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Norwich to Tilbury

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Final Issue A

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Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN020027

nationalgrid

Tarchon

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 Tarchon regarding specific issues arising during construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the proposed Norwich to Tilbury Project (the Project) and its interface with Tarchon 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 bespoke protective provisions included in the draft DCO for the protection of Tarchon, and to the terms of any related side agreements between the parties.

2. Parties to the SoCG

This SoCG is drafted between National Grid and Tarchon Energy Limited ('Tarchon').

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

Tarchon is a proposed interconnector that will create a direct power link between Germany and Great Britain, connecting the two countries' energy markets and increasing the security and reliability of their electrical systems and energy demand. The Tarchon project is in its pre-application stage. Its converter station will connect to the Project's EACN substation, via underground cabling and consented via its own DCO application. Tarchon Energy is a customer connection that is reliant on the Project's EACN being consented

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 TARCHON to demonstrate how their interests may be affected, how

Tarchon 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 Tarchon to date, and the evolution of the Project's design is summarised as follows:

- 2024
 - Project introductions and outline engagement principles.
- 2025
 - Strategic engagement on interfacing works areas, project status and project timelines.
- 2026
 - Detailed design engagement on EACN substation connection interface including bay design.
 - On-going strategic engagement on interfacing works areas, project status and project timelines.
 - Agreement to seek a formal coordination and cooperation agreement.

5. Matters Agreed

| ID | Issue | Agreement reached | Date agreed | Relevant documentation |
|-----|-------|-------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| 5.1 | | | | |

6. Matters Currently Under Discussion

| ID | Issue | Stakeholder position (including date) | National Grid position (including date) | Relevant documentation |
|-----|----------------------|---|--|------------------------|
| 6.1 | Connection Interface | 17/02/26 - EACN connection interface – on-going dialogue with National Grid team on the connection interface point and bay design | 17/02/26 – National Grids engagement with Tarchon in regards to the EACN connection Interface and bay design is ongoing in a cooperative manner. | |

7. Signatures

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

For National Grid

Name: _____

Position: _____

Date: _____

For Tarchon

Name: _____

Position: _____

Date: _____

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