

I object on behalf of Gent Fairhead & Co Limited, and Blackwater Aggregates to the alignment of the proposed overhead cables and pylons. The scheme is proposed to pass through Monks Farm, Kelvedon which is subject to the terms of an option agreement for mineral extraction in my clients favour. It is National Grids intention to locate pylons TB083 and TB084 in the centre of Monks Farm, which will sterilise significant mineral reserves. Whilst Monks Farm is not yet identified within the Minerals Local Plan, it was submitted to Essex County Council in July 2024 for the purposes of their Mineral Local Plan Review, which is currently under consultation. I have been in discussion with National Grid representatives regarding agreement of the Statement of Common Ground and I am currently awaiting their confirmation regarding re-alignment to the south, closer to the red line application area might help to mitigate the sterilisation. We are still waiting for an updated route alignment plan from National Grid. We are still waiting for confirmation of their response to the draft Statement of Common Ground.

1-3 Strand
London WC2N 5EH

T: +44 (0) 207 004 3000
www.nationalgrid.com

nationalgrid

Blackwater Aggregates
Bradwell
Braintree
Essex
CM77 8EE

1st August 2025

Dear Sirs,

Norwich to Tilbury – Statement of Common Ground- Bradwell Quarry, Church Road, Bradwell

Ahead of submission of the application for the Norwich to Tilbury Development Consent Order (DCO) to the Planning Inspectorate in Q3 2025, we are looking to agree shared positions on key issues with relevant stakeholders by way of a Statement of Common Ground (SoCG). This is promoted by the Planning Inspectorate as a way of assisting them in assessing the application.

National Grid welcome the engagement already undertaken with Blackwater Aggregates during the evolution of the proposed development. To build on this engagement, Annex A to this letter comprises a draft SoCG and sets out what National Grid consider to be the matters agreed and matters still under discussion (if any remain) between National Grid and Blackwater Aggregates.

National Grid politely request that Blackwater Aggregates please review National Grid's drafting at Annex A and respond in the following way:

- If any matters remain outstanding, please complete or add to the table and return to National Grid who will be in touch to discuss.
- If there are no outstanding issues, please sign at the bottom of Annex A and return to National Grid. National Grid will then sign and issue Blackwater Aggregates with a signed copy for your records.

The SoCG will then be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for consideration by the Examining Authority (ExA) when assessing the application. This does not prohibit Blackwater Aggregates from engaging in the examination as an Interested Party.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to your response.

Yours Sincerely,

Simon Pepper

Project Director

Annex A

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 Blackwater Aggregates regarding specific issues arising during construction and/or operation from the interface between the proposed Norwich to Tilbury Project and Bradwell Quarry, Church Road, Bradwell, Essex, CM77 8EP. The aim is to clarify the shared understanding of any issues and facilitate an efficient resolution process.

Parties to the SoCG

This SoCG is agreed between National Grid and Blackwater Aggregates

2. Background

Description of the Project/Development

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>

This explains the reasons why the project is required and provides a detailed oversight.

3. Stakeholder Role

Blackwater Aggregates has legal interests that have the potential to interact with the Norwich to Tilbury proposals. This has been identified as Bradwell Quarry, Church Road, Bradwell, Essex, CM77 8EP. The proposals understood as: *"Extraction of 6.5 million tonnes of sand and gravel (from Site A7 as identified in the Essex Minerals Local Plan 2014) including the retention of the existing access onto the A120, the processing plant (including sand and gravel washing plant), office and weighbridge, ready mix concrete plant, bagging unit, DSM plant, water and silt management systems. In addition, extension of the internal haul road into Site A7 and access for private and support vehicles to the Site A7 contractors' compound via Woodhouse Lane and Cuthedge Lane. Restoration of Site A7 to agriculture and biodiversity (species rich grassland and wetland).*

Furthermore in due course the Bradwell Quarry will (subject to mineral planning consent being granted) extend into Monk's Farm, Pantling's Lane, Coggeshall Road, Kelvedon, Essex, CO5 9PG for the purposes of extraction of sand and gravel. This will become area A8 (Essex County Council mineral planning department reference site A47). The mineral rights in Monks Farm are owned by Blackwater Aggregates.

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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 Blackwater Aggregates to demonstrate how their interests may be affected, how Blackwater Aggregates or National Grid and its contractors can collectively reduce those effects and input to agree the implementation of such measures.

4. Discussions Held

Teams Meeting Date: 6th October 2023

Site meeting at Bradwell Quarry, Church Road, Bradwell, Essex: 24th July 2025 m

In attendance: Patrick Wigg, (General Manager, Blackwater Aggregates), Stephen Knight (Agent, Stanfords) and Nick Robinson (Agent, Fisher German)

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5. Matters Being Considered

Issue	National Grid Position	Stakeholder Position	Status
Route Scenarios	<p>The parties acknowledge that each interaction between the projects is influenced by various locational and site specific factors.</p> <p>National Grid is proposing the use of scenarios to cover a potential change to the planning status of sites in respect of the Minerals Local Plan. The alternative scenario provides an alignment that seeks to reduce effects to the extent possible where National Grid considers that no reasonable alternative able to meet the project need is available.</p>	<p>Blackwater Aggregates submitted the area 8 (area A47 Council ref.) for incorporation into the Mineral Local Plan. Consultation closed in July 2024, and BA await the outcome of the submission.</p>	<p>Ongoing discussion with key points yet to be discussed/resolved. BA await a response from FG/NG.</p>
Permanent sterilisation of minerals under electrical infrastructure pillar of support	<p>If permanent electrical infrastructure cannot be routed or sited to avoid minerals sites, then an area of unexcavated ground needs to be left to provide the necessary pillar of support.</p> <p><u>1) Route has been altered to reduce sterilisation</u> <u>2. This is now available and will be provided as soon as possible</u></p>	<p><u>1) NG/FG to confirm the extent of the protective area around each pylon base if route on existing plans remains unaltered.</u></p>	<p>Ongoing discussion with key points yet to be discussed/resolved.</p>
	<p>The parties recognise that defining the extent of this area is at the sole discretion of National Grid. The financial impact of any such</p>	<p>BA have made clear, through previous consultations, questionnaires and site meetings with FG/NG of the potential significant mineral sterilisation and consequential</p>	<p><u>2) BA have requested the alignment is relocated towards the eastern and southern most point within the route corridor. BA await revised plans from FG/NG showing this re-alignment for further consideration.</u></p>

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	sterilisation will be established on a case by case basis responding to site specific circumstances and planning position.	financial compensation claim arising if the scheme negatively impacts gravel extraction.	
Alternative Routeing Scenario at Bradwell Quarry	<p>The alternative scenario modifies the overhead line route between TB084-TB087. From TB087 the alignment back to TB084 would be realigned to be more easterly such that TB086 moves south out of the proposed quarry area, TB085 also moves south but remains just within the quarry area at the narrowest point. TB084 moves to the southwest to just within the quarry boundary with an extended overhead line span to TB085. While noting that two pylons remain within the site, National Grid considers that the siting at the edge of the development area will reduce the extent of the sterilisation of minerals. It is anticipated that the timing of construction of each project will continue to allow construction access between TB084-TB085.</p> <p>TB082-TB083 may similarly be within minerals area but have been positioned as close to the boundary as routing principles allow when considering all relevant factors. Likewise, the construction access has been aligned along the edge of the development area. National Grid considers that the siting at the edge of the</p>	<p><u>1</u>.BA were informed their suggestion to re-route to an alternative location within the corridor makes little or no marginal cost difference to the scheme. This would make a portion of the mineral reserve financially viable.</p>	<p>Ongoing discussion with key points yet to be discussed/resolved.</p> <p>BA await revised plans from FG/NG showing this re-alignment for further consideration.</p>

	<p>development area will reduce the extent of the sterilisation of minerals.</p> <p><u>1 Alignment has been redjusted as per the above commentary</u></p>		
Oversail of Minerals Sites	<p>Site activity would typically be expected to continue unaffected by oversail of electrical conductors as a result of designing to normal clearance standards. The financial impact of any evidenced curtailment of activities will be established on a case by case basis responding to site specific circumstances and the planning position.</p>		Ongoing discussion with key points yet to be discussed/resolved.
Permanent Operational Access	<p>National Grid requires access to installed equipment to be maintained at all times. The development consent order will include a defined route for such access but the parties agree that by voluntary agreement, alternative arrangements, that better respond to the particular status of site operator activities could be adopted where agreed by the parties.</p>		Ongoing discussion with key points yet to be discussed/resolved.
Temporary Construction Effects	<p>Details will vary by site but may include: positioning of temporary haul roads within site boundaries; the installation of services and utilities diversions; repair / compensation for any damage to existing equipment</p>		Ongoing discussion with key points yet to be discussed/resolved.

- The parties agree to:
 - Commit to engage constructively with other parties in respect of detailed engineering design to facilitate beneficial outcomes for all developments in so far as it relates to overlapping interests
 - Commit to update the other parties where material change to their project occurs or is imminently expected

Supporting Documentation

- ESS/12/20/BTE/22/06 planning application with Essex County Council on behalf of Blackwater Aggregates.
- Essex County Council Mineral Local Plan Review – Assessment of Candidate Sand and Gravel Sites – A47 Bradwell, Monk's Farm

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1-3 Strand
London WC2N 5EH

T: +44 (0) 207 004 3000
www.nationalgrid.com



6. Signatures

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

For National Grid

Name: _____

Position: _____

Date: _____

For Blackwater Aggregates

Name: _____

Position: _____

Date: _____