

AENC-NG-CNS-REP-0233

Norwich to Tilbury

Volume 8: Examination Documents

Document: 8.3.17 Draft Statement of Common Ground - Ralos
Projects Ltd

Final Issue A

February 2026

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN020027

nationalgrid

Ralos Projects Ltd

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 Ralos Projects Ltd regarding specific issues arising during construction and/or operation from the interface between the proposed Norwich to Tilbury Project and Land off Marsh Lane, Bracon, Ash, 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 Ralos Projects Ltd

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

Ralos Projects Ltd has been in correspondence with National Grid over the potential interaction with the Norwich to Tilbury proposals. This has been identified as the proposed Solar Farm, close to Land off Marsh Lane, Bracon, Ash, Norfolk. The proposals are understood as: *Solar farm of approximately 28MW along with associated ancillary equipment including substations, fences and batteries. The site benefits from a direct grid connection to a local 33Kv National Grid transmission line and it is proposed to be a temporary permission for 40 years and was granted planning permission in July 2025 (Ref: 2023/1055). The grid connection date is to be confirmed.*

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

Engagement history

Teams Meeting Date: 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, 1st October 2024. Upcoming meeting due to take place on the 4th March 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 do not believe there will be any permanent loss of development footprint NG believes that through modifications to the detail of its proposals, any potential impact on either the extent of solar panels or performance of the site, could be mitigated. National Grid's internal design process of the Overhead Line route has avoided location of assets that would result in loss of developmen area	The permanent loss of development footprint could potentially result in an inability to install the fully consented Solar PV generation facility, causing associated economic loss.	Ongoing discussion –	2023/1055F planning application with South Norfolk Council on behalf of Ralos Projects Ltd.

ID	Issue	National Grid Position	Stakeholder Position	Status	Relevant documentation
6.2	Temporary Removal of Panels to create space for construction works	It is not yet confirmed whether the project will require the temporary removal of panels to facilitate its development. National Grid will continue to engage with Ralos Projects Ltd, as the detailed design develops, to understand and address any implications of the project on the development. NG believes that through modifications to the detail of its proposals, any potential temporary impacts on either the extent of solar panels or performance of the site, could be mitigated.	Removal of panels from the scheme will result in an inability to achieve full generation capability from the Solar PV facility, causing associated economic loss.	Ongoing discussion – detail is yet to be agreed. .	
6.3	Modifications to Existing Equipment	National Grid notes the concerns in relation to adequate earthing in response to the proximity of both developments. The extent of the earthing impact required has not yet been confirmed and will be further understood as the detailed design develops. NG will continue to work with Ralos Projects Ltd to understand and address any earthing impacts.	Any requirement for additional earthing in relation to proximity of the 400kV infrastructure will result in an economic cost burden. This cost burden is not captured in the CAPEX model for our solar scheme.	Ongoing discussion – detail is yet to be agreed. .	
6.4	Temporary Construction Effects	This is linked to temporary haul road access within the Solar Farm which is not likely to be required but confirmation would be given based on final design.	Any consequential losses and additional maintenance burden resulting from NG works	Ongoing discussion – detail is yet to be agreed.	

ID	Issue	National Grid Position	Stakeholder Position	Status	Relevant documentation
		Additional ongoing, long-term maintenance potentially could be required due to net effects such as dust or compensation for damage/repair to operational equipment.	will need to captured and recompensed – for further discussion.		
6.5	Operational Effects (excluding reduced panel numbers)	National Grid do not believe there will be any operational impacts on the solar facility, andwelcomes ongoing discussions with Ralos Projects Limited to continue to consider the scenario and detailed design.	Consideration should be given to additional operational costs for the Solar PV facility as a result of the NG works.	Ongoing discussion	
6.6	Timescales	Planning app has been approved for the solar development.	Decision notice for Solar PV development issued by LPA and received 04/07/2025.	Acknowledged by both parties	

7. Signatures

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

For National Grid

Name: _____

Position: _____

Date: _____

For Ralos Projects Ltd

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