

AENC-NG-CNS-REP-0232

# Norwich to Tilbury

**Volume 8: Examination Documents**

**Document: 8.3.16 Draft Statement of Common Ground - Brick  
Kiln Solar Farm (Quintas Group)**

**Final Issue A**

**February 2026**

**Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN020027**

**nationalgrid**

# **Brick Kiln Solar Farm (Quintas Group)**

## **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 Quintas Group regarding specific issues arising during construction and/or operation from the interface between the proposed Norwich to Tilbury Project and Brick Kiln Solar Farm, land south of Brick Kiln Road, Mulbarton, Norwich, Norfolk. 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 Quintas Group

### **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**

Quintas Group has been in correspondence with National Grid over the potential interaction with the Norwich to Tilbury proposals. This has been identified as Brick Kiln Solar Farm at land south of Brick Kiln Road, Mulbarton, Norwich, Norfolk. The site is an existing solar farm development in operation since 2016.

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

### **Engagement history**

- 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 Dates: 5<sup>th</sup> November 2024, 12<sup>th</sup> 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	Permanent loss of development footprint	National Grid's internal design process of the Overhead Line route has sought to minimise the interaction with the built solar farm and permanent loss of any Quintas Group assets or sterilisation of the land. RG14 is currently proposed outside of the Brickkiln Solar Farm boundary, albeit on the edge of the boundary, to minimise the shading impact. It is acknowledged that updated conductor height and span designs are required by Quintas Group.	Quintas Group understand that NG cannot avoid oversail and pylon design and arrangement. Pylon RG13 cannot be relocated due to archaeological reasons. It is Quintas understanding that RG14 is now planned to be located outside the Brickkiln Solar Farm boundary - Updated conductor height and span designs required. Shading impact assessment required- Quintas are able to	Ongoing discussion with the detail yet to be confirmed.	

ID	Issue	National Grid Position	Stakeholder Position	Status	Relevant documentation
			provide this if agreed / required.		
6.2	Temporary Removal of Panels to create space for construction works	If panels either have to be removed before being replaced or their installation is delayed pending completion of the National Grid works. The potential extent of this has not yet been confirmed but National Grid will continue to engage with Quintas Group as the detailed design develops, to minimise the impact as far as possible.	<p>Mitigation measures, including earthing, shading, and operational restrictions currently unknown.</p> <p>NGET to provide Brickkiln Solar Farm with a comprehensive, full and legally binding indemnity to cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any generation losses.</li> <li>Any losses or damage to solar farm infrastructure, including panel tables and associated apparatus, and any direct or consequential business losses suffered by Brickkiln Solar Farm, including outage-related costs and costs incurred in repairing or replacing panel tables, as a result of such damage or disruption.</li> <li>Any additional O&amp;M and staffing costs.</li> </ul>	Ongoing discussion, key points referenced within this SoCG.	

ID	Issue	National Grid Position	Stakeholder Position	Status	Relevant documentation
			<p>Any grid-related charges, liabilities, or penalties.</p> <p>Any professional fees.</p> <p>Any direct or consequential business losses arising from the diversion works associated with the 11 kV line.</p>		
6.3	Modifications to Existing Equipment	The extent of any earthing implications resulting from the proximity of both developments will become clearer as the detailed design develops. National Grid will continue to engage with Quintas Group to understand and address any earthing implications.	As above.	Ongoing discussion, key points referenced within this SoCG.	
6.4	Temporary Construction Effects	National Grid acknowledges Quintas Groups concerns in relation to access routes within the Solar Farm site. The extent of any temporary construction effects will become clearer as the detailed design develops, NG will continue to work with Quintas Group to understand and address any potential impacts.	<p>Information required regarding access and haul road arrangements. Mitigation measures including earthing, shading and operational restrictions required.</p> <p>Full details of the proposed 11kV diversion through the Solar Farm required.</p> <p>Construction access arrangements, particularly in</p>	Ongoing discussion, key points referenced within this SoCG	

ID	Issue	National Grid Position	Stakeholder Position	Status	Relevant documentation
			<p>relation to crossing points, exclusion zones and isolation requirements.</p> <p>Shading impact assessment required – Quintas are able to perform this if agreed / required.</p>		
6.5	Operational Effects (excluding reduced panel numbers)	<p>It is acknowledged that detailed construction methodologies are required from UKPN regarding the diversion of the 11kV.</p> <p>Proposed coordinates of RG14 will be provided once detailed design has been confirmed.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that an earthing interaction study has been requested. National Grid will continue to work with Quintas Group to understand the earthing implications.</p>	<p>Potential Issues with woodland, land designations and flood plains. The potential shadowing effect appears to be minimal from discussions. This has not yet been fully discussed but will be raised as part of ongoing engagement and will be updated accordingly.</p> <p>Detailed construction methodologies, including any outages or isolations required as a result of the 11kV diversion and overhead stringing works.</p> <p>Regarding RG14, finalised spatial coordinates outstanding.</p>	Ongoing discussion, key points referenced within this SoCG.	

ID	Issue	National Grid Position	Stakeholder Position	Status	Relevant documentation
			<p>Clearance between pylon earthing and Brickkiln Solar Farm's perimeter earth conductor.</p> <p>Earthing interaction studies to ensure no residual coupling risk.</p> <p>Full earthing interaction and coupling study compliant with IEC 61936-1 and IEEE 80, and provide Brickkiln Solar Farm with a copy.</p>		

## 7. Signatures

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

For National Grid

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

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

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

For Quintas Group

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

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

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

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