

AENC-NG-CNS-REP-0117

# Norwich to Tilbury

## Volume 5: Reports and Statements

Document: 5.9.30 Draft Statement of Common Ground - Scottish  
Power Renewables (East Anglia 3 & East Anglia 1) - Clean Version

Final Issue B

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

**nationalgrid**

# Revision History

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

# **Scottish Power Renewables (East Anglia 3 & East Anglia 1) Draft 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, ScottishPower Renewables UK Limited (SPRUKL), East Anglia 3 Limited (EA3L) and East Anglia 1 (EA1) regarding specific issues arising during construction and/or operation from the interface between the proposed Norwich to Tilbury Project and EA3L and EA1

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 ScottishPower Renewables UK Limited, East Anglia 3 Limited and East Anglia 1

## **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 an application for development consent to the Planning Inspectorate. The Examining Authority (consisting of five examining inspectors), after a period of public examination, will make their recommendation to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, who in turn will 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 targeted consultations.

## **4. Stakeholder Interests**

ScottishPower Renewables UK Limited, East Anglia 3 Limited and East Anglia 1 has legitimate interests that have the potential to interact with the Norwich to Tilbury proposals. This has been identified as the onshore components of EA3L Offshore Wind Farm, the onshore components located north of Bramford substation and SPRUKL ownership of land impacted. The proposals understood as: *customer 400kV substation and underground cabling connection along with associated permanent and temporary infrastructure.*

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 ScottishPower Renewables UK Limited, East Anglia 3 Limited and East Anglia 1 to demonstrate how their interests may be affected, how ScottishPower Renewables UK Limited, East Anglia 3 Limited, East Anglia 1 or National Grid and its contractors can collectively reduce those effects and input to agree the implementation of such measures.

The chronology of National Grid's engagement with ScottishPower Renewables UK Limited, East Anglia 3 Limited and East Anglia 1 and the evolution of the Project's design is summarised as follows:

- 2024
  - Introductory meeting to detail the proposed Norwich to Tilbury scheme following notification of statutory consultation.
  - Exchange of projects GIS layers for detailed assessment of interfaces
  - Further Engagement on anticipated impacts and mitigations
  - Compound siting discussions
- 2025
  - Meeting to collaborate on project development updates ahead of Norwich to Tilbury DCO submission
  - Initial development of items to be included within the Statement of Common Ground
- 2026
  - Meetings ongoing to discuss project development following on from DCO submission

## 5. Matters Agreed

ID	Issue	Agreement reached	Date agreed	Relevant documentation
5.1				

## 6. Matters Currently Under Discussion

ID	Issue	Stakeholder position – ScottishPower Renewables UK Limited and East Anglia 3 Limited (including date)	National Grid position (including date)	Relevant documentation
6.1	Working Group	24/06/25 – Establishment of an ongoing working group is requested.	25/06/25 – National Grid will nominate points of contact to lead the Norwich to Tilbury side within the working group. Further details such as format, meeting frequency etc of the working group are to be agreed.	
6.2	Clash between SPRUKL/EA3L SuDS pond and N-T Pylon RG 207,	24/06/27 – Tower RG207 is still in close proximity to the SuDS basin and so requires further discussion still.	25/06/25 - N-T have previously amended the position of Pylon RG207 to no longer interact with SPRUKL's SuDS pond. Further engagement is required with SPRUKL/EA3L as noted.	
6.3	Works within the SPRUKL/EA3L order limits	24/06/25 - The proposed works around Bramford substation and on the 400kV overhead lines are within the EA3L order limits on land owned by SPRUKL. It is	25/06/25 - Interfacing haul/access roads and CDM areas to be managed on-site during construction by competent contractors to ensure continued access to the EA3L	

ID	Issue	Stakeholder position – ScottishPower Renewables UK Limited and East Anglia 3 Limited (including date)	National Grid position (including date)	Relevant documentation
		<p>imperative that the works around Bramford substation are designed to ensure there is no impact on EA3L. Access to the EA3L converter station must be maintained at all times during both the construction and operational phases of the proposed works. National Grid should not restrict or interfere with EA3L assets during the proposed works.</p>	<p>converter station during both construction and operational phases. Further discussion is required regarding the use of “interfere” so as to not unnecessarily prejudice Norwich to Tilbury interactions where both projects can mutually co-exist.</p>	
6.4	Norwich to Tilbury haul road interface with SPRUKL/EA3L cable alignment	<p>24/06/25 - Protective measures should be installed at the EA3L cable crossings within the boundary of National Grids works, if requested by EA3L/SPRUKL. These protective measures should also consider National Grids landscaping proposals near the cables. National Grid should not restrict or interfere with the installation or operation of EA3L cable connections.</p>	<p>25/06/25 - National Grid agree to undertake protective measures as reasonably expected to ensure EA3L underground cable assets are adequately protected from the Norwich to Tilbury works. The Norwich to Tilbury project will not restrict or interfere with the installation or operation of EA3L cable connections as they are currently known and defined at this time.</p>	
6.5	Interface Legal Agreement	<p>24/06/25 - SPRUKL/EA3L request that a legal interface agreement be signed between all parties to provide additional protection in relation our assets impacted. Similar agreement was agreed with the BTNO project</p>	<p>25/06/25 - The SPRUKL/EA3L - BTNO agreement is currently under review by National Grid legal representatives.</p>	

ID	Issue	Stakeholder position – ScottishPower Renewables UK Limited and East Anglia 3 Limited (including date)	National Grid position (including date)	Relevant documentation
6.6	Land Rights	24/06/25 - Further details on interacting Land Rights sought under the N-T DCO is requested along with an agreement on use of CPO powers where SPRUKL/EA3L DCO boundaries are impacted. N-T must seek voluntary land rights from SPRUKL, where those are required within SPRUKL’s landownership	25/06/25 - Land Rights sought and use of CPO powers will be captured within the legal interface agreement detailing the granting of, and provisions around, SPRUKL/EA3L voluntary land rights.	
6.7	Access to Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) pond	24/06/25 - Access and maintenance rights by EA3L/SPRUKL to the SuDS pond and surrounding land forming part of the drainage systems of the substation must be maintained at all times.	25/06/25 - Access and maintenance rights to EA3L assets will be maintained and managed by competent contractors through engagement with SPRUKL/EA3L.	
6.8	Norwich to Tilbury surface water run-off management and protected species	Temporary surface water management of the substation must be put in place any National Grid to prevent waterlogging or interference with the existing drainage systems and the SuDS pond during the proposed works. National Grid should also follow any statutory requirements that apply to any protected species that are present in the SuDs pond and throughout the areas of landscaping including woodlands, hedgerows and meadow grasslands.	25/06/25 - Construction run off will be managed on site via the competent contractor and not anticipated to negatively impact EA3L operations. National Grid shall observe and comply with all necessary requirements in regards to protected species throughout the project.	

ID	Issue	Stakeholder position – ScottishPower Renewables UK Limited and East Anglia 3 Limited (including date)	National Grid position (including date)	Relevant documentation
6.9	Traffic Management	24/06/25 - National Grid are to manage the cumulative traffic impacts should construction or major maintenance operations overlaps.	25/06/25 - The traffic impacts of the Norwich to Tilbury scheme will be managed on site using traffic calming and control measures as deemed necessary.	
6.10	Landscape reinstatement – BNG interactions to be managed.	<p>24/06/25 - Consideration is needed to ensure that any landscaping installed by National Grid does not undermine EA3L landscape management plans, requirements and strategies imposed by the DCO. Trees planted by SPRUKL were part of our 10 year landscape maintenance period to mitigate visual impacts . NGET to assess how the project would impact SPR visual mitigation commitments and what measure would be taken to reduce such impact.</p> <p>This includes proper consideration for the removal and subsequent reinstatement of landscaping and woodland to facilitate the proposed works, if required. This includes due consideration of the protected species and other ecological enhancements that may be required.</p>	25/06/25 - National Grid will take into consideration where there is design overlap between projects (e.g. within the Order Limits). Detailed design will be progressed to avoid conflict where possible. The Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan PINS doc reference: EN020027-000661 [APP-321] outlines the general principles for landscape and ecological reinstatement on the Project, where removal can not be avoided. All land which is temporarily impacted by the Project will be reinstated where practicable to it pre-construction condition land use. The only exception to this is tree planting below the overhead line or on top of the underground cables. This will take place in close proximity to the original location or provided off-site.	

ID	Issue	Stakeholder position – ScottishPower Renewables UK Limited and East Anglia 3 Limited (including date)	National Grid position (including date)	Relevant documentation
6.11	Encroachment of the proposed Red Line Boundary in the EA1 Substation area, which is owned by SPRUKL and leased to EA1.	14/01/26 - EA1 ONSS is now under a TCP OFTO lease. NG's proposed OHL easement option area with EA3L / SPRUKL must exclude all of the ONSS delineated boundary, along with any OHL cable swing not impinging upon the TCP OFTO leased area.	26/01/26 – National Grid have looked into the movement of RG207 & RG208, movement of RG208 only provides 9.7mts clearance of the OHL cable swing to the EA1 boundary corner. Drawings have been provided. Discussions ongoing regarding RLB and class 8 rights meaning that National Grid could not have any rights over the land or claim temporary possession of it. In addition to the design change already being undertaken, this would give SPR multiple protections from National Grid being able to do anything with the land.	
6.12	Proposed Haul Road encroaching the visual screening to the West of EA1 SS.	14/01/26 - Queries were raised on the ground levels there and the impact on the visual screening agrees as part of the EA1 DCO.	26/01/26 – National Grid is preparing two alternative detailed design options within the Order Limits and reviewing the existing topographical conditions at this location.	
6.13	Changes to the 400kv Bramford SS northern boundary and proposed retaining wall	14/01/26 – SPR request further information on these potential changes	26/01/26 – National Grid is working with the substation design team, movement of any boundary is subject to equipment design within the new bay areas and being within the LoD in the Order Limits.	

## 7. Signatures

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

For National Grid

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

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

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

For East Anglia 3 Limited

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

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

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

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