

AENC-NG-CNS-REP-0088

Norwich to Tilbury

Volume 5: Reports and Statements

Document: 5.9.29 Draft Statement of Common Ground - National Gas
Transmission - Letter

Final Issue A

August 2025

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN020027

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

nationalgrid

National Gas Transmission 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 reflect the current understanding of the areas of agreement and any remaining points of discussion between National Grid and National Gas Transmission Plc (National Gas) regarding specific issues arising during construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the proposed Norwich to Tilbury Project (the Project) and its interface with National Gas assets. The aim is to clarify the shared understanding of any issues and facilitate an efficient resolution process. The SoCG is intended to be a live document and will be updated as necessary throughout the pre-examination and examination stages of the DCO process. It is without prejudice to any bespoke protective provisions included in the draft DCO for the protection of National Gas as a statutory undertaker, and to the terms of any related side agreements between the parties.

2. Parties to the SoCG

This SoCG is agreed between National Grid and National Gas Transmission Plc.

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

National Gas operates and maintains critical gas transmission infrastructure across the UK. As a statutory undertaker, National Gas has a duty to ensure the safety, reliability and operational integrity of its infrastructure, which is essential to the UK's energy supply and energy security. National Gas has legitimate interests, assets and apparatus that interact with the Norwich to Tilbury proposals. This has been identified as the network of National Gas underground pipeline 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 National Gas to demonstrate how their interests may be affected, how National Gas or National Grid and its contractors can collectively reduce those effects and input to agree the implementation of such measures.

National Grid and National Gas have identified approximately 109 physical interactions between Norwich to Tilbury and National Gas Assets. These interactions and National Gas's 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 National Gas Transmission Plc 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 National Gas Transmission Plc assets and Protective Provisions
 - Meeting to discuss and agree AC Interference study methodologies and provision of pipeline data
 - Updates to the crossing schedule following Statutory Consultation
 - Initiation of Protective Provisions discussions
- 2025
 - Discussion following issuance of Norwich to Tilbury Scoping Document encompassing all project interactions.
 - Further discussion on studies outcome of AC Interference impacts to National Gas Transmission Plc assets.
 - 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
Trackway Locations	National Grid are to avoid driving directly overtop the underground asset in a linear fashion. Crossing points are acceptable subject to compliance with safe working guidelines.	02/06/25	

6. Matters currently under discussion

Issue	Stakeholder position (including date)	National Grid position (including date)	Relevant documentation
Overhead Line Crossing	30/06/25 – no issues expected with overhead line crossings other than the electromagnetic interference	11/07.25 – Electromagnetic Interference impacts are addressed separately in a stand alone issue.	
Protective Provisions	23/08/2024 - National Grid and National Gas agree that bespoke protective provisions for the protection of National Gas as a gas undertaker will be included in the draft DCO. These provisions will govern the interface between the Project and assets owned by National Gas and are intended to provide legal protection for National Gas, in addition to the technical solutions and mitigation measures agreed between the parties. National Gas provided its draft	11/07/25 – National Grid legal representatives and National Gas legal representatives are currently engaging to agree a draft Protective Provision. The final terms of the Protective Provision are subject to further engagement on site specific interactions between National Gas assets and National Grids Norwich to Tilbury Project.	Protective Provisions in the draft DCO.

Issue	Stakeholder position (including date)	National Grid position (including date)	Relevant documentation
	protective provisions to National Grid on 23/08/24. It is anticipated that the parties will agree a mutually acceptable form of protective provisions. National Gas reserves the right to enter into a side agreement in respect of the Project if required.		
Bellmouth Junctions	02/06/25 - National Grid are to provide RAMS and detailed design drawings for approval prior to works commencement with depth of cover assessed.	23/06/25 – Requirements are noted, a National Grid position will be provided upon further assessment.	
Haul Road Crossing	02/06/25 - National Gas request a third party specialist assess and approve the loading imparted on National Gas assets at haul road crossing points to determine protections necessary.	23/06/25 – Requirements are noted, a National Grid position will be provided upon further assessment.	
Stringing Position	<p>02/06/25 - During installation of Earth Protection Zone (EPZ), the projects first priority will be to avoid siting the EPZ on top of existing National Gas assets.</p> <p>Gas mains will be marked out and fenced off. If National Grid need to site the EPZ atop National Gas underground assets, the National Gas asset will be protected. This is subject to the result of the assessment mentioned below.</p> <p>National Grid are to take the below steps for National Gas assets contained within the stringing position area:</p>	<p>23/06/25 – National Grid agree to demarcating and fencing off the pipeline where it is within the stringing position area. National Grid commit to avoiding siting equipment above National Gas assets where reasonably able to do so. Where National Grid are unable to due to local then we would seek to agree additional measures such as load assessments, asset protections slabs etc as deemed necessary.</p> <p>EPZ requirements are noted, a National Grid position will be provided upon further assessment.</p>	

Issue	Stakeholder position (including date)	National Grid position (including date)	Relevant documentation
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Demarcate and fence off the pipeline easement (typically 80ft). 2) Conduct a surface load assessment where required. 3) EPZ - a study is required to confirm no induced currents into the pipeline. 		
Crossing Protection	<p>02/06/25 – Where possible National Grid should demarcate and fence off pipeline easement.</p> <p>Scaffolding design should be to bridge over the pipeline rather than placing screw anchors or kentledge blocks within the pipeline easement.</p> <p>Acceptable to place screw anchors or kentledge blocks if located over 6m away from the pipeline. Subject to site specific assessment.</p>	<p>23/06/25 – Where feasible National Grid would commit to a bridge spanning overtop of National Gas Transmission Plc assets, the opportunity to do so requires a site-by-site review. If deemed not feasible then it would require the installation of screw anchors and/or kentledge blocks within 6m of the pipeline. National Grid would seek to agree additional precautions in this scenario. National Grid contractors would also follow HSG47 guidance and provide RAMS if installing screw anchors.</p>	
Pylon Working Area	<p>02/06/25 - No lifting operations are to occur within the pipeline easement without a lifting assessment having been approved by National Gas.</p> <p>Pipelines within the pylon working area are to be demarcated and fenced off.</p> <p>If piling, there are vibration limits which apply if piling occurs within 15m of the pipeline. For piling outside</p>	<p>23/06/25 - National Grid commit to demarcating and fencing off the pipeline within the pylon working area.</p> <p>Requirements for piling approvals and lifting restrictions are noted, a National Grid position will be provided upon further assessment.</p>	

Issue	Stakeholder position (including date)	National Grid position (including date)	Relevant documentation
	of 15m this is generally of lesser concern however National Gas will still need to review and approve the details of the piling rig utilised to confirm acceptance.		
Construction Laydown Area	02/06/25 - National Gas requests National Grid demarcate and fence off National Gas assets within construction lay down areas. Where crossing points are required these are to be treated the same as haul crossing points with loading assessments required.	23/06/25 - National Grid agree to demarcate and fence off National Gas assets within construction lay down areas. In relation to loading assessments a National Grid position will be provided upon further assessment.	
UKPN Overhead Tower Dismantling	02/06/25 - It is preferred that towers within 100m of National Gas assets are dismantled as opposed to felled. If steel lattice towers are felled within 100m of a National Gas pipeline then an assessment and approval of resultant vibration will be required prior to doing so. Conductors are to be lowered to the ground as opposed to dropped atop National Gas pipelines.	23/06/25 – A National Grid/UKPN position will be provided upon further assessment.	
UKPN Cable Crossing	02/06/25 - Where a cable crossing occurs National Gas will require: 1) A deed of consent – to be considered further 2) 600mm separations or 1000mm for cable ratings above 132kV. 3) Pre and post energisation surveys.	23/06/25 – National Grid/UKPN commit to providing RAMS and notice ahead of works for National Gas supervision attendance where deemed reasonably required instances of which are to be further defined.	

Issue	Stakeholder position (including date)	National Grid position (including date)	Relevant documentation
	4) An electrical impact assessment - inductions study. 5) RAMS to be provided for review and approval 6) Supervision on site while works occur	A National Grid position will be provided upon further assessment of the below National Gas requirements: 1) A deed of consent 2) Separation distance requirement 3) Pre and post energisation surveys 4) An electrical impact assessment – inductions study	
Alternating Current (AC) Interference		23/06/25 - AC Interference studies detailing both AC Corrosion and Impressed Voltages impacts have been conducted and a modelling report provided to National Gas Transmission Plc for review and comment. Methodology of the modelling has been agreed with National Gas Transmission Plc in advance of undertaking the studies. Engagement on the AC Interference impacts and subsequent mitigation requirements is ongoing.	

7. Signatures

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

For National Grid

Name: _____

Position: _____

Date: _____

For National Gas Transmission Plc

Name: _____

Position: _____

Date: _____

National Grid plc
National Grid House,
Warwick Technology Park,
Gallows Hill, Warwick.
CV34 6DA United Kingdom

Registered in England and Wales
No. 4031152
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Cover page

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National Grid plc
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