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Norwich to Tilbury

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**Document: 8.3.15 Draft Statement of Common Ground - EDF
Renewables**

Final Issue A

February 2026

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN020027

nationalgrid

EDF Renewables

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 and EDF Renewables regarding specific issues arising during construction and/or operation from the interface between the proposed Norwich to Tilbury Project and Bloy's Grove Solar Farm.

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 EDF Renewables

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

EDF Renewables has legal interests that have the potential to interact with the Norwich to Tilbury proposals. This has been identified as the Bloy's Grove Solar Farm, close to Brick Kiln Lane, Norwich. The proposal is understood as the: *Installation of a solar farm comprising: ground mounted solar panels, access tracks; inverter/transformers, substation; storage, spare parts and welfare cabins, underground cables and conduits, perimeter fence; CCTV equipment, temporary new site entrance and access track, temporary construction compounds, and associated infrastructure and planting scheme.* This scheme has been granted planning permission (Ref: 2021/2495) and is currently under construction.

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

Discussions Held

- Non-statutory consultation April-June 2022 (graduated swathe)
- Non-statutory consultation June – August 2023 (draft alignment)
- Statutory consultation April – July 2024
- Landowner consultation June – July 2025
- Teams Meeting Date: 24th February 2025, 12th January 2026, 26th January 2026

5. Matters Agreed

ID	Issue	Agreement reached	Date agreed	Relevant documentation
5.1				

6. Matters Currently Under Discussion

ID	Issue	National Grid Position	Stakeholder Position	Status	Relevant documentation
6.1	Potential permanent loss of development footprint	<p>National Grid’s internal design process of the Overhead Line route has avoided location of assets that would result in loss of development with oversail only and no pylon proposed to be located within the area of development.</p> <p>National Grid will continue to work with EDF renewables as the detailed design develops to understand any potential shadowing implications.</p>	<p>EDF Renewables understand that no permanent loss of footprint will arise from NG asset placement design.</p> <p>Information required: How much buffer if required from the pylon to EDF infrastructure?</p> <p>Shadowing effects of OHL and tower(s) – NG lands team & EDF to provide assessment</p>	Ongoing discussions with EDF renewables have taken place with the stakeholder concerns understood, National Grid will continue to work with EDF to address potential concerns as the	

ID	Issue	National Grid Position	Stakeholder Position	Status	Relevant documentation
6.2	Temporary Removal of Panels to create space for construction works	National Grid will continue to work with EDF as the detailed design develops to understand any implications on potential panel removal or replacement. NG will work with EDF to minimise the impact to panels as far as reasonably practicable.	It is EDF's preference that the requirement for panel removal is avoided. Can NGET route the OHL so that no solar panels are required to be removed? If not, compensation for loss of revenue for duration of works will be required.	detailed design develops.	Ongoing discussions with EDF renewables have taken place with the stakeholder concerns understood, National Grid will continue to work with EDF to address potential concerns as the detailed design develops.
6.3	Modifications to Existing Equipment	National Grid acknowledges EDF's concerns in relation to earthing implications of the proximity of both developments. NG will continue to engage with EDF as the detailed design develops to understand the earthing implications and mitigate the impacts as far as reasonably practicable.	Clarify impact to EDF site. Are NGET suggesting we may need to install additional earthing? Bloy Solar EDF site will have it's own independent earth grid.	Ongoing discussions with EDF renewables have taken place with the stakeholder concerns understood,	

ID	Issue	National Grid Position	Stakeholder Position	Status	Relevant documentation
6.4	Temporary Construction Effects	Potential implications for the temporary haul road will become clearer as the detailed design develops. National Grid will continue to work with EDF as the detailed design develops to understand any impacts on the temporary haul road.	Confirmation of haul road requirement outstanding – possibility of compensation for loss of revenue for the duration of the works will be required. Detailed methodology required for initial stringing, to include dimensions of CDM areas at each tower – Temporary haul road from South. Consideration of making temporary access route to site permanent (Planning currently states temporary) – Northern	National Grid will continue to work with EDF to address potential concerns as the detailed design develops. Ongoing discussions with EDF renewables have taken place with the stakeholder concerns understood, National Grid will continue to work with EDF to address potential concerns as the detailed design develops.	

ID	Issue	National Grid Position	Stakeholder Position	Status	Relevant documentation
			access route to site – Church Road (Section 73) – Design implications unknown currently.		
6.5	Operational Effects (excluding reduced panel numbers)	National Grid will continue to work with EDF to understand any potential effects resulting from the operation of its development as the detailed design for the scheme progresses.	Have shading effects from new towers onto panels been considered? Mitigation required. Can NGET advise what access requirements will be needed during operational phase to towers and whether this will impact the EDF site? NGET to confirm what type / size of vehicles / machinery will be required access?	Ongoing discussions with EDF renewables have taken place with the stakeholder concerns understood, National Grid will continue to work with EDF to address potential concerns as the detailed design develops.	
6.6	Timescales	National Grid expect this to be within a ‘built environment’, as EDF Renewables construction will be completed ahead of National Grid construction.	EDF Renewables have approval of S73 Planning Application for a Minor Material Amendment to confirm solar design layout on the 4 th June	Ongoing discussions with EDF renewables have taken place with the stakeholder	

ID	Issue	National Grid Position	Stakeholder Position	Status	Relevant documentation
			2025. This will give more certainty around built design and site interaction NGET to provide key programme milestones.	concerns understood, National Grid will continue to work with EDF to address potential concerns as the detailed design develops.	

7. Signatures

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

For National Grid

Name: _____

Position: _____

Date: _____

For EDF Renewables

Name: _____

Position: _____

Date: _____

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