

AENC-NG-CNS-REP-0060

Norwich to Tilbury

Volume 5: Reports and Statements

Document: 5.9.28 Draft Statement of Common Ground - Exolum
International UK Ltd - Tracked Changes Version

Final Issue B

February 2026

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN020027

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

nationalgrid

Revision History

<u>Version</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Submitted at</u>
<u>A</u>	<u>29 August 2025</u>	<u>DCO Application</u>
<u>B</u>	<u>26 February 2026</u>	<u>Deadline 1</u>

Exolum ~~International UK Ltd Limited~~ ~~Draft 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 Exolum regarding specific issues arising during construction and/or operation from the interface between the proposed Norwich to Tilbury Project and Exolum 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 Exolum International Limited.

3. Background

3.1 Description of the Project/Development

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 ~~has submitted~~~~will submit~~ an application for development consent to the Planning Inspectorate. The Examining Authority (consisting of ~~five~~~~one or more~~ examining inspectors), after a period of public examination, ~~will~~~~would~~ make their recommendation to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, who in turn ~~will~~~~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.

4. Stakeholder Interests

Exolum has legitimate interests that interact with the Norwich to Tilbury proposals. This has been identified as the network of Exolum 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 Exolum to demonstrate how their interests may be affected, how Exolum or National Grid and its contractors can collectively reduce those effects and input to agree the implementation of such measures.

National Grid and Exolum have identified approximately 25 physical interactions between Norwich to Tilbury and Exolum Assets. These interactions and Exolums 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 Exolum International Limited to date, and the evolution of the Project's design is summarised as follows:

- 2024
 - Introductory meeting to detail the Norwich to Tilbury scheme and project team members
 - Meeting to discuss and agree AC Interference methodologies and provision of pipeline data
 - Discussion on updated crossing interactions following Statutory Consultation
 - Initiation of Protective Provisions discussions
- 2025
 - Further discussion encompassing all project interactions following revision to the project alignment.
 - Further discussion on studies outcome of AC Interference impacts to Exolum International Limited assets.
 - Further engagement on Protective Provision discussions
 - Initial development of items to be included within the Statement of Common Ground and review of physical project interactions along with requested mitigation and control measures.
- 2026
 - Detailed Design Partner introductions and detailed design engagement.
 - Further AC Interference engagement with Exolum 3rd party reviewers.
 - Ongoing Protective Provisions negotiations.

5. Matters Agreed

<u>ID</u>	Issue	Agreement reached	Date agreed	Relevant documentation
<u>5.1</u>				

Inserted Cells

Inserted Cells

6. Matters Currently Under Discussion

<u>ID</u>	Issue	Stakeholder position (including date)	National Grid response (including date)	Relevant documentation
<u>6.1</u>	Haul Road Crossing	19/06/25 – Exolum supervisor is required to be on site when haul road crossing protections are put in place providing a watching brief. Works to be done as per RAMS agreed by Exolum and further watching brief required during removal. Temporary haul road works to be of bespoke design and construction and will require prior works consent from Exolum in accordance with agreed RAMS, drawings, emergency procedures, site contacts, public liability insurance, signed works consent form.	30/06/25 – Watching brief and provision of RAMS agreed in principle along with drawings, emergency procedures, site contacts and public liability insurances. Further discussions required on engagement and notice timeframes for Exolum supervisor attendance. Granting of Norwich to Tilbury approval rights to Exolum are to be further discussed and agreed. Protection works design and installed will be specific to the site interaction.	

Inserted Cells

ID	Issue	Stakeholder position (including date)	National Grid response (including date)	Relevant documentation
<u>6.2</u>	Crossing Protection	19/06/25 - National Grid are to follow HSG47 if installing screw anchors to avoid a strike and provide RAMS for Exolum's approval. Anchor pin locations to be agreed in advance. Agree with National Grid stated control measure of location specific on site approval from Exolum for these risks.	30/06/25 – National Grid contractors will follow HSG47 guidance and provide RAMS if installing screw anchors. Agreed in principle for advance agreement of anchor pin locations prior to works start, requirements for Exolum approval of pin locations and RAMS to be further defined.	
<u>6.3</u>	Overhead Line Crossing	19/06/25 – If tower foundation piling occurs within 30m of the underground asset then vibration monitoring needs to be installed. Vibration monitor to be fitted with a recording data logger, set to alarm at 20mm/s/ppv, in the event of the alarm being triggered an alternative foundation method will need to be agreed with Exolum.	30/06/25 – Requirements are noted and to be further considered.	
<u>6.4</u>	Construction Laydown Area	19/06/25 – Where assets fall within the construction laydown zone, the underground asset is to be demarcated, fenced off and materials not stored overtop.	30/06/25 – National Grid would, in the first instance seek to comply with the stated requirements of demarcation and crossing points in tandem with tool box talks and inductions clearly stating the hazard,	

Inserted Cells

ID	Issue	Stakeholder position (including date)	National Grid response (including date)	Relevant documentation
		<p>Crossing locations within the laydown are permissible with adequate protections.</p> <p>Pipeline cannot be covered by a construction laydown area, and will need to be fenced off with possible two number consented temporary crossing points. Fencing off (fitted with caution high pressure pipeline signs) to be agreed on site with Exolum. If fenced off area forms part of a compound – location specific toolbox talk/inductions to ensure that Exolum pipeline requirements are met.</p>	<p>Subject to further review of the singular interaction in question, if unable to commit to not storing materials ovetop of the Exolum asset due to project constraints National Grid would propose to undertake loading assessments and install adequate protections subject to agreement from Exolum.</p>	
6.5	<p>UKPN Overhead Line Wood Pole Dismantling</p>	<p>19/06/25 – Exolum 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.</p> <p>If excavating around the base of the wood pole to remove then additional protection measures would be required.</p>	<p>30/06/25 – National Grid and UKPN commit to demarcating asset when within falling distance and not felling UKPN wood poles atop Exolum assets where reasonably avoidable.</p> <p>National Grid request that the separation distance, at which point additional protections are required, is defined.</p> <p>UKPN would provide RAMS where the pole is within the agreed impacted falling distance.</p>	

Inserted Cells

<u>ID</u>	Issue	Stakeholder position (including date)	National Grid response (including date)	Relevant documentation
		<p>The location of the pipeline will need to be agreed and marked out by Exolum on site for each pole felling and pole excavation location. If the pipeline is within the fall impact radius of the pole the RAMS will need to ensure that the pole cannot impact onto the pipeline.</p>		
<u>6.6</u>	UKPN Cable Crossing	<p>19/06/25 - Separation distance between existing and proposed assets must be detailed and approved prior to works commencing which may dictate further requirements and trial holes. All necessary protections to ensure the pipeline is undamaged are to be undertaken. Upfront Exolum overseen trial holes required at each cable crossing point. Subject to specific recommendations and additional requirements from the AC interaction report and instructions from the Exolum CP engineer –</p>	30/06/25 – Exolum requirements are noted, a National Grid/UKPN position will be provided upon further assessment and discussion.	

Inserted Cells

<u>ID</u>	Issue	Stakeholder position (including date)	National Grid response (including date)	Relevant documentation
		<p>generally 1m separation from double ducted cable below the Exolum pipeline and installed as per Appendix 2 from the Exolum proximity document.</p> <p>Works will require prior works consent from Exolum in accordance with agreed RAMS, drawings, emergency procedures, site contacts, public liability insurance, signed works consent form.</p> <p>Note: Permanent cable works consent form to be signed by NG.</p>		
<u>6.7</u>	Trackway	<p>19/06/25 - Temporary trackway works to be of bespoke design and construction and will require prior works consent from Exolum in accordance with agreed RAMS, drawings, emergency procedures, site contacts, public liability insurance, signed works consent form.</p>	<p>30/06/25 - Provision of RAMS agreed in principle along with drawings, emergency procedures, site contacts and public liability insurances.</p> <p>Granting of Norwich to Tilbury approval rights to Exolum are to be further discussed and agreed.</p> <p>Protection works design and installed will be specific to the site interaction.</p>	
<u>6.8</u>	Stringing Positions	<p>19/06/25 - If temporary protection is required it will require prior works consent from Exolum in accordance</p>	<p>30/06/25 - Provision of RAMS agreed in principle along with drawings, emergency procedures, site contacts and public liability insurances.</p>	

Inserted Cells

ID	Issue	Stakeholder position (including date)	National Grid response (including date)	Relevant documentation
		with agreed RAMS, drawings, emergency procedures, site contacts, public liability insurance, signed works consent form.	Granting of Norwich to Tilbury approval rights to Exolum are to be further discussed and agreed.	
<u>6.9</u>	Alternating Current (AC) Interference		12/06/25 - AC Interference studies detailing both AC Corrosion and Impressed Voltages impacts have been conducted and a modelling report provided to Exolum for review and comment. Methodology of the modelling has been agreed with Exolum in advance of undertaking the studies. Engagement on the AC Interference impacts and subsequent mitigation requirements is ongoing.	

Inserted Cells

7. Signatures

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

For National Grid

Name: _____

Position: _____

Date: _____

For Exolum [International](#) Limited

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
nationalgrid.com