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Norwich to Tilbury

Volume 8: Examination Documents

**Document: 8.3.22 Draft Statement of Common Ground - Eden
Renewables**

Final Issue A

February 2026

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN020027

nationalgrid

Eden 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 Eden Renewables regarding specific issues arising during construction and/or operation from the interface between the proposed Norwich to Tilbury Project and Cressing 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 Eden 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

Eden Renewables has been in correspondence with National Grid over the potential interaction with the Norwich to Tilbury proposals. This has been identified as the Crossing Solar Farm, southwest of Crossing Temple, Witham Road, Crossing. The proposals understood as: *Solar Farm with up to 13.8MWac of export capacity, comprising the installation of solar photovoltaic panels and associated infrastructure including customer substation, DNO substation, inverter and transformer substations, customer cabin, spare parts container, storage containers, maintenance tracks, fencing, security cameras, landscape planting, swales and associated works including grid connection.* The site secured planning permission from Braintree District Council in January 2025 via application 24/02673/FUL. The connection date for the project is not yet 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 Eden Renewables to demonstrate how their interests may be affected, how Eden Renewables or National Grid and its contractors can collectively reduce those effects and input to agree the implementation of such measures.

Engagement History

The chronology of National Grid's engagement with the Eden Renewables to date, and the evolution of the Project's design is summarised as follows:

- 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: 2nd December 2024, 24th February 2025, 6th May 2025

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 location of assets that would result in loss of development (and PV panels) with pylon location and oversail located to the south of the site.	Eden Renewables understand that no permanent loss of footprint will arise from NG asset placement on current design	Agreed- 24th February 2025 Further Consultation 6th May 2025 Further Engagement between National Grid and Eden Renewable paused at the request of Eden Renewables due to the solar opportunity being within a yet to be concluded sale process.	24/02673/FUL planning application with Braintree District Council on behalf of Eden CF Solar 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 expected panels will either have to be removed, replaced or their installation delayed. pending completion of the National Grid works.		NG awaits details of new developer.	
6.3	Modifications to Existing Equipment	To be confirmed whether adequate earthing will be required in response to oversail or close proximity of 400kv infrastructure.		Ongoing discussion with key points yet to be confirmed. No conflict with previous proposals. NG awaits update from new promoter.	
6.4	Temporary Construction Effects	Temporary Haul Road Access arrangements within the Solar Farm are to be confirmed and will likely be minimal based on final design. Additional maintenance that could be needed due to net effects such as dust or compensation for damage/repair to operational equipment.		Ongoing discussion with key points yet to be confirmed. NG awaits update from new promoter.	
6.5	Operational Effects (excluding	None currently raised.	.	Ongoing discussion with key points yet to be confirmed.	

ID	Issue	National Grid Position	Stakeholder Position	Status	Relevant documentation
	reduced panel numbers)			No conflict with previous proposals. NG awaits update from new promoter.	
6.6	Timescales	National Grid expect the start of the OHL works to be within a 'built environment' and solar farm development.		Ongoing discussion with key points yet to be confirmed. NG awaits update from new promoter.	
6.7	New promoter	National Grid would like to initiate discussions with the new promoter to continue to develop any mitigation measures.			

7. Signatures

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

For National Grid

Name: _____

Position: _____

Date: _____

For Eden Renewables

Name: _____

Position: _____

Date: _____

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