

**The Great Grid Upgrade**

Sea Link

# Sea Link

Volume 7: Other Documents

Document 7.4: Statement of Commonality

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

**nationalgrid**

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**Version**

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Version</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Description / Changes</b>
March 2025	A	DRAFT	Issued with DCO application
November 2025	B	DRAFT	Issued to PINS for Deadline 1
November 2025	C	DRAFT	Issued to PINS for Deadline 1A
January 2026	D	DRAFT	Issued to PINS for Deadline 3
March 2026	E	DRAFT	Issued to PINS for Deadline 5
April 2026	F	DRAFT	Issued to PINS for Deadline 6
April 2026	G	Final	Issued to PINS for Deadline 7

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# 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 7 of the DCO Application and reports on the on the position regarding matters identified in the SoCGs at this final Examination deadline. The Statement has been updated as the application has progressed through the Examination phase as a record of the progress that has been made between the parties.
- 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 7. 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 or the Applicant).
- 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 7 (29 April 2026) and reports on the position regarding matters identified in the SoCGs at this final Examination deadline.

## 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**

<b>Abbreviation/Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
AGC	Aldeburgh Golf Club
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
HVAC	High Voltage Alternating Current

<b>Abbreviation/Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
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
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 has prepared 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>
Aldeburgh Golf Club (AGC)
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 Final Position

3.1.1 This section provides the final position of each SoCG at Deadline 7.

3.1.2 Table 3.1 provides a high-level position of the SoCG's at submission of the Application as well as Deadline 1, Deadline 1A, Deadline 3, Deadline 5, Deadline 6 and Deadline 7. 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.
- **Final SoCG** – The SoCG has been drafted and signed by the Applicant, but has not yet been signed by the other party or both parties have not yet signed but have reached final positions.
- **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)	Position at Deadline 6 (13 April 2026)	Position at Deadline 7 (29 April 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	Draft SoCG	Draft SoCG	Final Signed SoCG with matters outstanding
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	Draft SoCG	Draft SoCG	Final Signed SoCG with matters outstanding
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	Draft SoCG	Draft SoCG	Final 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)	No change from position at Deadline 1	SoCG restructured and split into two (see below)	Superseded by 9.15 and 9.23		

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)	Position at Deadline 6 (13 April 2026)	Position at Deadline 7 (29 April 2026)
			ESC and SCC SoCGs to be provided at Deadline 2					
9.15	East Suffolk Council	N/A	N/A	N/A	SoCG updated and shared with the other party	Draft SoCG	Draft SoCG	Final Signed SoCG with matters outstanding
9.23	Suffolk County Council	N/A	N/A	N/A	SoCG updated and shared with the other party	Draft SoCG	Draft SoCG	Final SoCG
<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	No change from position at Deadline 1	No change from position at Deadline 1	No change from position at Deadline 1
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	Draft SoCG	Draft SoCG	Final 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>	<b>Position at Deadline 5 (10 March 2026)</b>	<b>Position at Deadline 6 (13 April 2026)</b>	<b>Position at Deadline 7 (29 April 2026)</b>
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	Draft SoCG	Draft SoCG	Final Signed SoCG with matters outstanding
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	Draft SoCG	Draft SoCG	Final Signed SoCG with matters outstanding
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	Draft SoCG	Draft SoCG	Final Signed SoCG with matters outstanding
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	Draft SoCG	Draft SoCG	Final Signed SoCG with matters outstanding
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	Draft SoCG	Draft SoCG	Final signed SoCG all matters agreed
7.4.13	UK Chamber of Shipping	SoCG drafted and shared	SoCG updated and	No change from	Draft SoCG	Draft SoCG	Draft SoCG	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)	Position at Deadline 5 (10 March 2026)	Position at Deadline 6 (13 April 2026)	Position at Deadline 7 (29 April 2026)
		with the other party	shared with the other party	position at Deadline 1				
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	SoCG agreed	SoCG agreed	Final Signed SoCG all matters agreed
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	SoCG agreed	Draft SoCG	Final signed SoCG all matters agreed
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	Draft SoCG	Draft SoCG	<b>Application Document 9.155</b> submitted showing most matters agreed.
9.42	Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National	N/A	SoCG drafted and shared with the other party	Draft SoCG	No change from position at Deadline 1	No change from position at Deadline 1	No change from position at Deadline 1	Final Signed SoCG all matters agreed

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)	Position at Deadline 6 (13 April 2026)	Position at Deadline 7 (29 April 2026)
	Landscape Partnership							
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	Draft SoCG	Draft SoCG	Final Signed SoCG with matters outstanding
9.100	London Gateway Port	N/A	N/A	N/A	SoCG to be prepared	Draft SoCG	Draft SoCG	Final Signed SoCG with matters outstanding
<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	Draft SoCG	Draft SoCG	Final signed SoCG all matters agreed
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	Draft SoCG	Draft SoCG	Final 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)	Position at Deadline 5 (10 March 2026)	Position at Deadline 6 (13 April 2026)	Position at Deadline 7 (29 April 2026)
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	Draft SoCG	Draft SoCG	Final SoCG
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	No change from position at Deadline 1	No change from position at Deadline 1	Final signed SoCG all matters agreed
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	No change from position at Deadline 1	No change from position at Deadline 1	Final signed SoCG all matters agreed
9.55	Helios Energy	N/A	Draft SoCG	No change from position at Deadline 1	No change from position at Deadline 1	Final Signed SoCG with matters outstanding	No change from position at Deadline 5	Final signed SoCG all matters agreed
9.56 9.1516	Network Rail		SoCG shared with the other party	No change from position at Deadline 1	No change from position at Deadline 1	Draft SoCG	Draft SoCG	Final Signed SoCG all matters agreed (9.56)

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)	Position at Deadline 6 (13 April 2026)	Position at Deadline 7 (29 April 2026)
								Final SoCG (9.156)
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	Draft SoCG	Draft SoCG	Final SoCG
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	Draft SoCG	Draft SoCG	Final Signed SoCG with matters outstanding
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	Draft SoCG	Draft SoCG	Final Signed SoCG with matters outstanding
9.60	Sizewell C		SoCG shared with the other party	No change from position at Deadline 1	No change from position at Deadline 1	Draft SoCG	Draft SoCG	Final Signed SoCG with matters outstanding

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)	Position at Deadline 6 (13 April 2026)	Position at Deadline 7 (29 April 2026)
9.61	Suffolk Constabulary		SoCG shared with the other party	No change from position at Deadline 1	No change from position at Deadline 2	Draft SoCG	Draft SoCG	Final signed SoCG with matters outstanding
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	Draft SoCG	Draft SoCG	Final signed SoCG with matters outstanding
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	No change from position at Deadline 1	No change from position at Deadline 1	Final SoCG
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	No change from position at Deadline 1	No change from position at Deadline 1	Final SoCG
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	Draft SoCG	Draft SoCG	Final 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)	Position at Deadline 5 (10 March 2026)	Position at Deadline 6 (13 April 2026)	Position at Deadline 7 (29 April 2026)
9.66	East of England Ambulance Service (EEAST)	N/A	SoCG to be prepared	No change from position at Deadline 1	No change from position at Deadline 1	Draft SoCG	Draft SoCG	Final SoCG
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	No change from position at Deadline 1	No change from position at Deadline 1	Final SoCG with matters outstanding
	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	No change from position at Deadline 1	No change from position at Deadline 1	No change from position at Deadline 1
9.95	Southern Water (SW)	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	Draft SoCG	Draft SoCG	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>	<b>Position at Deadline 5 (10 March 2026)</b>	<b>Position at Deadline 6 (13 April 2026)</b>	<b>Position at Deadline 7 (29 April 2026)</b>
9.118	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	Draft SoCG	Draft SoCG	Final Signed SoCG with matters outstanding
9.142	Aldeburgh Golf Club	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Draft SoCG	Final SoCG

## 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 4.2 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	Offshore and Intertidal Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	Physical Processes	National Landscape matters (including Section 85 of CRoW Act)	Flood Risk Assessment	Flood Risk – Outline Construction 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												
9.100	LGP												

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																																									

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

Doc. Ref	Party	Sea Link' s Interfaces with Other Partys Assets	Construction Matters	Sea Link' s Interfaces with Other Partys Proposed Projects	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 Overbridings	Areas of possible coordination	Shipping and Navigation	AIL Deliveries	Management of Works	Draft DCO	Sea Link' s Interfaces with Other Party' s Land	Key Principles	Benhall Road – Survey and Works
9.46	AW																											
9.51	CG																											
9.52	ESWMB																											
9.53	EDF																											
9.54	EXA																											
9.55	Helios																											
9.56 9.156	Network Rail																											
9.57	NW																											
9.58	RSIDB																											
9.59	SPR																											
9.60	Sizewell C																											
9.61	Suffolk Constabulary																											
9.62	UKPN																											

Doc. Ref	Party	Sea Link' s Interfaces with Other Partys Assets	Construction Matters	Sea Link' s Interfaces with Other Partys Proposed Projects	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	Areas of possible coordination	Shipping and Navigation	AIL Deliveries	Management of Works	Draft DCO	Sea Link' s Interfaces with Other Party' s Land	Key Principles	Benhall Road – Survey and Works
9.63	Virgin Media																											
9.64	Vodafone																											
9.65	National Trust																											
9.66	EEAST																											
9.67	NGV																											
9.95	Southern Water																											
9.118	SGN																											
9.142	AGC																											

# 5. Status at Deadline 7 (29 April 2026)

## 5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 This section provides a summary of the final status of the SoCGs between National Grid and each party at Deadline 7. The individual SoCG should be referred to for the full detail on specific matters.
- 5.1.2 All SoCGs have been submitted at Deadline 7 as requested by the Examining Authority. The status of all the SoCGs is discussed further below.

## 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**) 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 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 progressed through the Pre-Examination and Examination phases.
- 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 matters from ESC's Deadline 5 Principal Areas of Disagreement Summary Statement (PADSS). The draft SoCG (version A) was reviewed by ESC and was submitted at Deadline 3. At that time ESC was reviewing the draft DCO section within Section 3.2 and some other matters within the SoCG and therefore the position 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 was agreed that the SoCG would not be submitted at Deadline 5. This allowed both the Applicant and ESC sufficient time to fully consider their respective positions. Discussions between ESC and the Applicant have been ongoing since Deadline 5, with a signed SoCG, which sets out the final position, submitted at

Deadline 7. As noted above, the SoCG is structured around the matters raised in ESC's Deadline 5 PADSS. Where a topic matter is not listed in Section 3.1 of this SoCG it is because the matter is either agreed with the Applicant or because it is a topic which is not of principal concern to ESC.

- 5.2.4 **Application Document 9.23 Draft Statement of Common Ground – Suffolk County Council** has been structured so that its Section 3.1 contains matters from SCC's Deadline 5 Principal Areas of Disagreement Summary Statement (PADSS), with Section 3.2 containing other matters still under discussion from previous iterations of the SoCG. The draft SoCG was shared with SCC for comment and was submitted at Deadline 3. Since Deadline 3, the Applicant continued discussions with SCC to progress the matters identified as under discussion in the SoCG. The Applicant updated its position within the SoCG, which was shared with SCC on 27 February 2026. Given the limited time available for SCC to review the document ahead of Deadline 5, it was agreed that the SoCG would not be submitted at Deadline 5. This allowed both the Applicant and SCC sufficient time to fully consider their respective positions. Discussions between SCC and the Applicant have been ongoing since Deadline 5. A final signed SoCG has not been submitted at Deadline 7, but as agreed with SCC will be submitted by the end of Examination.

## **Kent County Council**

- 5.2.5 A draft SoCG (**Application Document 7.4.7 Draft Statement of Common Ground Kent County Council**) was 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 progressed through the Pre-Examination and Examination phases.
- 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 were 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]**.
- 5.2.7 Version C of the SoCG was submitted at Deadline 3, which was updated by the Applicant following comments received from KCC on 18 December.
- 5.2.8 The draft SoCG (Version D) was updated 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 position where required and returned comments on 5 March 2026. Version D of the SoCG was subsequently submitted at Deadline 5. Since Deadline 5, matters previously marked as "under discussion" have been further progressed in order to determine whether common ground can be reached between KCC and the Applicant. The final SoCG (Version E) was shared with KCC for sign off and is submitted at Deadline 7. At the time of Deadline 7 KCC have not added their signature, but final positions are agreed and a signed copy will be submitted before the end of Examination.

## **Dover District Council**

- 5.2.9 A draft SoCG (**Application Document 7.4.6 Draft Statement of Common Ground Dover District Council**) was 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 progressed through the Pre-Examination and Examination phases.
- 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 was reviewed by DDC. This SoCG (Version C) was subsequently submitted at Deadline 3.
- 5.2.12 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. The draft SoCG (Version D) was submitted at Deadline 5. Ongoing consultation has taken place between both parties post Deadline 5 to update positions further and to agree the final positions that are presented in this SoCG for Deadline 7.

## **Thanet District Council**

- 5.2.13 A draft SoCG (**Application Document 7.4.5 Draft Statement of Common Ground - Thanet District Council**) was 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 progressed through the Examination phase.
- 5.2.14 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.
- 5.2.15 The SoCG was shared with TDC following Deadline 1 and was reviewed by TDC. This SoCG (Version C) was submitted at Deadline 3.
- 5.2.16 The draft SoCG (Version D) was updated following collaboration with the Applicant and TDC. This version was shared with TDC on 27 February 2026 and TDC returned comments on the SoCG on 9 March 2026. Due to the limited time before Deadline 5, the Applicant was not able to consider further TDC comments. Nevertheless, the SoCG was submitted at Deadline 5 as it reflected the latest position of TDC and the Applicant. Since Deadline 5, the Applicant has considered TDC's further comments, and engagement has been ongoing to agree the final positions that are presented in the SoCG for Deadline 7.

## 5.3 Prescribed Consultees

### Natural England

- 5.3.1 A draft SoCG (**Application Document 7.4.1 Draft Statement of Common Ground Natural England**) was prepared by National Grid. 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 identified in Natural England's Risk & Issues Log [REP6-258] is included in Application Document 9.149 Applicant's Comments on Other Submissions Received at Deadline 6 **and** Applicant's Comments on Other Submissions Received at Deadline 6 - Appendix A both of them submitted at Deadline 7.

### 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 and was submitted to the Examination at Deadline 3.
- 5.3.5 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

- 5.3.6 A draft SoCG (**Application Document 7.4.3 Draft Statement of Common Ground - Historic England**) was prepared by National Grid. 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 progressed through the Pre-Examination and Examination phases.
- 5.3.7 HE provided comments on Version A of the SoCG, which were addressed by National Grid. This updated SoCG (Version B) was submitted at Deadline 1.
- 5.3.8 This draft SoCG was shared with HE on 2 March and a response was received on 9 March. Version C of the SoCG was therefore submitted at Deadline 5. Discussions have occurred since Deadline 5, However, due to time constraints, a final signed SoCG has not been submitted at Deadline 7 but will be submitted by the end of Examination..

## Marine Management Organisation

- 5.3.9 A draft SoCG (**Application Document 7.4.4 Draft Statement of Common Ground - Marine Management Organisation**) was 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 progressed through the Pre-Examination and Examination phases.
- 5.3.10 An updated SoCG (Version B) was submitted at Deadline 1. This 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.
- 5.3.11 This version of the draft SoCG (Version D) was updated following collaboration between the Applicant and the MMO and was submitted at Deadline 5. Discussions have been ongoing since Deadline 7 and a signed SoCG with the final positions is submitted at Deadline 7.

## Marine and Coastguard Authority

- 5.3.12 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 has progressed 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.

An updated draft SoCG (Version C) 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) was submitted at Deadline 5. Discussions between the MCA and the Applicant have been ongoing since Deadline 7. A signed SoCG with the final positions is submitted at Deadline 7.

## Port of London Authority

- 5.3.13 A draft SoCG (**Application Document 7.4.11 Draft Statement of Common Ground - Port of London Authority**) was 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 has progressed through the Pre-Examination and Examination phases. 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 responded to their comments.

- 5.3.14 An updated draft SoCG (version C) was submitted at Deadline 3. Since Deadline 3, the SoCG was reshared with PLA to update their position and the updated SoCG (version D) was submitted at Deadline 5.
- 5.3.15 Discussions between the Applicant and PLA have been ongoing since Deadline 5. A signed SoCG with the final positions is submitted at Deadline 7.

## Trinity House

- 5.3.16 A draft SoCG (**Application Document 7.4.12 Draft Statement of Common Ground Trinity House**) was 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 has progressed through the Pre-Examination and Examination phases.
- 5.3.17 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.
- 5.3.18 The draft SoCG (version D) has been updated to reflect the Applicant's position. This updated draft SoCG has been shared with TH and was submitted at Deadline 5. The final signed SoCG with all matters agreed is submitted at Deadline 7.

## UK Chamber of Shipping

- 5.3.19 A draft SoCG (**Application Document 7.4.13 Draft Statement of Common Ground UK Chamber of Shipping**) was 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.
- 5.3.20 An updated SoCG (version B) was submitted at Deadline 1. This was shared with UKCoS shortly before Deadline 1 and the Applicant received and addressed their comments. An updated draft (version C) was submitted at Deadline 3.
- 5.3.21 This updated draft SoCG (version D) was shared with UKCoS and was submitted at Deadline 5. Discussions have been ongoing since Deadline 5, however, due to time constraints, a final jointly signed SoCG has not been submitted at Deadline 7.

## Port of Ramsgate

- 5.3.22 A draft SoCG (**Application Document 7.4.15 Draft Statement of Common Ground Port of Ramsgate**) was 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 has progressed through the Pre-Examination and Examination phases.

- 5.3.23 No updated SoCG was provided at Deadline 1, Deadline 1A and Deadline 2.
- 5.3.24 Comments from PoR on the draft SoCG were received and addressed by the Applicant. This updated version of the draft SoCG (Version B) was submitted at Deadline 3.
- 5.3.25 The final signed SoCG with all matters agreed is submitted at Deadline 7.

## Harwich Haven Authority

- 5.3.26 A draft SoCG (**Application Document 7.4.9 Draft Statement of Common Ground Harwich Haven Authority**) was 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 has progressed through the Pre-Examination and Examination phases.
- 5.3.27 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.
- 5.3.28 This draft SoCG (Version C) was further updated following collaboration from the Applicant and HHA from Deadline 1. Version C was shared with HHA and was submitted at Deadline 5. Discussions between HHA and the Applicant have been ongoing since Deadline 5, with a signed SoCG (Version D), which sets out the final position, being submitted at Deadline 7.

## Sandwich Port and Haven Commissioners

- 5.3.29 A draft SoCG (**Application Document 7.4.14 Draft Statement of Common Ground Sandwich Port and Haven Commissioners**) was 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 has progressed through the Pre-Examination and Examination phases..
- 5.3.30 No updated SoCG was provided at Deadlines 1, 1A, 2 and 3.
- 5.3.31 The draft SoCG (version B) was updated following collaboration between the Applicant and SPHA since Deadline 1. It was shared with SPHA with all elements agreed within and was submitted at Deadline 5. Discussions have been ongoing since Deadline 5 and a signed SoCG with all matters agreed is submitted at Deadline 7.

## London Gateway Port

- 5.3.32 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 was submitted at Deadline 5. Discussions have been ongoing since Deadline 5 and a signed SoCG with the final position is submitted at Deadline 7.

## Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape Partnership

- 5.3.33 A draft SoCG (**Application Document 9.42 (A) Draft Statement of Common Ground - National Landscape Partnership**) was prepared by National Grid and shared with NLP. Comments were received from NLP and addressed by National Grid. This draft SoCG was submitted at Deadline 1A.
- 5.3.34 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 had not had enough time to update their position. The SoCG was therefore not submitted at Deadline 5. The Applicant has had ongoing discussions with NLP since Deadline 5 and the final signed SoCG (version B) is submitted at Deadline 7 with all matters agreed.

## 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**) was prepared by National Grid and was submitted at Deadline 1.
- 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 An updated version of the draft SoCG (version B) was submitted to Deadline 3.
- 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) was submitted to Deadline 5. Since Deadline 5, matters previously marked as "under discussion" have been further progressed in order to determine whether common ground could be reached between RSPB and the Applicant. The final signed SoCG (Version D) with final positions is submitted at Deadline 7.

### Anglian Water

- 5.4.7 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 have taken place following comments from Anglian Water and a further meeting held on the 14 November 2024.

- 5.4.8 The draft SoCG has been updated following collaboration with the Applicant and AW. It has been shared with AW and was submitted at Deadline 5 (version B).
- 5.4.9 A final signed SoCG with all matters agreed is submitted at Deadline 7.

### **Cadent Gas Limited**

- 5.4.10 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. No comments were received from Cadent Gas.
- 5.4.11 This position remained the same at Deadline 5. There has been no change to the status of the SoCG. The Applicant has signed the SoCG and has submitted this at Deadline 7.

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

- 5.4.12 A draft SoCG (**Application Document 9.52 (A) Draft Statement of Common Ground East Suffolk Water Management Board**) was prepared by National Grid and shared with ESWMB and was submitted at Deadline 1. and this position remained the same at Deadline 5.. The Applicant has signed the SoCG which is submitted at Deadline 7. Some matters are not agreed but have been superseded by updates to the dDCO.

### **EDF Nuclear General Limited**

- 5.4.13 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.
- 5.4.14 A signed SoCG was signed and submitted at Deadline 1. There have been no changes to the SoCG since Deadline 1, so the final signed SoCG with all matters agreed is submitted at Deadline 7.

### **EXA**

- 5.4.15 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**

- 5.4.16 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**

- 5.4.17 A draft SoCG (**Application Document 9.56 (A) Draft Statement of Common Ground Network Rail**) was prepared by National Grid and shared with Network Rail. This version was submitted at Deadline 1..
- 5.4.18 This position remained the same at Deadline 5.
- 5.4.19 Since Deadline 5 the parties have progressed two SoCGs – one for Kent and one for Suffolk. The Suffolk SoCG (**Application Document 9.56**) is signed by both parties. The Kent SoCG (**Application Document 9.156**) is signed by the Applicant and reflects the

position of the discussions which have taken place but not all matters are agreed and no comments have been received yet from Network Rail.

## **Northumbrian Water Group**

- 5.4.20 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 has received comments from Northumbrian Water and has updated the SoCG.
- 5.4.21 This draft SoCG (version B) was submitted at Deadline 5.
- 5.4.22 The SoCG has been signed by the Applicant and the positions updated, some areas are Not Agreed but these will be superseded by the Protective Provisions being discussed.

## **River Stour Internal Drainage Board**

A draft SoCG (**Application Document 9.58 (A) Draft Statement of Common Ground River Stour Internal Drainage Board**) was prepared by National Grid and shared with RSIDB. This version was submitted at Deadline 1. The Applicant has received comments from RSIDB and these have been addressed. The SoCG has been signed by the Applicant and the positions updated, some areas are Not Agreed but these will be superseded by the drainage strategy discussions.

## **Scottish Power Renewables**

- 5.4.23 A draft SoCG (**Application Document 9.59 Draft Statement of Common Ground Scottish Power Renewables**) was prepared by National Grid and shared with SPR..
- 5.4.24 The draft SoCG has been updated following collaboration with the Applicant and SPR and was submitted at Deadline 5. Discussions between the Applicant and SPR have been ongoing since Deadline 5. A signed SoCG with the final position is submitted at Deadline 7.

## **Sizewell C**

- 5.4.25 A draft SoCG (**Application Document 9.60 Draft Statement of Common Ground Sizewell C (Pledgeco) Limited**) was prepared by National Grid and shared with Sizewell C. This version was submitted at Deadline 1.
- 5.4.26 Discussions between the Applicant and Sizewell C have been ongoing since Deadline 5. A signed SoCG with the final positions is submitted at Deadline 7.

## **Suffolk Constabulary**

- 5.4.27 A draft SoCG (**Application Document 9.61 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.
- 5.4.28 The draft SoCG was updated following collaboration with the Applicant and Suffolk Constabulary.
- 5.4.29 A final signed SoCG is submitted at Deadline 7, which sets out the final position. It is noted that there are still matters outstanding as these require further information from

the detailed design before agreement can be reached. These matters will continue to be discussed throughout the life of the Project, with the approach on these items agreed.

## UK Power Networks

- 5.4.30 A draft SoCG (**Application Document 9.62 (A) Draft Statement of Common Ground UK Power Networks**) was prepared by National Grid and shared with UK Power Networks. This version was submitted at Deadline 1.
- 5.4.31 The draft SoCG has been updated following collaboration with the Applicant and UKPN. This version (version B) was shared with UKPN and was submitted at Deadline 5. Discussions between the Applicant and UKPN have been ongoing since Deadline 5. A signed SoCG with the final positions is submitted at Deadline 7.

## Virgin Media

- 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 has not received any further comments.
- 5.4.33 This position remained the same at Deadline 5 and Deadline 7. The Applicant has signed the SoCG and it is submitted at Deadline 7

## Vodafone

- 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 has not received any comments from Vodafone.
- 5.4.35 This position remained the same at Deadline 5 and Deadline 7. The Applicant has signed the SoCG version and it is submitted at Deadline 7

## National Trust

- 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. 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 was submitted at Deadline 5. Discussions between National Trust and the Applicant have been ongoing since Deadline 5. However, due to time constraints, a final signed SoCG has not been submitted at Deadline 7 but will be submitted by the end of Examination.

## EEAST

- 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 was submitted at Deadline 5.

- 5.4.39 A final SoCG is submitted at Deadline 7 signed by the Applicant, this version was signed by EEAST but some late changes were made to the Status of the items from Under Discussion to Not Agreed at the time of submission and therefore not re-signed.

### **National Grid Ventures**

- 5.4.40 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.
- 5.4.41 The draft SoCG has been updated following collaboration with the Application and NGV and version B was submitted to Deadline 5. Discussions between the Applicant and NGV have been ongoing since Deadline 5. A signed SoCG with the final position is submitted at Deadline 7.

### **Southern Water**

- 5.4.42 A draft SoCG (**Application Document 9.95 Draft Statement of Common Ground Southern Water**) was drafted following collaboration between the Applicant and SW. This draft SoCG was shared with SW and was submitted at Deadline 5.
- 5.4.43 An updated SoCG is submitted at Deadline 7, some matters have not been agreed but Protective Provisions have been agreed which supersedes some areas in the SoCG.

### **Southern Gas Networks**

- 5.4.44 A SoCG (**Application Document 9.118 Draft Statement of Common Ground Southern Gas Networks**) was drafted following collaboration between the Applicant and SGN and was submitted at Deadline 5.
- 5.4.45 A final signed SoCG is submitted at Deadline 7. It is noted that there are still matters outstanding as these require further information from the detailed design before agreement can be reached. These matters will continue to be discussed throughout the life of the Project, with the approach on these items agreed.

### **Aldeburgh Golf Club**

- 5.4.46 Aldeburgh Golf Club Statement of Common Ground was submitted at Deadline 6 in response to Action Point 3 in **Action Points arising from Compulsory Acquisition Hearing 2 (CAH2) held on Wednesday 25 March [EV8-006]**.
- 5.4.47 AGC requested their agent to sign the final version of the SoCG, but late changes were made to the terminology in the document moving items from Under Discussion to Not Agreed or Not Agreed but Not Material. Discussions will therefore continue with AGC to provide a final signed SoCG before the end of the Examination.

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