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# Norwich to Tilbury

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**nationalgrid**

# **Essex & Suffolk Water Stakeholder Agreement**

## **Norwich to Tilbury Statement of Common Ground**

### **1. Purpose of the Statement of Common Ground**

This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared to outline the areas of agreement and any remaining points of discussion between National Grid and Essex & Suffolk Water (ESW) regarding specific issues arising during construction and/or operation from the interface between the proposed Norwich to Tilbury Project and Essex & Suffolk Water assets.

The aim is to clarify the shared understanding of any issues and facilitate an efficient resolution process.

### **2. Parties to the SoCG**

This SoCG is agreed between National Grid and Essex & Suffolk Water Limited.

### **3. Background**

National Grid Electricity Transmission plc ('National Grid') owns and maintains the national high voltage electricity transmission network throughout England and Wales. The transmission network connects the power from where it is generated to the regional Distribution Network Operators who then supply businesses and homes.

National Grid holds the Transmission Licence for England and Wales, and its statutory duty is to develop and maintain an efficient, coordinated and economical system of electricity transmission and to facilitate competition in the generation and supply of electricity, as set out in the Electricity Act 1989.

National Grid has developed plans for Norwich to Tilbury (referred to as the 'Project'). The Project would support the UK's net zero target through the connection of new low carbon energy generation in East Anglia and by reinforcing the transmission network.

The Project comprises reinforcement of the transmission network between the existing Norwich Main Substation in Norfolk and Tilbury Substation in Essex, via Bramford Substation, the new East Anglia Connection Node (EACN) Substation and the new Tilbury North Substation.

The reinforcement is needed because the existing transmission network, even with current upgrading, will not have sufficient capacity for the new renewable energy (a substantial

proportion of which would be generated by offshore wind) that is expected to connect to the network over the next 10 years and beyond. Completion of the Project, together with other new reinforcements across the country, will meet this future energy transmission demand both in East Anglia and across the UK.

The Project is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), and National Grid is seeking development consent under statutory procedures set by government. NSIPs are projects of certain types, over a certain size, which are considered by the government to be of national importance, hence permission to build them needs to be given at a national level, by the relevant Secretary of State (in this case the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero). Instead of applying to the local authority for planning permission, the developer must apply to the Planning Inspectorate for a Development Consent Order (DCO) that would grant development consent.

National Grid will submit an application for development consent to the Planning Inspectorate. The Examining Authority (consisting of one or more examining inspectors), after a period of public examination, would make their recommendation to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, who in turn would decide on whether development consent should be granted for the Project.

The Project is identified as critical to delivering a network which supports the clean power pathways for 2030 delivery.

The Planning Act 2008 places duties on National Grid as the DCO applicant to consult with prescribed or affected persons as well as to take account of responses to consultation and publicity. In accordance with these statutory requirements, National Grid has undertaken two non-statutory and one statutory consultation to inform its proposals, with further recent targeted consultations.

Further details of the Norwich to Tilbury proposed DCO can be found via the following weblink: <https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/norwich-to-tilbury>

## **4. Stakeholder Role**

Essex & Suffolk Water has legitimate interests that interact with the Norwich to Tilbury proposals. This has been identified as the network of Essex & Suffolk Water underground assets.

National Grid is seeking to ensure that the interests of both parties and how they may be affected by the interaction are understood. From this position the aim is for the parties to agree actions to avoid or reduce the implications and for any remedial measures to be agreed. On this basis we seek the input from Essex & Suffolk Water to demonstrate how their interests may be affected, how Essex & Suffolk Water or National Grid and its contractors can collectively reduce those effects and input to agree the implementation of such measures.

National Grid and Essex & Suffolk Water have identified approximately 222 physical interactions between Norwich to Tilbury and Essex & Suffolk Water Assets. These interactions and Essex & Suffolk Waters associated requests for mitigation are categorised below by the nature of the interaction. Any site-specific interaction requests are to be defined further to the below crossing categorisations through continued detailed design and engagement.

The chronology of National Grid's engagement with Essex and Suffolk Water to date, and the evolution of the Project's design is summarised as follows:

- 2023
  - Introductory meeting to detail the proposed Norwich to Tilbury scheme and project team members
- 2024
  - Engagement on anticipated impacts on existing Essex and Suffolk Water assets
  - Meeting to discuss and agree AC Interference methodologies and provision of pipeline data
  - Cabling interactions focused meeting
  - Discussion of crossing interactions following Statutory Consultation
  - Initiation of Protective Provisions discussions
- 2025
  - Discussion following revision to project interactions.
  - Discussion of utility connections required to compounds
  - Further discussion of AC Interference impacts to Essex and Suffolk Water assets.
  - Discussion around clashes identified by Essex and Suffolk Water
  - Further engagement on Protective Provision discussions
  - Initial development of items to be included within the Statement of Common Ground.

## 5. Matters Agreed

Issue	Agreement reached	Date agreed	Relevant documentation
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## 6. Matters currently under discussion

Issue	Stakeholder position (including date)	National Grid response (including date)	Relevant documentation
Bellmouth Junction	16/07/2025 – Trial holes to be undertaken to confirm depth & location of ESW assets and further discussion required.	21/07/25 - National Grid to arrange additional call to discuss.	
Trackway	16/07/2025 - In general Essex and Suffolk Water have no concerns with Trackway Interactions on the basis that trackway matting is laid/no intrusive works undertaken however further discussions required to determine if trial holes are required for this specific issue.	21/07/25 – Engagement ongoing to detail construction methodology for Essex and Suffolk Water to determine whether trial holes are requested as part of the trackway works.	
Haul Road Crossing	05/06/25 – Trial holes are required at each crossing location to determine depth of	12/06/25 – Requirements are noted, a National Grid position	



Issue	Stakeholder position (including date)	National Grid response (including date)	Relevant documentation
	<p>asset which will dictate protection measures required.</p> <p>Strategic and Raw mains Essex &amp; Suffolk Water will carry out these trial holes themselves. Distribution mains (up to a certain size – to be agreed at later date) National Grid may carry out trial holes with Essex &amp; Suffolk Water watching brief.</p> <p>Essex &amp; Suffolk Water will provide details of which interactions are strategic, raw and distribution mains.</p> <p>16/07/2025 – Essex &amp; Suffolk Water require further information on the construction details of the haul roads.</p>	<p>will be provided upon further review.</p> <p>21/07/25 - Engagement ongoing to detail construction methodology for Essex and Suffolk Water in respect of haul road crossings.</p>	
Stringing Position	<p>05/06/25 - National Grid to demarcate underground asset, fence off and avoid setting up equipment atop pipeline.</p> <p>16/07/2025 – Trial holes to be undertaken to confirm depth &amp; location of ESW assets.</p>	<p>12/06/25 – National Grid would commit to doing so where reasonably able. Where National Grid are unable to due to local constraints then we would seek to agree additional measures such as load</p>	

Issue	Stakeholder position (including date)	National Grid response (including date)	Relevant documentation
		assessments, asset protections slabs etc as deemed necessary.	
Crossing Protection	<p>05/06/25 - National Grid to avoid crossing protections being located directly atop of Essex &amp; Suffolk Water assets in the first instance by utilising a bridging span overtop to ensure maintained access to the asset. The clearance between the bridge span and ground must also be known to ensure adequate access.</p> <p>National Grid are to follow HSG47 if installing screw anchors to avoid a strike and provide RAMS.</p> <p>24/06/25 – ESW to assess impact of mitigation on the main e.g. bridging, kentledge blocks, scaffolding, screw anchors etc.</p> <p>16/07/2025 – Bridging option to be assessed in further detail before agreeing to this option.</p>	<p>12/06/25 – Where feasible National Grid would commit to a bridge spanning overtop of Essex &amp; Suffolk Water assets, the opportunity to do so requires a site-by-site review. Clearance distances would also be provided where utilised to Essex &amp; Suffolk Water.</p> <p>National Grid contractors will follow HSG47 guidance and provide RAMS if installing screw anchors.</p> <p>21/07/25 – National Grid will continue to engage with Essex and Suffolk Water in exploring additional options for crossing protection mitigations to their assets.</p> <p>The request for RAMS (in addition to those required for intrusive screw anchors) and</p>	

Issue	Stakeholder position (including date)	National Grid response (including date)	Relevant documentation
	<p>Other mitigation options, aside from bridging, may be needed to be explored.</p> <p>Trial holes to be undertaken to confirm depth &amp; location of ESW assets.</p> <p>ESW require methodology specified for each crossing point.</p> <p>ESW will require RAMS from National Grid to be reviewed by ESW team prior to any agreements on mitigation.</p>	<p>site specific methodology for each crossing point is noted and National Grid will provide a position upon further assessment.</p>	
Overhead Line Crossing	<p>05/06/25 - To be discussed further.</p> <p>16/07/2025 – Trial holes to be undertaken to confirm depth &amp; location of ESW assets.</p>	<p>12/06/25 - National Grid to arrange additional call to discuss.</p> <p>21/07/25 - The request for trial holes and site specific methodology for each crossing point is noted and National Grid will provide a position upon further assessment. It is possible these may be descoped as an Essex &amp; Suffolk Water requirement upon further provision of</p>	



Issue	Stakeholder position (including date)	National Grid response (including date)	Relevant documentation
400kV Underground Cable Crossing	<p>05/06/25 - There is concerns around supporting of overly exposed pipework. Essex &amp; Suffolk water would seek to limit exposed pipe works to 4m at a time – this 4 meter limit is still in discussion within ESW (no agreement made as of yet).</p> <p>Separation distance between existing and proposed assets must be detailed prior to works commencing which may dictate further requirements.</p> <p>16/07/2025 – National Grid to avoid spoil/topsoil on top of the main. Considered as a long-term load over the main.</p> <p>UGC Crossings still under discussions within ESW.</p> <p>Trial holes to be undertaken to confirm depth &amp; location of ESW assets.</p>	<p>overhead line crossing construction methodology.</p> <p>12/06/25 – National Grid could commit to only opening one cable trench at a time and so only exposing 4m of pipework at a time ensuring it is adequately supported.</p> <p>Intended separation distances between the two assets will be provided to Essex and Suffolk Water ahead of works commencing.</p> <p>21/07/25 – National Grid commit to not storing materials overtop of Essex &amp; Suffolk Water mains so as to maintain asset access.</p> <p>National Grid commit to trial holes when excavating for underground cable installations, the separation distance at which trial holes are required is to be agreed along with the separation distance required of both</p>	

Issue	Stakeholder position (including date)	National Grid response (including date)	Relevant documentation
	<p>Any decisions regarding ESW water mains are pending trial hole results.</p> <p>Minimum distance to be agreed between cable protection tiles &amp; bottom of ESW mains – minimum distance stipulated case by case, determined through trial holes.</p> <p>The maximum working width for excavations over ESW assets is to be determined at later date – stipulated case by case.</p>	<p>existing Essex &amp; Suffolk Water assets and proposed National Grid underground assets.</p>	
Pylon Working Area	<p>05/06/25 - To be discussed further.</p> <p>16/07/2025 – Trial holes to be undertaken to confirm depth &amp; location of ESW assets.</p>	<p>12/06/25 - National Grid to arrange additional call to discuss.</p> <p>21/07/25 - The request for trial holes at pylons working areas is noted and National Grid will provide a position upon further assessment.</p>	

Issue	Stakeholder position (including date)	National Grid response (including date)	Relevant documentation
Outfall Working Area	05/06/25 - To be discussed further. 16/07/2025 – Trial holes to be undertaken to confirm depth & location of ESW assets.	12/06/25 - National Grid to arrange additional call to discuss. 21/07/25 - The request for trial holes at outfall working areas is noted and National Grid will provide a position upon further assessment.	
UKPN Overhead Line Wood Pole Dismantling	05/06/25 – National Grid are requested to provide methodology on the dismantlement of UKPN Wood Pole overhead lines. Essex & Suffolk Water require that poles not be felled atop our assets. Where our asset is located within the felling distance of the pole then the asset is to be clearly demarcated. If excavating around the base of the wood pole to remove then additional protection measures would be required 16/07/2025 – Excavation around the base of the poles	12/06/25 – National Grid and UKPN commit to not felling UKPN wood poles atop Essex & Suffolk Water assets where reasonably avoidable. National Grid request that the separation distance, at which point additional protections are required, is defined. Dismantlement methodology is to be provided to Essex & Suffolk Water. 21/07/25 – The separation distance at which point excavation is considered to be around the underground asset is requested. National Grid will continue to engage and	

Issue	Stakeholder position (including date)	National Grid response (including date)	Relevant documentation
	would require further investigation & construction details of methodology before confirming protection/diversionary measures. Trial holes to be undertaken to confirm depth & location of ESW assets.	provide details of construction methodology to facilitate Essex & Suffolk Waters position on protection/diversionary measures. The request for trial holes is noted and National Grid will provide a position upon further assessment.	
UKPN Overhead Tower Dismantling	05/06/25 - To be discussed further. 16/07/2025 – Trial holes to be undertaken to confirm depth & location of ESW assets.	12/06/25 - National Grid to arrange additional call to discuss. 21/07/25 – The request for trial holes is noted and National Grid will provide a position upon further assessment.	
UKPN Cable Crossing	05/06/25 - Separation distance between existing and proposed assets must be detailed prior to works commencing which may dictate further requirements. 16/07/2025 – Trial holes to be undertaken to confirm depth & location of ESW assets.	12/06/25 - Intended separation distances between the two assets will be provided to Essex and Suffolk Water ahead of works commencing. 21/07/25 – The request for trial holes is noted and National Grid will provide a position upon further assessment.	

Issue	Stakeholder position (including date)	National Grid response (including date)	Relevant documentation
Alternating Current (AC) Interference	16/07/2025 – National Grid to make revisions on models & reports for the AC Interference Report. ESW waiting for this updated revision to be issued by National Gas, so ESW can review.	<p>12/06/25 - AC Interference studies detailing both AC Corrosion and Impressed Voltages impacts have been conducted and a modelling report provided to Essex &amp; Suffolk Water for review and comment. Methodology of the modelling has been agreed with Essex &amp; Suffolk Water in advance of undertaking the studies. Engagement on the AC Interference impacts and subsequent mitigation requirements is ongoing.</p> <p>21/07/25 – The revised AC Interference model is being progressed and due to be provided w/c 28<sup>th</sup> July. Additionally an outline design mitigation report will be provided in October 2025.</p>	

## 7. Signatures

This Statement of Common Ground is agreed upon by the undersigned parties:

For National Grid

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

For Essex & Suffolk Water

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



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