

The Great Grid Upgrade

Sea Link

# Sea Link

Volume 7: Other Documents

Document 7.4: Statement of Commonality

Version: ~~DE~~  
~~January~~ **March** 2026

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 Regulation 5(2)(a)

nationalgrid

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| <b>Version</b>    |                |               |                                      |
|-------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|
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| November 2025     | C              | DRAFT         | Issued to PINS for Deadline 1A       |
| January 2026      | D              | DRAFT         | Issued to PINS for Deadline 3        |
| <u>March 2026</u> | <u>E</u>       | <u>DRAFT</u>  | <u>Issued to PINS for Deadline 5</u> |

## 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 35 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 35. 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)~~ **5 (10 March)** 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                            |

| <b>Abbreviation/Term</b> | <b>Definition</b>   |
|--------------------------|---|
| 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  |

| <b>Abbreviation/Term</b> | <b>Definition</b> |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 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 ~~4A5~~. 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~~ the SoCG's at ~~the~~ submission of the Application as well as Deadline 1, Deadline 1A, Deadline 3 and Deadline ~~4A5~~. 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.

3.1.3 [Further details on the status of each SoCG are provided in Section 5.](#)

**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)          | Position at Deadline 5 (10 March 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                                       | <u>Draft SoCG</u>                      |
| 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                                       | <u>Draft SoCG</u>                      |
| 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                                       | <u>Draft SoCG</u>                      |
| 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)<br><br>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) | <u>Superseded by 9.15 and 9.23</u>     |

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| 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)      | Position at Deadline 5 (10 March 2026) |
|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| 9.15               | East Suffolk Council   | N/A                    | N/A                                       | N/A  | SoCG updated and shared with the other party | <a href="#">Draft SoCG</a>             |
| 9.23               | Suffolk County Council | N/A                    | N/A                                       | N/A  | SoCG updated and shared with the other party | <a href="#">Draft SoCG</a>             |

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**Prescribed Consultees**

|                 |                               |  |  |  |                                       |   |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|--|--|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| 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 | <a href="#">No change from position at Deadline 1</a> |
| <del>9.29</del> | <del>Environment Agency</del> | <del>SoCG being prepared but not yet shared with the other party</del> | <del>SoCG being prepared but not yet shared with the other party</del> | <del>No change from position at Deadline 1</del> | <del>Draft SoCG</del>                 |   |
| 7.4.3           | Historic England              | SoCG drafted and shared  | Draft SoCG   | No change from position at Deadline 1            | No change from position at Deadline 1 | <a href="#">Draft SoCG</a>                            |

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| 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)      | Position at Deadline 5 (10 March 2026) |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
|                    |                                | with the other party                         |  |  |  |  |
| 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                                   | <a href="#">Draft SoCG</a>             |
| 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        | <a href="#">Draft SoCG</a>             |
| 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                                   | <a href="#">Draft SoCG</a>             |
| 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                                   | <a href="#">Draft SoCG</a>             |
| 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 | <a href="#">Draft SoCG</a>             |

Inserted Cells

| 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) | Position at Deadline 5 (10 March 2026)       |
|--------------------|---|--|--|--|---|--|
| 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                              | <u>Draft SoCG</u>                            |
| 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   | <u>SOCC agreed</u>                           |
| 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                              | <u>SoCG agreed</u>                           |
| <u>9.29</u>        | <u>Environment Agency</u>                                     | <u>SoCG being prepared but not yet shared with the other party</u> | <u>SoCG being prepared but not yet shared with the other party</u> | <u>No change from position at Deadline 1</u> | <u>Draft SoCG</u>                       | <u>Draft SoCG</u>                            |
| 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   | <u>No change from position at Deadline 1</u> |

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| 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) | Position at Deadline 5 (10 March 2026) |
|---|---|---|--|--|---|--|
| 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                              | <a href="#">Draft SoCG</a>             |
| <a href="#">9.100</a>                             | London Gateway Port                         | N/A   | N/A  | N/A  | SoCG to be prepared                     | <a href="#">Draft SoCG</a>             |
| <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   | <a href="#">Draft SoCG</a>             |
| 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   | <a href="#">Draft SoCG</a>             |
| 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   | <a href="#">Draft SoCG</a>             |

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| 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) | Position at Deadline 5 (10 March 2026)            |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|--|---|---|
| 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   | <u>No change from position at Deadline 1</u>      |
| 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   | <u>No change from position at Deadline 1</u>      |
| 9.55               | Helios Energy                       | N/A   | Draft SoCG                                | No change from position at Deadline 1      | No change from position at Deadline 1   | <u>Final Signed SoCG with matters outstanding</u> |
| 9.56               | Network Rail                        |   | SoCG shared with the other party          | No change from position at Deadline 1      | No change from position at Deadline 1   | <u>Draft SoCG</u>                                 |
| 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   | <u>Draft SoCG</u>                                 |

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| 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) | Position at Deadline 5 (10 March 2026) |
|----------------------|---|---|---|--|---|--|
| 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   | <a href="#">Draft SoCG</a>             |
| <a href="#">9.95</a> | Southern Water <a href="#">(SW)</a>         | 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   | <a href="#">Draft SoCG</a>             |
| 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   | <a href="#">Draft SoCG</a>             |
| 9.60                 | Sizewell C                                  |   | SoCG shared with the other party          | No change from position at Deadline 1      | No change from position at Deadline 1   | <a href="#">Draft SoCG</a>             |
| 9.61                 | Suffolk Constabulary                        |   | SoCG shared with the other party          | No change from position at Deadline 1      | No change from position at Deadline 2   | <a href="#">Draft SoCG</a>             |

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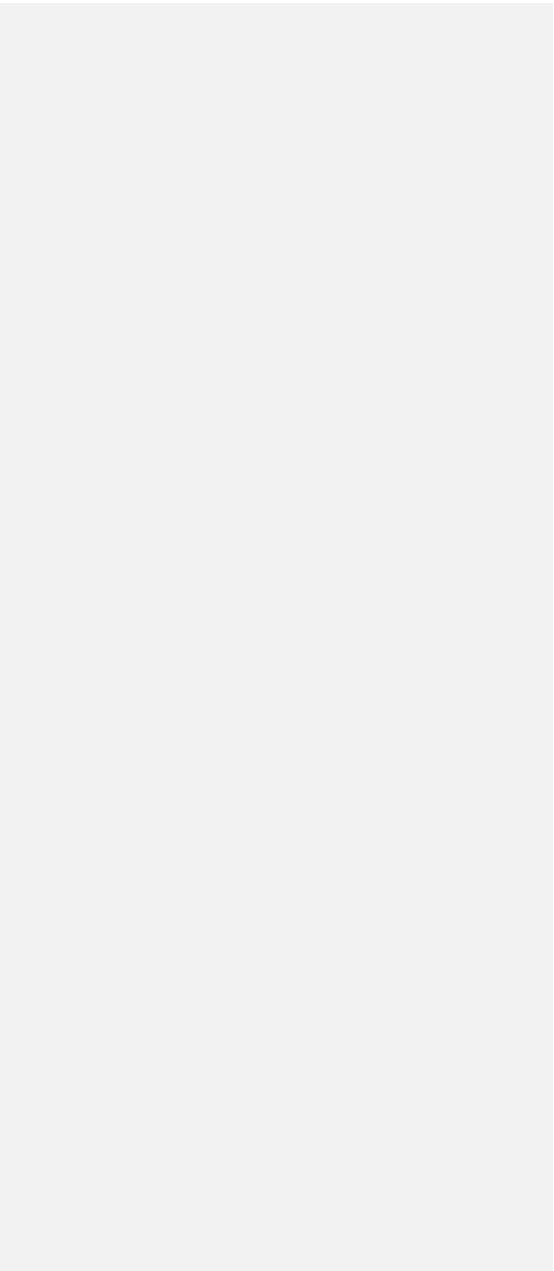
| Document Reference   | Party   |                     | Position at Submission                                      | Position at Deadline 1 (18 November 2025)             | Position at Deadline 1A (26 November 2025)            | Position at Deadline 3 (9 January 2026)      | Position at Deadline 5 (10 March 2026)                |
|----------------------|---|---------------------|---|---|---|--|---|
| 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 | <a href="#">Draft SoCG</a>                            |
| 9.63                 | Virgin Media  |                     | 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        | <a href="#">No change from position at Deadline 1</a> |
| 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        | <a href="#">No change from position at Deadline 1</a> |
| 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        | <a href="#">Draft SoCG</a>                            |
| <a href="#">9.66</a> | <a href="#">East of England Ambulance Service (EEAST)</a> | <a href="#">N/A</a> | <a href="#">SoCG to be prepared</a>                         | <a href="#">No change from position at Deadline 1</a> | <a href="#">No change from position at Deadline 1</a> | <a href="#">Draft SoCG</a>                   |   |

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| 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)          | Position at Deadline 5 (10 March 2026)       |
|--------------------|---|--|---|--|--|--|
| 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            | <u>No change from position at Deadline 1</u> |
|                    | 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            | <u>No change from position at Deadline 1</u> |
|                    | <del>East Suffolk Internal Drainage Board (ESIDB)</del>   | <del>SoCG being prepared but not yet shared with the other party</del> | <del>See 9.52</del>                       | <del>N/A</del>                                   | <del>N/A</del>                                   |  |
| <u>9.118</u>       | 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            | <u>Draft SoCG</u>                            |
|                    | <u>EEAST</u>  | <del>N/A</del>   | <del>SoCG to be prepared</del>            | <del>No change from position at Deadline 1</del> | <del>No change from position at Deadline 1</del> |  |

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## 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. [This table is being updated throughout the examination to reflect discussions between the Applicant and stakeholders.](#)
- 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 4.3 –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 Physical Processes | Benthic Ecology | Marine Mammals | Deemed Marine License | Habitat Regulations (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                 |                      |                                   |                    |                         |  |                 |                |                       |                           |                                      |   |
| <a href="#">9.100</a> | <a href="#">LGP</a> |                      |                                   |                    |                         |  |                 |                |                       |                           |                                      |   |

**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 | Marine Ecology | 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   |        |                  |              |                |                   |                      |                |              |                                  |           |              |                      |                          |                |                   |                                  |                          |                       |                       |                      |             |                     |  |                      |                    |               |                                   |                  |   |   |                  |                    |                        |                                       |                                     |                      |  |   |                    |  |  |  |

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**Table 4.5—Table of Commonality: Statutory Undertakers and Other Bodies**

| Doc. Ref | Party        | Sea Link' s Interfaces with Other Party' s Party's Assets | Construction Matters | Sea Link' s Interfaces with Other Party' s Party's Proposed Assets | 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 Overbridgings | Areas of possible coordination |  |
|----------|--------------|---|----------------------|--|--|--------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|---|--------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|
|          |              |   |                      |  |  |                                      |                        |                        |                     |                       |                 |                         |                             |                   |   |              |                                |                          |                      |   |                                |  |
| 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   |   |                      |  |  |                                      |                        |                        |                     |                       |                 |                         |                             |                   |   |              |                                |                          |                      |   |                                |  |

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| Doc. Ref | Party                | Sea Link's Interfaces with Other Party's Assets | Construction Matters | Sea Link's Interfaces with Other Party's Assets | 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 Overbridges | Areas of possible coordination |  |
|----------|----------------------|---|----------------------|---|--|--------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|---|--------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| 9.61     | Suffolk Constabulary |   |                      |   |  |                                      |                        |                        |                     |                       |                 |                         |                             |                   |   |              |                                |                          |                      |                                       |                                |  |
| 9.62     | UKPN                 |   |                      |   |  |                                      |                        |                        |                     |                       |                 |                         |                             |                   |   |              |                                |                          |                      |                                       |                                |  |
| 9.63     | Virgin Media         |   |                      |   |  |                                      |                        |                        |                     |                       |                 |                         |                             |                   |   |              |                                |                          |                      |                                       |                                |  |
| 9.64     | Vodafone             |   |                      |   |  |                                      |                        |                        |                     |                       |                 |                         |                             |                   |   |              |                                |                          |                      |                                       |                                |  |
| 9.65     | National Trust       |   |                      |   |  |                                      |                        |                        |                     |                       |                 |                         |                             |                   |   |              |                                |                          |                      |                                       |                                |  |
| 9.66     | EEAST                |   |                      |   |  |                                      |                        |                        |                     |                       |                 |                         |                             |                   |   |              |                                |                          |                      |                                       |                                |  |
| 9.67     | NGV                  |   |                      |   |  |                                      |                        |                        |                     |                       |                 |                         |                             |                   |   |              |                                |                          |                      |                                       |                                |  |
| 9.95     | Southern Water       |   |                      |   |  |                                      |                        |                        |                     |                       |                 |                         |                             |                   |   |              |                                |                          |                      |                                       |                                |  |
| 9.118    | SGN                  |   |                      |   |  |                                      |                        |                        |                     |                       |                 |                         |                             |                   |   |              |                                |                          |                      |                                       |                                |  |

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## 5. Status at Deadline ~~3 (9 January 2026)~~ 5 (10 March 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 ~~4A5~~. 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~~was 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~~the 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**

~~5.2.0~~ **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~~was submitted at Deadline 3. At that time ESC is currently~~was~~ reviewing the draft DCO section within Section 3.2 and some other matters within the SoCG and ~~an updated~~therefore the position ~~on each~~ of these matters remained the same as they were for Deadline 1. Since Deadline 3, the Applicant has continued discussions with ESC to progress the matters identified as under discussion in the SoCG. The Applicant has updated its position within the SoCG, which was shared with ESC on 19 February 2026. Given the limited time available for ESC to review the document ahead of Deadline 5, it has been agreed that the SoCG will not be~~provided~~submitted at ~~the next iteration of the SoCG.~~

~~5.2.0~~ ~~Deadline 5. This will allow both the Applicant and ESC sufficient time to fully consider their respective positions.~~ 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~~ was shared with SCC for comment and is ~~was~~ submitted ~~at~~ Deadline 3. ~~However, please note that SCC's input~~ Since Deadline 3, the Applicant has continued discussions with SSC to progress the matters identified as under discussion in the SoCG. The Applicant has been updated its position within the SoCG, which was shared with SSC on 27 February 2026. Given the limited at this stage due to time and resource constraints and SCC's available for ESC to review is therefore ongoing (the document ahead of Deadline 5, it has been agreed that the SoCG will not be submitted at Deadline 5. This will allow both the Applicant and SSC sufficient time to fully consider their ~~comments and stated~~ respective positions ~~are qualified accordingly).~~

5.2.3 Kent County Council

~~5.2.35.2.4~~ 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.

~~5.2.45.2.5~~ An updated SoCG (~~version~~ 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~~ were received by the Applicant ~~and therefore~~ their position remained unchanged from the previous ~~version~~ Version A of **Application Document 7.4.7 Draft Statement of Common Ground Kent County Council [APP-328]** ~~at subsequent deadlines.~~

~~5.2.6~~ ~~KCC have now reviewed~~ Version C of the draft SoCG ~~and returned comments on~~ was submitted at Deadline 3, which was updated by the Applicant following comments received from KCC on 18 December. ~~The~~

~~5.2.65.2.7~~ This draft SoCG (Version D) has ~~therefore~~ been updated ~~to version C to reflect~~ following collaboration with the Applicant and KCC. The SoCG was shared with KCC on the 26 February 2026 and KCC reviewed the SoCG, updated their current position, although it is noted that KCC are still to update their where required and returned comments on 5 March 2026. This version of the SoCG therefore reflects both the Applicant and KCC's latest position with regards certain topics which can be addressed in the next submission and is submitted at Deadline 5.

~~5.2.0~~

## **Dover District Council**

~~5.2.65.2.8~~ 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.

5.2.75.2.9 An updated SoCG (~~version~~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.

5.2.10 The SoCG was shared with DDC following Deadline 1 and ~~has now been~~was reviewed by DDC. This ~~latest~~ SoCG (versionVersion C) ~~therefore now includes their position in response to the updates that were made in the previous version and is was subsequently~~ submitted at Deadline 3. ~~It is noted that KCC are still to update~~

5.2.85.2.11 ~~Since the submission of the SoCG at Deadline 3, DDC have further reviewed their positions within the SoCG and updated their position accordingly. The Applicant has also reviewed the SoCG and updated their position with regards to certain topics which can be addressed in the next submission. The draft SoCG (Version D) is being submitted at Deadline 5.~~

## Thanet District Council

5.2.95.2.12 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.

5.2.405.2.13 An updated SoCG (~~version~~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~~was reviewed by TDC. This ~~latest~~ SoCG (~~Version C~~) ~~was submitted at Deadline 3.~~

5.2.415.2.15 ~~This draft SoCG (Version D) has been updated following collaboration with the Applicant and TDC. This version C) therefore now includes their position in response was shared with TDC on 27 February 2026 and TDC returned comments on the SoCG on 9 March 2026. Due to the updates that were made in the previous version and limited time before Deadline 5, the Applicant has not been able to consider further TDC comments. Nevertheless, the SoCG is submitted at Deadline 3-5 as it reflects the latest position of TDC and the Applicant.~~

## 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~~was prepared by National Grid. ~~An~~This 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.

5.3.3 Whilst a SoCG with Natural England is not being submitted, the Applicant's position with regards to key matters under discussion identified in Natural England's Risk and Issues Log [REP4-197] is included in **Application Document 9.121.1 Applicant's Comments on Other Submissions Received at Deadline 4 - Appendix A** submitted at Deadline 5.

### Environment Agency

5.3.4 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~~was submitted to the Examination at Deadline 3.

5.3.45.3.5 The Applicant has replaced the previous table of positions of the parties with a copy of the issues tracker being used to monitor progress with the issues raised in the Environment Agency Relevant Representation. The Applicant confirms that the issues tracker includes all issues included in the previous draft of the SoCG.

### Historic England

5.3.45.3.6 A draft SoCG (**Application Document 7.4.3 Draft Statement of Common Ground - Historic England**) ~~has been~~was prepared by National Grid. ~~An~~This 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~~has recorded those agreements in later versions of the SoCG.

5.3.55.3.7 HE have provided comments on ~~version~~Version A of the SoCG, which have been addressed by National Grid: ~~this~~. This updated SoCG (~~version~~Version B) was submitted at Deadline 1.

5.3.65.3.8 This position remains the same at Deadline 3. This draft SoCG was shared with HE on 2 March and a response was received on 9 March. The latest version of the draft SoCG (Version C) has therefore been produced in collaboration with HE and is submitted at Deadline 5.

### Marine Management Organisation

5.3.75.3.9 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.

5.3.85.3.10 An updated SoCG (~~version~~Version B) was submitted at Deadline 1. This ~~has been~~was shared with the MMO for comment shortly before Deadline 1. MMO reviewed the SoCG and the updated SoCG (Version C) was submitted at Deadline 3.

5.3.95.3.11 ~~The~~This version of the draft SoCG (~~version C~~Version D) has ~~new~~ been updated following collaboration between the Applicant and the MMO and is submitted at Deadline ~~3~~5.

### Marine and Coastguard Authority

5.3.405.3.12 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.

5.3.44 ~~This~~An updated draft SoCG (~~version~~Version C) ~~is~~was submitted at Deadline 3. Since Deadline 3, the SoCG has been reshared with the MCA to update their position and the updated SoCG (Version D) is submitted at Deadline 5.

### Port of London Authority

5.3.425.3.13 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~~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~~responded to their comments.

5.3.435.3.14 ~~This~~An updated draft SoCG (version C) ~~is~~was submitted at Deadline 3. Since Deadline 3, the SoCG has been reshared with PLA to update their position and the updated SoCG (version D) is submitted at Deadline 5.

## Trinity House

[5.3.145.3.15](#) 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.

[5.3.145.3.16](#) 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. An updated draft SoCG (Version C) was shared with TH and is submitted at Deadline 3.

[5.3.145.3.17](#) The draft SoCG (version D) 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~~ 5.

## UK Chamber of Shipping

[5.3.175.3.18](#) 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.

[5.3.185.3.19](#) 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. An updated draft (version C) was submitted at Deadline 3.

[5.3.195.3.20](#) This updated draft SoCG (version ~~C~~ D) has been shared with UKCoS and is submitted at Deadline ~~3~~ 5.

## Port of Ramsgate

[5.3.205.3.21](#) 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.

[5.3.215.3.22](#) No updated SoCG was provided at Deadline 1, Deadline 1A and Deadline 2.

5.3.23 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~~was submitted at Deadline 3.

~~5.3.225.3.24~~ An updated version of the draft SoCG will be submitted at the next deadline.

### **Harwich Haven Authority**

~~5.3.235.3.25~~ 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.

~~5.3.245.3.26~~ 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.-

5.3.27 This draft SoCG (Version C) has been further updated following collaboration from the Applicant and HHA from Deadline 1. Version C has been shared with HHA and has been submitted at Deadline 5.

### **Sandwich Port and Haven Commissioners**

~~5.3.255.3.28~~ 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.

~~5.3.265.3.29~~ No updated SoCG was provided at Deadlines 1, 1A, 2 and 23.

~~5.3.27~~ This position remains the same at Deadline 3.

5.3.30 The draft SoCG (version B) has been updated following collaboration between the Applicant and SPHA since Deadline 1. It has been shared with SPHA with all elements agreed within and is submitted at Deadline 5.

### **London Gateway Port**

5.3.31 National Grid has prepared a draft SoCG with the London Gateway Port Limited, following a request from London Gateway Port. Responses have been included within the draft SoCG and is submitted at Deadline 5.

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

~~5.3.28~~~~5.3.32~~ 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.

Since Deadline 1A, the Applicant has updated their position in the SoCG and shared the SoCG with NLP on the 25 February 2026. Due to the time between the Applicant sharing the SoCG with NLP and Deadline 5, NLP has not had enough time to update their position. The SoCG is therefore not being submitted at Deadline 5. The Applicant will continue to work collaboratively with NLP to resolve outstanding issues and will provide an updated SoCG at the next relevant deadline to reflect any agreements reached. ~~London Gateway Port~~

~~5.3.34~~~~5.3.33~~ 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 ~~An~~ updated version of the draft SoCG (version B) was submitted to Deadline 3.

~~5.4.5~~~~4.6~~ The draft SoCG has been updated to reflect collaboration between the Applicant and the RSPB, but there are still some areas that are under discussion. This updated draft SoCG (version C) is submitted to Deadline 3.

### Anglian Water

~~5.4.65.4.7~~ 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.~~

~~5.4.8~~ The draft SoCG has been updated following collaboration with the Applicant and AW. It has been shared with AW and is submitted at Deadline 5 (version B).

~~5.4.9~~ .

### **Cadent Gas Limited**

~~5.4.85.4.10~~ 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.

~~5.4.95.4.11~~ This position remains the same at Deadline ~~35~~.

### **East Suffolk Water Management Board**

~~5.4.105.4.12~~ 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.

~~5.4.115.4.13~~ This position remains the same at Deadline ~~35~~.

### **EDF Nuclear General Limited**

~~5.4.125.4.14~~ 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.

~~5.4.135.4.15~~ This position remains the same at Deadline ~~35~~.

### **EXA**

~~5.4.145.4.16~~ 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**

~~5.4.155.4.17~~ 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**

~~5.4.165.4.18~~ 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.

~~5.4.175.4.19~~ This position remains the same at Deadline ~~3~~5.

### Northumbrian Water Group

~~5.4.185.4.20~~ 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~~has received comments from Northumbrian Water and has updated the SoCG.

~~5.4.195.4.21~~ This ~~position remains the same~~draft SoCG (version B) is submitted at Deadline ~~3~~5.

### River Stour Internal Drainage Board

~~5.4.205.4.22~~ 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~~-.~~ .

~~5.4.215.4.23~~ This position remains the same at Deadline ~~3~~5.

### Scottish Power Renewables

~~5.4.225.4.24~~ 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.~~

~~5.4.25~~ . The draft SoCG has been updated following collaboration with the Applicant and SPR but has not yet been shared with SPR for comment. It is submitted at Deadline 5.

### Sizewell C

~~5.4.245.4.26~~ 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.

~~5.4.255.4.27~~ This position remains the same at Deadline ~~3~~5.

### Suffolk Constabulary

~~5.4.265.4.28~~ 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.~~

~~5.4.29~~ 5.4.29 .The draft SoCG has been updated following collaboration with the Applicant and Suffolk Constabulary. This has been shared with Suffolk Constabulary and is awaiting final agreement before it can be signed.

## UK Power Networks

~~5.4.28~~5.4.30 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.

~~5.4.31~~ The draft SoCG has been updated following collaboration with the Applicant and UKPN. This version (version B) has been shared with UKPN and is submitted at Deadline 5.

## Virgin Media

~~5.4.30~~5.4.32 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.

~~5.4.34~~5.4.33 This position remains the same at Deadline 3.

## Vodafone

~~5.4.32~~5.4.34 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~~5.4.35 This position remains the same at Deadline 3.

## National Trust

~~5.4.34~~5.4.36 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~~Comments were received from the National Trust- at Deadline 3.

~~5.4.37~~ The draft SoCG has been updated following collaboration with the Applicant and National Trust. This version (version B) has been shared with National Trust and is submitted at Deadline 5.

## ~~EEAST~~This position remains the same at Deadline 3.

~~5.4.38~~ A SoCG (Application Document 9.66 Draft Statement of Common Ground East of England Ambulance Service) has been drafted following collaboration between the Applicant and EEAST and is submitted at Deadline 5.

5.4.35

## National Grid Ventures

~~5.4.36~~5.4.39 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

~~5.4.40~~ The ~~Applicant is currently preparing a~~ draft SoCG ~~has been updated following~~ collaboration with ~~the Application and NGV and version B is submitted to~~ Deadline 5.

## Southern Water

~~5.4.41~~ A draft SoCG (**Application Document 9.95 Draft Statement of Common Ground Southern Water**) has been drafted following collaboration between the Applicant and SW. This draft SoCG has been shared with SW and is submitted at Deadline 5.

## Southern Gas Networks

~~5.4.40~~5.4.42 A SoCG (**Application Document 9.118 Draft Statement of Common Ground Southern Gas Networks**) has been drafted following collaboration between the Applicant and SGN and is ~~EEAST which will be~~ submitted at ~~a later deadline~~ Deadline 5.

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