

AENC-NG-CNS-REP-0223

# Norwich to Tilbury

**Volume 8: Examination Documents**

**Document: 8.3.7 Draft Statement of Common Ground - Essex  
International Jamboree**

**Final Issue A**

**February 2026**

**Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN020027**

**nationalgrid**

# **Essex International Jamboree**

## **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 the Essex international jamboree regarding potential effects on the event in relation to the proposed Norwich to Tilbury Project.

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 the operator of the Essex International Jamboree.

### **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 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**

Essex International Jamboree (EIJ) is an event held every four years. It has been held in Essex since 1947. The event has been held on land owned by CJH Farming Limited at Boyton Hall Farm, Roxwell, Chelmsford CM1 4NL since 2012. An agreement is in place with the landowner for the event to run in 2024, 2028 and subsequently on a four yearly cycle. The event has a budget of £2.1 million funded entirely by the attending participants. In 2024 the event attracted over 5,000 young people, 1,200 supporting Scout and Guide Leaders and 1,350 event staff. Young people attend the event with supporting leaders and enjoy a wide range of activities throughout the week, all located on the site. The event is organised, managed and run by volunteers. There will be leaders, volunteer staff and young people from over 40 countries worldwide. EIJ is one of the largest events of its kind in the country. It is a green field camping experience for young people (Scouts and Guides) aged 10 to 17 years together with supporting adults. Considerable volunteer resources and charitable funds have been spent installing infrastructure to support the event at this site. This includes underground septic tanks, a water ring main, improvements to tracks and access etc. There is also storage of equipment

conveniently located close by elsewhere on this holding. It is estimated that infrastructure in the region of £500k has been installed at this site. The EIJ site extends to approximately 125 acres and is directly affected by the proposed alignment of the Norwich to Tilbury Pylon Scheme. Towers TB157, TB158 & TB159 cross directly through the centre of the site utilised for this event.



The chronology of National Grid's engagement with the Essex international jamboree 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
- Site meeting on the 31<sup>st</sup> July at the 2024 event (representatives from the EIJ, and National Grid)
- Teams meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2024 (representatives from the EIJ, and National Grid)
- Landowner consultation June – July 2025 (representatives from the EIJ, and National Grid)
- Teams meeting 25<sup>th</sup> November 2025 (representatives from the EIJ, and National Grid), Correspondence between National Grid and EIJ attached at appendix one confirming current position.
- Teams meeting 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026 (representatives from the EIJ, and National Grid)

## 5. Matters Agreed

ID	Issue	Agreement reached	Date agreed	Relevant documentation
5.1	Planning for the EIJ 2028 event	It has been agreed that although the construction programme for the project is not yet known, planning for the EIJ 2028 event must commence ASAP. National Grid has agreed funds with the EIJ so that they can commence planning on two grounds, 1) establish whether the 2028 event can continue at the site with the haul road in situ but not in use, and 2) find an alternative site to host the event.	04/09/24	
5.2	Alternative site to be found, either to hold the event permanently or just the 2028 event.	It has been agreed that although the 2028 event may be able to proceed on the existing site, and future events once the OHL is in situ, it is acknowledged that the OHL will change the outlook of the site and the nature of the event as green camping experience and hosting around 5000 young people. Taking this into account National Grid does not disagree with the EIJ position, that an alternative site for the event would preferably be found.	04/09/24	

ID	Issue	Agreement reached	Date agreed	Relevant documentation
5.3	Cost undertaking agreed between NG and EIJ	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="539 392 1104 571">1. Prepare a feasibility report and options for a re-design of the existing site to accommodate the haul road and potential works, such that the 2028 event can take place.</li><li data-bbox="539 579 1104 727">2. Liaise with the existing landowner to prepare a feasibility report to provide an alternative site for the event at Boyton Hall.</li><li data-bbox="539 735 1126 884">3. Prepare a site specification, undertake a site search, and instigate Without Prejudice discussions with potential site owners to find an alternative site.</li><li data-bbox="539 892 1104 1040">4. Recognising the specialist nature of the task to be undertaken by the EIJ team an hourly rate+ expenses has been agreed.</li></ol>	04/09/24	

## 6. Matters Currently Under Discussion

ID	Issue	Essex International Jabaree position (including date)	National Grid response (including date)	Relevant documentation
6.1	Construction timing	The proposed schedule for construction straddles the 2028 event. The order limits and associated works will sever a significant area of the EIJ site. It is considered that construction of such a significant infrastructure project is incompatible with the event. As currently scheduled, this will prevent the 2028 event from taking place and may also impact the 2032 Jamboree if the project is delayed.	At present it is agreed that if the construction works are carried out in this section at the same time as the planned 2028 event it will render the site unusable. Further engagement is needed as the Project programme progresses to determine the phasing of the works and how the event can be accommodated.	
6.2	Pylon locations	The location of the pylons themselves will directly affect and reduce the available area for the event. The cable over sail will reduce the camping, sleeping, cooking and activity areas.	National Grid has looked at the micro siting of pylons TB157, TB158 & TB159 along the current alignment, and whether there is an opportunity to route the OHL around the site taking a Southeasterly alignment. At this point both options have been discounted as both are felt to not address the potential impacts on the EIJ site.	

ID	Issue	Essex International Jabaree position (including date)	National Grid response (including date)	Relevant documentation
6.3	Interaction with event equipment and site layout	The pylons and cabling are likely to interfere with the operation of equipment used at the event including electrical ring main and lighting, as well as temporary structures including an entertainment stage, climbing tower, lighting towers, marquees, Wi-Fi and other communications equipment. It is also considered that the noise from the pylons will be unacceptable to the attendees.	Further assessment will be required to determine if the OHL will interfere with temporary and permanent equipment and infrastructure on the site. Once the OHL is in place safety clearances will need to be adhered to.	
6.4	Safety of event being held in close proximity to overhead line	National Grid have failed to satisfy the Essex Scout and Guide Trustees, as to the safety of proceeding with this event near the proposed pylons and cabling, including providing assurance with regard any potential health concerns.	National Grid is satisfied that large events such as the EIJ can coexist safely with OHL, and there are examples of this happening across the country. National Grid does acknowledge that if the Project takes place and the proposed OHL is constructed, there will then be safety restrictions on the site that are currently not an issue.	

## 7. Signatures

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

For National Grid

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

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

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

For Essex International Jamboree

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

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

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

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