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nationalgrid

Statements of Common Ground

In accordance with government guidance (Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects, published 30 April 2024), National Grid has been developing Statements of Common Ground (SoCGs) with a number of statutory prescribed and non-prescribed consultees, statutory undertakers and interested parties during the preparation of the DCO application. The SoCGs seek to identify matters on which parties agree and to track progress towards the resolution of any matters where agreement has not yet been reached.

National Grid has undertaken early preparation of statements with the consultees identified in Table 1.1 below during the pre-application period. Table 1.1 provides a list of those SoCGs currently being developed. Please note this list is subject to change following continued engagement with the consultees.

National Grid will continue to review and develop the SoCGs with the relevant consultees throughout the acceptance, pre-examination and examination stages of the Project. SoCGs will be submitted to the Examining Authority as required during the Examination phase.

Reflecting the various types of consultees and their interests in the application, SoCGs have taken different formats:

- Multiple issue SoCGs – for consultees who are interested in multiple disciplines/aspects of the application
- Single issue “letter” SoCGs – shorter document used for consultees who have specific areas of focus
- Heads of Terms – for more commercially sensitive consultees to outline the position reached by the Parties through engagement to date.

The SoCGs will largely be structured as follows:

- Summary of key engagement undertaken to date with the consultee
- Table(s) summarising the key interests of the Parties (arranged by topic/discipline where relevant) and the status of each matter:
 - ‘Not agreed’ indicates a final position, where it has not been possible to resolve the issue to the agreement of both parties and there remains a difference of opinion;
 - ‘Under discussion’ indicates where issues are the subject of active ongoing discussion;
 - ‘Agreed’ indicates where an issues has been agreed or resolved satisfactorily to the agreement of both parties.

Table 1.1 Submitted SoCGs

Ref	Consultee	Type
5.9.1	Norfolk County Council (NCC) (incl. LLFA and Highways)	Multiple issue
5.9.2	Suffolk County Council (SCC) (incl. LLFA and Highways)	Multiple issue
5.9.3	Essex County Council (ECC) (incl. LLFA and Highways)	Multiple issue
5.9.4	Thurrock Council (TC) (incl. LLFA and Highways)	Multiple issue
5.9.5	South Norfolk Council	Multiple issue

Ref	Consultee	Type
5.9.6	Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils	Multiple issue
5.9.7	Tendring District Council	Multiple issue
5.9.8	Colchester City Council	Multiple issue
5.9.9	Braintree District Council	Multiple issue
5.9.10	Chelmsford City Council	Multiple issue
5.9.11	Brentwood Borough Council	Multiple issue
5.9.12	Basildon Borough Council	Multiple issue
5.9.13	Natural England	Multiple issue
5.9.14	Historic England	Multiple issue
5.9.15	Environment Agency	Multiple issue
5.9.16	Combined IDBs - Water Management Alliance	Single issue
5.9.17	Norfolk Wildlife Trust	Single issue
5.9.18	Suffolk Wildlife Trust	Single issue
5.9.19	Essex Wildlife Trust	Single issue
5.9.20	National Highways	Single issue
5.9.21	Not used	
5.9.22	Barnards Farm Airfield	Single issue
5.9.23	Thurrock Airfield	Single issue
5.9.24	Network Rail	Single issue
5.9.25	Innova (Battery Storage Systems)	Single issue
5.9.26	Anglian Water	Single issue
5.9.27	Essex & Suffolk Water	Single issue
5.9.28	Exolum	Single issue
5.9.29	National Gas Transmission	Single issue
5.9.30	Scottish Power Renewables (EA3)	Single issue
5.9.31	Fairwinds Solar (Lightsource BP/Vantage)	Single issue
5.9.32	Brook Farm Aerodrome	Single issue

As part of National Grid's engagement with statutory prescribed and non-prescribed consultees, statutory undertakers and interested parties during the development of the DCO application, some SoCGs have been drafted but have not been submitted as part of the DCO. These consultees are listed in Table 1.2 below. This is largely due to consultees awaiting sight of the DCO documentation before they confirm their position in relation to the application. National Grid intends to submit these SoCGs at a later date.

Table 1.2 Engagement in progress

Consultee	
Dedham Vale National Landscape and Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape	Tarchon
East of England Ambulance Service	Equinor
Norfolk Constabulary	Park Farm Solar
Suffolk Constabulary	CEG/Dunton Hills Garden Village
Essex Constabulary	Bloor Homes
Lower Thames Crossing	Crest Nicholson and Bellway Homes
Affinity Water	Bloy Solar, EDF
UK Power Networks	Brick Kiln Mulbarton solar farm
British Pipeline Association	Ralos Projects
Fulcrum Pipelines	Innova Park Gate
Transmission Capital	Conrad Energy Solar
Virgin	Crouch Solar Farm
Vodafone	Bramford Solar Farm
Arelion	Cressing Solar Farm
Cityfibre	Grange Farm Solar
Energy Assets Networks	Conrad Energy Gas Engines
ESP Utilities Group	Pivoted Power Battery Storage
euNetworks	Cadent Gas
EXA Infrastructure	Bradwell Monks Quarry
GTC	Martell Minerals A85 & A86
Lumen Technologies	Crown Quarry mineral site A79
Verizon	Ingrebourne Valley mineral site
Zayo	Sheepcote Quarry
Gigaclear	Lowleys Farm Mineral Site
Associated British Ports (ABP)	Chase Farm Airfield
Port of Great Yarmouth	South Norfolk Model Aircraft Club
Port of Harwich	Raydon Wings Airfield
Flying Trade Group	Priory Farm Airfield
Essex International Scout Jamboree	Tibbenham Airfield
Orsett Golf Course	Wattisham Flying Station
Clearserve/Orsett Quarry	MOD DIO (aviation safeguarding)

National Grid have been engaging with other statutory prescribed and non-prescribed consultees, statutory undertakers and interested parties during the development of the DCO application. SoCGs with these consultees are unlikely to be produced at this stage for the reasons set out in Table 1.3 below. This may be subject to change should further engagement with or representations from these consultees indicate a SoCG may be beneficial.

Please note that while we have been engaging with neighbouring authorities as prescribed consultees throughout project development, we have not sought SoCGs prior to DCO submission, neither has a SoCG been requested by them.

Table 1.3 SoCGs not currently proposed

Consultee	Justification
Canal and River Trust	No interaction with the project (confirmed in statutory consultation response)
National Trust	Consultee confirmed no SoCG required
Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service	Did not respond to outreach for SoCG, did not respond to statutory consultation
Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service	Did not respond to outreach for SoCG, did not respond to statutory consultation
Essex Fire and Rescue Service	Did not respond to outreach for SoCG, statutory consultation response has been considered in relevant assessments and documentation
NHS Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care Board	Did not respond to outreach for SoCG, did not respond to statutory consultation
NHS Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board	Did not respond to outreach for SoCG, statutory consultation response has been considered in relevant assessments and documentation
Port of Tilbury	No longer interacting due to changes made following statutory consultation
East Anglian Air Ambulance	No impact to aviation movements, did not respond to statutory consultation
Broomfield Hospital (Air Ambulance)	Consultee confirmed no impact in statutory consultation response
Boxted Airfield	Disused airfield
Elmsett Airfield	No identified impact
Garnons Farm Airfield	No identified impact
Laindon Airfield/Bensons Farm Airfield	No identified impact, outside aviation assessment scope
Long Stratton Airfield	No identified impact
Nayland Airfield	No identified impact
Wormingford Airfield	No identified impact
Brock Farm aerodrome	Not operational
Crowfield aerodrome	No identified impact
Dysons Farm helipad	No identified impact
Hinderclay Meadows aerodrome	No identified impact

Consultee	Justification
Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Safeguarding	No response to engagement to date, have been liaising with CAA Airfield Advisory Team throughout project development
Civil Aviation Authority – Airfield Advisory Team (AAT)	Significant engagement throughout project development, however the AAT were disbanded in March 2025 before a SoCG was able to be agreed. CAA AAT provided a position statement regarding Norwich to Tilbury before their disbandment. Discussions regarding aviation are ongoing with Suffolk County Council and other councils as relevant.
General Aviation Awareness Council (GAAC)	Non-prescribed. Have engaged throughout project development process, engagement ongoing.
British Gliding Association	Non-prescribed, engagement ongoing.
North Falls	Work progressing on Protective Provisions, commercially confidential.
Five Estuaries	Work progressing on Protective Provisions, commercially confidential
MOD DIO (abandoned pipelines)	Latest data suggests originally identified interface pipeline now Exolum.
Met Office	Engaged during project development and confirmed no impact.
Openreach	Heads of Terms to be agreed, commercially confidential.

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