>Position at Deadline 1 (18 November 2025)</b>	<b>Position at Deadline 1A (26 November 2025)</b>	<b>Position at Deadline 3 (9 January 2026)</b>
	Southern Gas Networks Limited (SGN)	SoCG being prepared but not yet shared with the other party	Not being updated for Deadline 1	No change from position at Deadline 1	No change from position at Deadline 1
	EEAST	N/A	SoCG to be prepared	No change from position at Deadline 1	No change from position at Deadline 1

## 4. Commonality

- 4.1.1 This section of the Statement provides a summary of principal issues covered in each SoCG which has been submitted with the Application and demonstrates where there is commonality in the topics or matters.
- 4.1.2 The table is presented in such a way to show topics covered within the various submitted SoCGs and how these are relevant to each party and a position for each topic as follows:

**Table 4.1 Matters Key**

	Matters agreed with other party
	Some matters agreed, some matters not agreed and some under discussion
	Some matters agreed, and some matters not agreed
	Some matters agreed, some matters under discussion
	Matters under discussion
	Matters not able to be agreed
	Matter not relevant to or discussed within the SoCG

Table 4.2 - Table of Commonality: Prescribed Consultees (Terrestrial)

Doc. Ref	Party	Need for the Project	Assessment/Approach Methodologies	Development Consent Order	Landscape and Visual	Ecology and Biodiversity	Air Quality	Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	Physical Processes	National Landscape matters (including Section 85 of CRow Act)	Flood Risk Assessment	Flood Risk – Outline Contruction Environmental Management Plan/REAC	Flood Risk – Coastal Erosion Assessment	Flood Modelling	Groundwater and Contaminated Land	Water Resources	Geomorphology	Marine Biosecurity Plan / Outline Offshore INNS Management Plan	Water Framework Directive	Waste	Principle of development within Designated Sites	Suffolk Onshore Scheme – Description of Baseline	Landfall at North Warren	Suffolk Onshore Scheme – Cable Corridor Impacts	Cumulative/In-combination Effects	RSPB Landownership	Kent Onshore Scheme – Landfall	Kent Onshore Scheme – Cable Route, Converter Station and Substation	Kent Onshore Scheme – Habitat Enhancements and BNG	Kent Onshore Scheme – Risks of Further Problems in the Future	Marine Ornithology
7.4.3	HE																														
9.29	EA																														
9.42	NLP																														
9.43	RSPB																														



Table 4.3 - Table of Commonality: Prescribed Consultees (Marine)

Doc. Ref	Party	Need for the Project	Assessment/Approach Methodologies	Fish and Shellfish	Shipping and Navigation	Offshore and Intertidal Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	Physical Processes	Benthic Ecology	Marine Mammals	Deemed Marine License	Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA)	UXO Consenting and Depth of Lowering	Further Consultation on additional PEIR
7.4.4	MMO												
7.4.9	HHA												
7.4.10	MCA												
7.4.11	PLA												
7.4.12	TH												
7.4.13	UKCoS												
7.4.14	SPHA												
7.4.15	PoR												

Table 4.4 – Table of Commonality: Local Authorities

Doc. Ref		Party	Policy	Consenting Route	Coordination	Site Selection	Strategic Options	Need for the Project	Land Ownership	Order Limits	Design Review and Masterplanning	Draft DCO	Consultation	Landscape and Visual	Ecology and Biodiversity	Cultural Heritage	Water Environment and Flood Risk	Geology and Hydrogeology	Agriculture and Soils	Traffic and Transport	Public Rights of Way	Air Quality	Noise and Vibration	Socioeconomics, Recreation and Tourism	Health and Wellbeing	Cumulative Effects	Other Matters	Suffolk Onshore Scheme – Landfall	HVDC Cable Route	Saxmundham Converter Station Co-location and Design	Saxmundham Converter Station Access and River Fromus Crossing	HVAC Cable Route	Friston Substation	Construction Compounds	Impacts of Construction Working Hours	Community Benefits and Compensation	Public Rights of Way	Access Route – Benhall Railway Bridge, B1121	Land for mitigation within Order Limits	Emergency Planning	
7.4.5		TDC																																							
7.4.6		DDC																																							
7.4.7		KCC																																							
9.23		SCC																																							
9.15		ESC																																							

Table 4.5 – Table of Commonality: Statutory Undertakers and Other Bodies

Doc. Ref	Party	Sea Link' s Interfaces with Other Party' s Assets	Construction Matters	Sea Link' s Interfaces with Other Party' s Proposed	Principle of including Friston Substation in the Application	Routing of National Grid HVDC Cables	Routing of HVAC Cables	Compulsory Acquisition	Operational Impacts	Protective Provisions	Design Criteria	Consents and Regulation	Nuclear Safety and Security	Asset Supervision	Converter Station Site Co-location and Masterplanning	Cable routes	Friston (Kiln Lane) Substation	Ecology and Biodiversity	Landscape and Visual	Use of Benhall Bridge and Overbridgins	Ares of possible coordination	Shipping and Navigation	AIL Deliveries	Management of Works	
9.46	AW																								
9.51	CG																								
9.52	ESWMB																								
9.53	EDF																								
9.54	EXA																								
9.55	Helios																								
9.56	Network Rail																								
9.57	NW																								
9.58	RSIDB																								
9.59	SPR																								
9.60	Sizewell C																								

Doc. Ref																								
Party	Sea Link' s Interfaces with Other Party' s Assets	Construction Matters	Sea Link' s Interfaces with Other Party' s Proposed	Principle of including Friston Substation in the Application	Routing of National Grid HVDC Cables	Routing of HVAC Cables	Compulsory Acquisition	Operational Impacts	Protective Provisions	Design Criteria	Consents and Regulation	Nuclear Safety and Security	Asset Supervision	Converter Station Site Co-location and Masterplanning	Cable routes	Friston (Kiln Lane) Substation	Ecology and Biodiversity	Landscape and Visual	Use of Benhall Bridge and Overbridgins	Ares of possible coordination	Shipping and Navigation	AIL Deliveries	Management of Works	
9.61	Suffolk Constabulary																							
9.62	UKPN																							
9.63	Virgin Media																							
9.64	Vodafone																							
9.65	National Trust																							
9.67	NGV																							

## 5. Status at Deadline 3 ( 9 January 2026)

### 5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 This section provides a summary of the current status of the SoCGs between National Grid and each party at Deadline 1A. The individual SoCG should be referred to for the full detail on specific matters.

### 5.2 Local Authorities

#### Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk Council

- 5.2.1 A draft joint SoCG (**Application Document 7.4.8 Draft Statement of Common Ground - East Suffolk Council/Suffolk County Council**) has been prepared by National Grid. An early draft (version A) was submitted with the Application, based on engagement with ESC and SCC throughout the development of the Proposed Project. This draft SoCG was sent to ESC and SCC on 13 March 2025 in advance of submission of the Application, but comments were not received when this document was finalised as a draft for submission. Since the submission of the Application, National Grid has continued to work with ESC and SCC to resolve issues as the Proposed Project progresses through the Pre-Examination and Examination phases and will record those agreements in later versions of the SoCG.
- 5.2.2 As agreed with ESC and SCC, the joint SoCG (**Application Document 7.4.8 Draft Statement of Common Ground East Suffolk Council/Suffolk County Council**) has been split into two separate documents, so that each local planning authority now has its own SoCG:
- **Application Document 9.15 Draft Statement of Common Ground – East Suffolk Council**
  - **Application Document 9.23 Draft Statement of Common Ground – Suffolk County Council**
- 5.2.3 **Application Document 9.15 Draft Statement of Common Ground – East Suffolk Council** has been structured so that its Section 3.1 contains the summary of principal matters from ESC’s relevant representation. The draft SoCG (version A) has been reviewed by ESC and is submitted at Deadline 3. ESC is currently reviewing the draft DCO section within Section 3.2 and some other matters within the SoCG and an updated position on each of these matters will be provided at the next iteration of the SoCG.
- 5.2.4 **Application Document 9.23 Draft Statement of Common Ground – Suffolk County Council** has been structured so that its Section 3 Areas of Discussion between the Parties focuses on the summary of principal matters from SCC’s relevant representation. The draft SoCG has been reviewed by SCC and is submitted to Deadline 3. However, please note that SCC’s input has been limited at this stage due to time and resource constraints and SCC’s review is therefore ongoing (their comments and stated positions are qualified accordingly).



## Kent County Council

- 5.2.5 A draft SoCG (**Application Document 7.4.7 Draft Statement of Common Ground Kent County Council**) has been prepared by National Grid. An early draft (version A) was submitted with the Application, based on engagement with KCC throughout the development of the Proposed Project. The draft SoCG was sent to KCC 12 March 2025 in advance of submission of the Application, but comments were not received when this document was finalised as a draft for submission. Since the submission of the Application, National Grid has continued to work with KCC to resolve issues as the Proposed Project progresses through the Pre-Examination and Examination phases and will record those agreements in later versions of the SoCG.
- 5.2.6 An updated SoCG (version B), incorporating matters raised in KCC's Principal Areas of Disagreement Summary Statement (PADSS) as well as issues discussed during ongoing thematic meetings, was submitted at Deadline 1 and was sent to KCC, shortly before Deadline 1. No comments had been received by the Applicant and therefore their position remained unchanged from the previous version A of **Application Document 7.4.7 Draft Statement of Common Ground Kent County Council [APP-328]** at subsequent deadlines.
- 5.2.7 KCC have now reviewed the draft SoCG and returned comments on 18 December. The draft SoCG has therefore been updated to version C to reflect their current position, although it is noted that KCC are still to update their position with regards certain topics which can be addressed in the next submission.
- 5.2.8

## Dover District Council

- 5.2.9 A draft SoCG (**Application Document 7.4.6 Draft Statement of Common Ground Dover District Council**) has been prepared by National Grid. An early draft (version A) of the SoCG was submitted with the Application, based on engagement with DDC throughout the development of the Proposed Project. This draft SoCG was sent to DDC on 12 March 2025 in advance of submission of the Application, but comments were not received when this document was finalised as a draft for submission. Since the submission of the Application, National Grid has continued to work with DDC to resolve issues as the Proposed Project progresses through the Pre-Examination and Examination phases and will record those agreements in later versions of the SoCG.
- 5.2.10 An updated SoCG (version B), incorporating matters raised in DDC's PADSS and other issues discussed, was submitted at Deadline 1, but there had not been sufficient time to share this further with DCC before Deadline 1.
- 5.2.11 The SoCG was shared with DDC following Deadline 1 and has now been reviewed by DDC. This latest SoCG (version C) therefore now includes their position in response to the updates that were made in the previous version and is submitted at Deadline 3. It is noted that KCC are still to update their position with regards to certain topics which can be addressed in the next submission.

## Thanet District Council

- 5.2.12 A draft SoCG (**Application Document 7.4.5 Draft Statement of Common Ground - Thanet District Council**) has been prepared by National Grid. An early draft (version A) was submitted with the Application, based on engagement with TDC throughout the development of the Proposed Project. This draft SoCG was sent to TDC on 12 March

2025 in advance of submission of the Application, but comments were not received when this document was finalised as a draft for submission. Since the submission of the Application, National Grid has continued to work with TDC to resolve issues as the Proposed Project progresses through the Examination phase.

- 5.2.13 An updated SoCG (version B), incorporating matters raised in TDC's PADSS and other issues discussed, was submitted at Deadline 1, but there had not been sufficient time to share this further with TCC before Deadline 1.
- 5.2.14 The SoCG was shared with TDC following Deadline 1 and has now been reviewed by TDC. This latest SoCG (version C) therefore now includes their position in response to the updates that were made in the previous version and is submitted at Deadline 3.

## 5.3 Prescribed Consultees

### Natural England

- 5.3.1 A draft SoCG (**Application Document 7.4.1 Draft Statement of Common Ground Natural England**) has been prepared by National Grid. An early draft (version A) was submitted with the Application based on engagement with NE throughout the development of the Proposed Project. This early draft SoCG was sent to NE on 18 March 2025 in advance of submission of the Application, but comments were not received when this document was finalised as a draft for submission.
- 5.3.2 In their response to the Rule 6 letter, NE has indicated that they are not engaging in the SoCG process and instead, focusing primarily on Principal Areas of Disagreement Summary Statements (PADSS) and their own Risk and Issues Log. This SoCG will therefore not be progressed.

### Environment Agency

- 5.3.3 As part of their ongoing engagement, National Grid and the Environment Agency have produced an issues tracker to capture issues and the status of their agreement. This has been used to prepare a draft SoCG. A first iteration of this SoCG (**Application Document 9.29 Draft Statement of Common Ground – Environment Agency**), which has been reviewed by EA, is submitted to the Examination at Deadline 3.

### Historic England

- 5.3.4 A draft SoCG (**Application Document 7.4.3 Draft Statement of Common Ground - Historic England**) has been prepared by National Grid. An early draft (version A) was submitted with the Application, based on engagement with HE throughout the development of the Proposed Project. This early draft SoCG was sent to HE 18 March 2025 in advance of submission of the Application, but comments were not received when this document was finalised as a draft for submission. Since the submission of the Application, National Grid has continued to work with HE to resolve issues as the Proposed Project progresses through the Pre-Examination and Examination phases and will record those agreements in later versions of the SoCG.
- 5.3.5 HE have provided comments on version A of the SoCG, which have been addressed by National Grid: this updated SoCG (version B) was submitted at Deadline 1.
- 5.3.6 This position remains the same at Deadline 3.

## Marine Management Organisation

- 5.3.7 A draft SoCG (**Application Document 7.4.4 Draft Statement of Common Ground - Marine Management Organisation**) has been prepared by National Grid. An early draft (version A) was submitted with the Application, based on engagement with the MMO throughout the development of the Proposed Project. The MMO confirmed that they did not want to see the draft SoCG prior to submission, so this was not sent out to them, as an earlier draft was shared with MMO on 03 December 2024, with no additional comments or requests made from the MMO. Since the submission of the Application, National Grid has continued to work with the MMO to resolve issues as the Proposed Project progresses through the Pre-Examination and Examination phases and will record those agreements in later versions of the SoCG.
- 5.3.8 An updated SoCG (version B) was submitted at Deadline 1. This has been shared with the MMO for comment shortly before Deadline 1.
- 5.3.9 The draft SoCG (version C) has now been updated following collaboration between the Applicant and the MMO and is submitted at Deadline 3.

## Marine and Coastguard Authority

- 5.3.10 A draft SoCG (**Application Document 7.4.10 Draft Statement of Common Ground - Maritime and Coastguard Agency**) has been prepared by National Grid. An early draft (version A) was submitted with the Application, based on engagement with the MCA throughout development of the Proposed Project. This draft SoCG was sent to the MCA on 04 March 2025 in advance of submission of the Application, but comments were not received when this document was finalised as a draft for submission. National Grid has continued to work with the MCA to resolve issues as the Proposed Project progresses through the Pre-Examination and Examination phases and will record those agreements in later versions of the SoCG. An updated SoCG (version B) was submitted at Deadline 1. This has been shared with the MCA shortly before Deadline 1 and the Applicant has since received and addressed their comments.
- 5.3.11 This updated draft SoCG (version C) is submitted at Deadline 3.

## Port of London Authority

- 5.3.12 A draft SoCG (**Application Document 7.4.11 Draft Statement of Common Ground - Port of London Authority**) has been prepared by National Grid. An early draft (version A) was submitted with the Application, based on engagement with PLA throughout the development of the Proposed Project. This draft SoCG was sent to PLA on 04 March 2025, but comments were not received when this document was finalised as a draft for submission. Since the submission of the Application, National Grid has continued to work with PLA to resolve issues as the Proposed Project progresses through the Pre-Examination and Examination phases and will record those agreements in later versions of the SoCG. An updated SoCG (version B) was submitted at Deadline 1. This has been shared with the PLA shortly before Deadline 1 and the Applicant has since received and addressed their comments.
- 5.3.13 This updated draft SoCG (version C) is submitted at Deadline 3.

## Trinity House

- 5.3.14 A draft SoCG (**Application Document 7.4.12 Draft Statement of Common Ground Trinity House**) has been prepared by National Grid. An early draft (version A) was submitted with the Application, based on engagement with TH throughout the development of the Proposed Project. This draft SoCG was sent to TH on 04 March 2025, but comments were not received when this document was finalised as a draft for submission. Since the submission of the Application, National Grid has continued to work with TH to resolve issues as the Proposed Project progresses through the Pre-Examination and Examination phases and will record those agreements in later versions of the SoCG.
- 5.3.15 An updated SoCG (version B) was submitted at Deadline 1. This has been shared with TH shortly before Deadline 1, but no comments had been received on version B .
- 5.3.16 The draft SoCG has been updated to reflect the Applicant's position. This updated draft SoCG (version C) has been shared with TH and is submitted at Deadline 3.

## UK Chamber of Shipping

- 5.3.17 A draft SoCG (**Application Document 7.4.13 Draft Statement of Common Ground UK Chamber of Shipping**) has been prepared by National Grid. An early draft (version A) was submitted with the Application, based on engagement with UKCoS throughout the development of the Proposed Project. This draft SoCG was sent to UKCoS on 04 March 2025, but comments were not received when this document was finalised as a draft for submission. Since the submission of the Application, National Grid has continued to work with UKCoS to resolve issues as the Proposed Project progresses through the Pre-Examination and Examination phases and will record those agreements in later versions of the SoCG.
- 5.3.18 An updated SoCG (version B) was submitted at Deadline 1. This has been shared with UKCoS shortly before Deadline 1 and the Applicant has since received and addressed their comments.
- 5.3.19 This updated draft SoCG (version C) is submitted at Deadline 3.

## Port of Ramsgate

- 5.3.20 A draft SoCG (**Application Document 7.4.15 Draft Statement of Common Ground Port of Ramsgate**) has been prepared by National Grid. An early draft (version A) was submitted with the Application based on engagement with PoR throughout the development of the Proposed Project. This draft SoCG was sent to PoR on 04 March 2025 in advance of submission of the DCO application, but comments were not received when this document was finalised as a draft for submission. Since the submission of the Application, National Grid has continued to work with PoR to resolve issues as the Proposed Project progresses through the Pre-Examination and Examination phases and will record those agreements in later versions of the SoCG.
- 5.3.21 No updated SoCG was provided at Deadline 1, Deadline 1A and Deadline 2.
- 5.3.22 Comments from PoR on the draft SoCG have since been received and addressed by the Applicant. This updated version of the draft SoCG (version B) is submitted at Deadline 3.

## Harwich Haven Authority

- 5.3.23 A draft SoCG (**Application Document 7.4.9 Draft Statement of Common Ground Harwich Haven Authority**) has been prepared by National Grid. An early draft (version A) was submitted with the Application, based on engagement with HHA throughout the development of the Proposed Project. This draft SoCG was sent to HHA on 04 March 2025, but comments were not received when this document was finalised as a draft for submission. Since the submission of the Application, National Grid has continued to work with HHA to resolve issues as the Proposed Project progresses through the Pre-Examination and Examination phases and will record those agreements in later versions of the SoCG.
- 5.3.24 An updated SoCG (version B) was submitted at Deadline 1. This has been shared with HHA shortly before Deadline 1. The Applicant has now received, and is currently addressing, their comments. An updated version of this SoCG will be provided at a later deadline.

## **Sandwich Port and Haven Commissioners**

- 5.3.25 A draft SoCG (**Application Document 7.4.14 Draft Statement of Common Ground Sandwich Port and Haven Commissioners**) has been prepared by National Grid. An early draft (version A) was submitted with the Application based on engagement with SPHA throughout the development of the Proposed Project. This draft SoCG was sent to SPHA on 04 March 2025 in advance of submission of the DCO application, but comments were not received when this document was finalised as a draft for submission. Since the submission of the Application, National Grid has continued to work with SPHA to resolve issues as the Proposed Project progresses through the Pre-Examination and Examination phases and will record those agreements in later versions of the SoCG.
- 5.3.26 No updated SoCG was provided at Deadlines 1, 1A and 2.
- 5.3.27 This position remains the same at Deadline 3.

## **Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape Partnership**

- 5.3.28 A draft SoCG (**Application Document 9.42 (A) Draft Statement of Common Ground - National Landscape Partnership**) has been prepared by National Grid and shared with NLP. Comments have been received from NLP and addressed by National Grid. This draft SoCG was submitted at Deadline 1A.
- 5.3.29 This position remains the same at Deadline 3.

## **London Gateway Port**

- 5.3.30 National Grid is currently preparing a draft SoCG with the London Gateway Port, which will be submitted at a later deadline.

## **5.4 Statutory Undertakers and Other Bodies**

- 5.4.1 National Grid has been engaging with the statutory undertakers and other bodies listed in Table 2.1. National Grid has begun to prepare SoCGs for these parties and shared the draft SoCGs with these parties following the submission of the Application. Since the submission of the Application, National Grid has continued to work with these parties to resolve issues as the Proposed Project progresses through the Pre-Examination and Examination phases and will record those agreements in later versions of the SoCG.



## Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

- 5.4.2 A draft SoCG (**Application Document 9.43 (A) Draft Statement of Common Ground - Royal Society for the Protection of Birds**) has been prepared by National Grid and was submitted at Deadline 1. This SoCG will be progressed during the Examination period to reach a final position between the Applicant and RSPB and to clarify if any issues remain unresolved.
- 5.4.3 The draft SoCG was shared with RSPB shortly before Deadline 1. The Applicant has since received and addressed their comments.
- 5.4.4 Following discussions with RSPB, the draft SoCG has been restructured and focused on points of disagreement. It has been reviewed by RSPB, but as they are currently reviewing the Applicant's responses to the Written Representation (**Application Document 9.79 Applicant's Comments on Written Representations [REP2-2034]**), many of the matters raised in the SoCG are marked as "under discussion".
- 5.4.5 This updated version of the draft SoCG (version B) is submitted to Deadline 3.

## Anglian Water

- 5.4.6 A draft SoCG (**Application Document 9.46 (A) Draft Statement of Common Ground Anglian Water**) has been prepared by National Grid and has been shared with Anglian Water. This version was shared at Deadline 1. Updates to the SoCG are taking place following comments from Anglian Water and a further meeting held on the 14 November 2024. An updated version of the SoCG will be issued at a later deadline.
- 5.4.7 This position remains the same at Deadline 3.

## Cadent Gas Limited

- 5.4.8 A draft SoCG (**Application Document 9.51 (A) Draft Statement of Common Ground Cadent Gas**) has been prepared by National Grid and shared with Cadent Gas. This version was submitted at Deadline 1. The Applicant is awaiting comments from Cadent Gas.
- 5.4.9 This position remains the same at Deadline 3.

## East Suffolk Water Management Board

- 5.4.10 A draft SoCG (**Application Document 9.52 (A) Draft Statement of Common Ground East Suffolk Water Management Board**) has been prepared by National Grid and shared with ESWMB. This version was submitted at Deadline 1. The Applicant is awaiting comments from ESWMB.
- 5.4.11 This position remains the same at Deadline 3.

## EDF Nuclear General Limited

- 5.4.12 A final SoCG (**Application Document 9.53 (A) Statement of Common Ground EDF Nuclear Generation Limited (ENGL)**), signed by both parties with all matters agreed, was submitted at Deadline 1.
- 5.4.13 This position remains the same at Deadline 3.

## EXA

- 5.4.14 A final SoCG (**Application Document 9.54 Statement of Common Ground EXA**), signed by both parties with all matters agreed, was submitted at Deadline 1.

## Helios Energy

- 5.4.15 A draft SoCG (**Application Document 9.55 Statement of Common Ground BL Solar 12 (Helios Energy Park) Limited**), signed by both parties with some matters agreed and under discussion, was submitted at Deadline 1.

## Network Rail

- 5.4.16 A draft SoCG (**Application Document 9.56 (A) Draft Statement of Common Ground Network Rail**) has been prepared by National Grid and shared with Network Rail. This version was submitted at Deadline 1. The Applicant is awaiting comments from Network Rail.
- 5.4.17 This position remains the same at Deadline 3.

## Northumbrian Water Group

- 5.4.18 A draft SoCG (**Application Document 9.57 (A) Draft Statement of Common Ground Northumbrian Water**) has been prepared by National Grid and shared with Northumbrian Water. This version was submitted at Deadline 1. The Applicant is awaiting comments from Northumbrian Water.
- 5.4.19 This position remains the same at Deadline 3

## River Stour Internal Drainage Board

- 5.4.20 A draft SoCG (**Application Document 9.58 (A) Draft Statement of Common Ground River Stour Internal Drainage Board**) has been prepared by National Grid and shared with RSIDB. This version was submitted at Deadline 1. The Applicant has received comments from RSIDB and these are being addressed..
- 5.4.21 This position remains the same at Deadline 3.

## Scottish Power Renewables

- 5.4.22 A draft SoCG (**Application Document 9.59 (A) Draft Statement of Common Ground Scottish Power Renewables**) has been prepared by National Grid and shared with SPR. This draft SoCG will be submitted at a later deadline.
- 5.4.23 This position remains the same at Deadline 3.

## Sizewell C

- 5.4.24 A draft SoCG (**Application Document 9.60 (A) Draft Statement of Common Ground Sizewell C (Pledgeco) Limited**) has been prepared by National Grid and shared with Sizewell C. This version was submitted at Deadline 1. The Applicant is currently awaiting comments.
- 5.4.25 This position remains the same at Deadline 3.



## Suffolk Constabulary

- 5.4.26 A draft SoCG (**Application Document 9.61 (A) Draft Statement of Common Ground Suffolk Constabulary**) has been prepared by National Grid and shared with Suffolk Constabulary. This version was submitted at Deadline 1. The Applicant is currently awaiting comments.
- 5.4.27 This position remains the same at Deadline 3.

## UK Power Networks

- 5.4.28 A draft SoCG (**Application Document 9.62 (A) Draft Statement of Common Ground UK Power Networks**) has been prepared by National Grid and shared with UK Power Networks. This version was submitted at Deadline 1. Comments have been received and the Applicant is currently addressing these.
- 5.4.29 This position remains the same at Deadline 3.

## Virgin Media

- 5.4.30 A draft SoCG (**Application Document 9.63 (A) Draft Statement of Common Ground Virgin Media**) has been prepared by National Grid and shared with Virgin Media. This version was submitted at Deadline 1. The Applicant has discussed the content of the SoCG with Virgin Media and is awaiting further comments.
- 5.4.31 This position remains the same at Deadline 3.

## Vodafone

- 5.4.32 A draft SoCG (**Application Document 9.64 (A) Draft Statement of Common Ground Vodafone**) has been prepared by National Grid and shared with Vodafone. This version was submitted at Deadline 1. The Applicant is awaiting further comments from Vodafone.
- 5.4.33 This position remains the same at Deadline 3.

## National Trust

- 5.4.34 A draft SoCG (**Application Document 9.65 (A) Draft Statement of Common Ground National Trust**) has been prepared by National Grid and shared with National Trust. This version was submitted at Deadline 1. The Applicant is awaiting comments from the National Trust.
- 5.4.35 This position remains the same at Deadline 3.

## National Grid Ventures

- 5.4.36 A draft SoCG (**Application Document 9.67 (A) Draft Statement of Common Ground National Grid Ventures**) has been prepared by National Grid and shared with NGV. This version was submitted at Deadline 1. The Applicant is awaiting comments. Commitments have been discussed at meetings and will continue to be discussed.
- 5.4.37 This position remains the same at Deadline 3.

## **EEAST**

- 5.4.38 The Applicant is currently preparing a draft SoCG with EEAST which will be submitted at a later deadline.

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