

AENC-NG-CNS-REP-0225

# Norwich to Tilbury

**Volume 8: Examination Documents**

**Document: 8.3.9 Draft Statement of Common Ground -  
Clearserve Limited (CSL)**

**Final Issue A**

**February 2026**

**Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN020027**

**nationalgrid**

# **Clearserve Limited (CSL)**

## **Draft Statement of Common Ground**

### **1. Purpose of the Statement of Common Ground**

This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared to reflect the current understanding of the areas of agreement and any remaining points of discussion between National Grid and Clearserve Limited (CSL) regarding specific issues arising during construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the proposed Norwich to Tilbury Project (the Project) and its interface with CSL assets. The aim is to clarify the shared understanding of any issues and facilitate an efficient resolution process. The SoCG is intended to be a live document and will be updated as necessary throughout the pre-examination and examination stages of the DCO process. It is without prejudice to any terms of any related side agreements between the parties.

### **2. Parties to the SoCG**

This SoCG is agreed between National Grid and Clearserve Limited.

### **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**

CSL has legal interests in land that have the potential to interact with the Norwich to Tilbury proposals. This has been identified as land east of the Tilbury North substation site, Buckingham Hill Road and east of the overhead line alignment.

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

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

- 2023
  - Introductory meeting to detail the proposed Norwich to Tilbury scheme and project team members
- 2024
  - Engagement and discussions on anticipated impacts on existing and proposed site uses
  - Discussions on alternative arrangements of proposed works
  - Discussions on potential transport requirements of access to works
- 2025
  - Engagement and discussions regarding specific arrangements and positioning for 132kV diversions
  - Engagement and discussions on CSL future plans including potential 3<sup>rd</sup> party interest. Early draft of items to be included within the Statement of Common Ground.
- 2026
  - Engagement and discussions with CSL and a 3<sup>rd</sup> party developer to discuss potential for successful co-existence of all parties interests.

## 5. Matters Agreed

ID	Issue	Agreement reached	Date agreed	Relevant documentation
5.1	Interfacing interests	CSL has submitted a Relevant Representation (ref: RR-0663) outlining its position in respect of the Norwich to Tilbury proposals by National Grid. CSL and National Grid have continued a constructive dialogue and have identified that available flexibility has the potential to support the requirements of all parties. This is the subject of further discussion through detailed design as well as needing to be responsive to the outcome of discussions with the Highway Authority and Lower Thames Crossing. Further updates on progress, and whether the issues raised in CSL's Relevant Representation have been resolved between the parties, will be provided as the discussions progress to a conclusion.	21 January 2026	Clearserve Relevant Representation

## 6. Matters Currently Under Discussion

ID	Issue	Stakeholder position (including date)	National Grid position (including date)	Relevant documentation
6.1	Access	End Jan 2026. Willing to discuss appropriate alignment and arrangements for access, subject to appropriate commercial arrangements and support for 3 <sup>rd</sup> party development outcome. Preference for route along 'Farmers' Track.'	Access through the CSL site from Hofford Road to the substation site expected to be required but the nature and volume of vehicles cannot be confirmed at present.	
6.2	Ecological mitigation area	Concerned that use of site for ecological mitigation may compromise value proposition offered by third party. Other land could be made available elsewhere on the landholding for such purposes	Requirement may include need to mitigate for effects on Lower Thames Crossing ancient woodland mitigation which needs to be alongside the remaining area of such woodland. Scale of requirement awaiting confirmation as detailed design progresses.	

## 7. Signatures

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

For National Grid

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

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

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

For Clearserve Limited

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

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

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

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