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Norwich to Tilbury

Volume 5: Reports and Statements

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Clean Version

Final Issue B

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nationalgrid

Revision History

Version	Date	Submitted at
A	29 August 2025	DCO Application
B	26 February 2026	Deadline 1

Statements of Common Ground

1. Overview

- 1.1.1 In accordance with government guidance (Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects, published 30 April 2024), the Applicant has been developing Statements of Common Ground (SoCGs) with a number of statutory prescribed and non-prescribed consultees, statutory undertakers and interested parties throughout project development. The SoCGs seek to identify matters on which parties agree, and to track progress towards the resolution of any matters where agreement has not yet been reached.
- 1.1.2 The SoCGs are largely structured as follows:
- Summary of key engagement undertaken to date with the consultee
 - Table(s) summarising the key interests of the Parties (arranged by topic/discipline where relevant) and the status of each matter:
 - ‘Not agreed’ indicates a final position, where it has not been possible to resolve the issue to the agreement of both parties and there remains a difference of opinion;
 - ‘Under discussion’ indicates where issues are the subject of active ongoing discussion;
 - ‘Agreed’ indicates where an issues has been agreed or resolved satisfactorily to the agreement of both parties.
- 1.1.3 The Applicant undertook early preparation of Statements of Common Ground with the consultees identified in Table 1.1 during the pre-application period. These SoCGs were submitted as part of the DCO application and will be updated as required throughout the examination process.

2. Deadline 1 SoCG submissions

- 2.1.1 The Applicant welcomes the clarity provided in the **Rule 6 letter [PD-009]** regarding SoCGs. We note that no additional stakeholders (beyond those listed within this document) were requested by the Examining Authority to require a SoCG.
- 2.1.2 The Applicant also welcomes the level of engagement from stakeholders during the pre-application and pre-examination phases, together with the progress that has been made on the SoCGs in advance of Deadline 1.
- 2.1.3 In accordance with the request in the Rule 6 letter Annex F, and through engagement with stakeholders, the Applicant is providing an update on the full suite of SoCGs at Deadline 1, including the additional SoCGs listed in Table 1.2 of this overview document.

- 2.1.4 As part of this deadline, the Applicant has reviewed the stakeholders listed in Table 1.3 (not requiring a SoCG), cross-referenced with the relevant representations received and confirmed that this position has not changed for any of the stakeholders listed.
- 2.1.5 Articles in the Development Consent Order (DCO) have been addressed in host authority SoCGs, where early drafts of the draft DCO and draft Requirements were shared prior to submission of the DCO application for stakeholder information. Future iterations of SoCGs will include articles and requirements in the draft DCO where relevant to the stakeholder.
- 2.1.6 The Applicant looks forward to continued engagement with stakeholders to resolve outstanding matters as far as possible and will reflect this engagement in updated SoCGs submitted at Deadline 4 as per the **Rule 6 letter [PD-009]**.

3. Updates to the SoCGs submitted with the DCO application

- 3.1.1 For Deadline 1, the majority (24) of SOCGs listed in Table 1.1 have been updated and a second draft submitted to the examination. These second drafts include the updated position on matters following application documentation being made available to review in full following DCO acceptance.
- 3.1.2 Where stakeholders have referred to responses within their relevant representations and the Applicant has responded through that process, the responses have not been repeated within the SoCG to avoid repetition and adding to the length of the documents. Instead, a cross-reference to the relevant representation responses has been added.
- 3.1.3 In five instances listed in Table 1.1, while engagement has been ongoing, there have been no substantive updates to the SoCGs at Deadline 1. The Applicant notes that there was no instruction within the **Rule 6 letter [PD-009]** or **Rule 8 letter [PD-011]** regarding submission of these specific SoCGs at this deadline, so an update has not been provided at this Deadline 1.

Table 1.1 SoCGs submitted with the DCO application

Examination Ref	Consultee	Second Draft Status
APP-089	Norfolk County Council (NCC) (incl. LLFA and Highways)	Submitted
APP-090	Suffolk County Council (SCC) (incl. LLFA and Highways)	Submitted
APP-091	Essex County Council (ECC) (incl. LLFA and Highways)	Submitted
APP-092	Thurrock Council (TC) (incl. LLFA and Highways)	Submitted
APP-093	South Norfolk District Council	Submitted
APP-094	Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils	Submitted
APP-095	Tendring District Council	Submitted

Examination Ref	Consultee	Second Draft Status
APP-096	Colchester City Council	Submitted
APP-097	Braintree District Council	Submitted
APP-098	Chelmsford City Council	Submitted
APP-099	Brentwood Borough Council	Submitted
APP-100	Basildon Borough Council	Submitted
APP-101	Natural England	Submitted
APP-102	Historic England	Submitted
APP-103	Environment Agency	Submitted
APP-104	Combined IDBs - Water Management Alliance	Submitted
APP-105	Norfolk Wildlife Trust	Submitted
APP-106	Suffolk Wildlife Trust	Submitted
APP-107	Essex Wildlife Trust	Submitted
APP-108	National Highways	Submitted
APP-109	Barnards Farm Airfield	Signed and dated – see Table 1.4
APP-110	Thurrock Airfield	Submitted
APP-111	Network Rail	Positive engagement but no substantive updates, agreed with stakeholder not to update at Deadline 1
APP-112	Innova (Battery Storage Systems)	Positive engagement but no substantive updates, agreed with stakeholder not to update at Deadline 1
APP-113	Anglian Water	Positive engagement but no substantive updates, agreed with stakeholder not to update at Deadline 1
APP-114	Essex & Suffolk Water	Positive engagement but no substantive updates, agreed with stakeholder not to update at Deadline 1
APP-115	Exolum International UK Ltd	Submitted (previously referred to as “Exolum”)
APP-116	National Gas Transmission	Positive engagement but no substantive updates, agreed with stakeholder not to update at Deadline 1

Examination Ref	Consultee	Second Draft Status
APP-117	Scottish Power Renewables (East Anglia 1 & East Anglia 3)	Submitted
APP-118	MSP Fairwind Limited	Submitted (previously referred to as “Fairwinds Solar (Lightsource BP/Vantage)”))
APP-119	Brook Farm Aerodrome	Signed and dated – see Table 1.4

3.1.4 In some limited cases, specific issues have been categorised as ‘not agreed’ by a local authority where it is the Applicant’s view that these matters are still under further discussion. In such cases, the local authority has agreed that further discussions will be had on these specific matters. This applies to the following matters:

- South Norfolk District Council: Tables 3.4 and 3.5
- Suffolk County Council: Tables 3.8 and 3.11
- Tendring District Council: ID 3.2.11, Tables 3.5, 3.7 and 3.11
- Braintree District Council: Table 3.8

3.1.5 As part of the Applicant’s engagement with statutory prescribed and non-prescribed consultees, statutory undertakers and interested parties during the development of the DCO application, a number of additional SoCGs were identified as in progress, but not submitted, as part of the DCO application. These consultees are listed in Table 1.2.

3.1.6 As requested by the Examining Authority in the **Rule 6 letter [PD-009]**, SoCGs with consultees listed in Table 1.2 have been submitted at Deadline 1. Where a consultee listed in Table 1.2 does not have a SoCG submitted at this deadline, justification has been provided in the table below.

Table 1.2 First draft SoCGs submitted at Deadline 1

Ref	Consultee	Status at Deadline 1
8.3.1	Dedham Vale National Landscape and Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape	Positive progress has been made by both parties and a draft SoCG will be submitted at a future deadline, to align with stakeholder sign-off procedures
8.3.2	Suffolk Constabulary	Submitted
8.3.3	Essex Police	Submitted
8.3.4	Lower Thames Crossing	Submitted
8.3.5	Affinity Water	Submitted
8.3.6	Flying Trade Group Ltd	Submitted
8.3.7	Essex International Jamboree	Submitted
8.3.8	Orsett Golf Club	Submitted

Ref	Consultee	Status at Deadline 1
8.3.9	Clearserve Limited CSL	Submitted
8.3.10	Equinor	Submitted
8.3.11	Park Farm Solar	Not submitted – duplicate of Crouch Solar Farm (referred to by both names throughout its planning process)
8.3.12	LIH Dunton Hills Limited	Submitted
8.3.13	Bloor Homes	Submitted
8.3.14	Crest Nicholson Operations Ltd / Bellway Homes Ltd	Submitted
8.3.15	EDF Renewables	Submitted
8.3.16	Brick Kiln Solar Farm (Quintas Group)	Submitted
8.3.17	Ralos Projects Ltd	Submitted
8.3.18	Innova Renewables	Submitted
8.3.19	Conrad Energy	Submitted – name of SoCG updated to reflect Conrad Energy’s Solar and Gas interests
8.3.20	Crouch Solar Farm (Low Carbon Limited)	Submitted
8.3.21	Verdant Energy	Submitted
8.3.22	Eden Renewables	Submitted
8.3.23	Grange Farm Solar Development	Submitted
8.3.24	Conrad Energy Gas Engines	Not submitted – it has been agreed with Conrad Energy that any matters related to Conrad Energy Gas Engines will be captured as part of Conrad Energy’s SoCG
8.3.25	Pivoted Power	Submitted
8.3.26	Cadent Gas	Submitted
8.3.27	Bradwell Quarry (Blackwater Aggregates)	Submitted
8.3.28	Martells Mineral Site A85 & A86	Submitted
8.3.29	Crown Quarry	Submitted
8.3.30	Ingrebourne Valley Limited	Submitted
8.3.31	Sheepcote Quarry	Submitted
8.3.32	Lowleys Farm Mineral Site	Not submitted - further to discussions with the stakeholder, it was agreed not to submit a draft SoCG at Deadline 1. Both parties are continuing discussions with a view to reaching agreement.

Ref	Consultee	Status at Deadline 1
8.3.33	Chase Farm Airfield	Submitted
8.3.34	South Norfolk Model Flying Club	Submitted
8.3.35	Raydon Wings Aerodrome	Submitted
8.3.36	Priory Farm Airfield	Submitted
8.3.37	Tibenham Aerodrome	Submitted
8.3.38	Letter - Wattisham Flying Station	The MOD DIO is in agreement that a separate SoCG with Wattisham Flying Station is not required. A letter stating this has been sent to Wattisham Flying Station, copied to the MOD DIO, and is provided under this document reference number.
8.3.39	MOD DIO (aviation safeguarding)	Not submitted – further to discussions with the stakeholder, a draft SoCG has not been submitted at Deadline 1. Both parties are continuing discussions with a view to reaching agreement.
8.3.40	East of England Ambulance Service	Submitted
8.3.41	Norfolk Constabulary	Submitted
8.3.42	UK Power Networks	Submitted
8.3.43	British Pipeline Agency	Submitted
8.3.44	Fulcrum Pipelines Limited	Submitted
8.3.45	Transmission Capital	Submitted
8.3.46	Virgin Media	Submitted
8.3.47	Vodafone	Submitted
8.3.48	Arelion	Submitted
8.3.49	Cityfibre	Submitted
8.3.50	Energy Assets Networks	Submitted
8.3.51	ESP Utilities Group	Submitted
8.3.52	euNetworks	Submitted
8.3.53	EXA Infrastructure	Submitted
8.3.54	GTC	Submitted
8.3.55	Lumen Technologies	Submitted
8.3.56	Verizon	Submitted
8.3.57	Zayo	Submitted
8.3.58	Gigaclear	Submitted

Ref	Consultee	Status at Deadline 1
8.3.59	Associated British Ports	Submitted
8.3.60	Peel Ports	Submitted
8.3.61	Hutchison Ports	Submitted
8.3.62	Tarchon	Submitted
8.3.63	Sport England	Submitted (additional SoCG not identified at application)
8.3.64	White Notley FC	Submitted (additional SoCG not identified at application)

- 3.1.7 The Applicant has been engaging with other statutory prescribed and non-prescribed consultees, statutory undertakers and interested parties during the development of the DCO application. SoCGs with these consultees are unlikely to be produced at this stage for the reasons set out in Table 1.3 below. This may be subject to change should further engagement with or representations from these consultees indicate a SoCG may be beneficial.
- 3.1.8 Please note that while the Applicant has been engaging with neighbouring authorities as prescribed consultees throughout project development, it is the Applicant's view that SoCGs are not required with stakeholders other than those listed above, and neither has a SoCG been requested by them.
- 3.1.9 As requested by the Examining Authority in the **Rule 6 letter [PD-009]**, the content of Table 1.3 has been reviewed ahead of Deadline 1, and updated where required.

Table 1.3 SoCGs not currently proposed

Consultee	Justification
Canal and River Trust	No interaction with the project (confirmed in statutory consultation response and relevant representation)
National Trust	Consultee confirmed no SoCG required
Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service	Did not respond to outreach for SoCG, did not respond to statutory consultation. Any matters relevant to Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service may be captured as part of Norfolk County Council's SoCG.
Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service	Did not respond to outreach for SoCG, did not respond to statutory consultation
Essex Fire and Rescue Service	Did not respond to outreach for SoCG, statutory consultation response has been considered in relevant assessments and documentation
NHS Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care Board	Did not respond to outreach for SoCG, did not respond to statutory consultation
NHS Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board	Did not respond to outreach for SoCG, statutory consultation response has been considered in relevant assessments and documentation

Consultee	Justification
Port of Tilbury	No longer interacting due to changes made following statutory consultation
East Anglian Air Ambulance	No impact to aviation movements, did not respond to statutory consultation
Broomfield Hospital (Air Ambulance)	Consultee confirmed no impact in statutory consultation response
Boxted Airfield	Disused airfield
Elmsett Airfield	No identified impact
Garnons Farm Airfield	No identified impact
Laindon Airfield/Bensons Farm Airfield	No identified impact, outside aviation assessment scope
Long Stratton Airfield	No identified impact
Nayland Airfield	No identified impact
Wormingford Airfield	No identified impact
Brock Farm aerodrome	Not operational
Crowfield aerodrome	No identified impact
Dysons Farm helipad	No identified impact
Hinderclay Meadows aerodrome	No identified impact
Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Safeguarding	No response to engagement to date, have been liaising with CAA Airfield Advisory Team throughout project development
Civil Aviation Authority – Airfield Advisory Team (AAT)	<p>Significant engagement throughout project development, however the AAT were disbanded in March 2025 before a SoCG was able to be agreed.</p> <p>CAA AAT provided a position statement regarding Norwich to Tilbury before their disbandment. Discussions regarding aviation are ongoing with Suffolk County Council and other councils as relevant.</p>
General Aviation Awareness Council (GAAC)	Non-prescribed. Have engaged throughout project development process, engagement ongoing.
British Gliding Association	Non-prescribed, engagement ongoing.
North Falls	Work progressing on Protective Provisions, commercially confidential.
Five Estuaries	Work progressing on Protective Provisions, commercially confidential
MOD DIO (abandoned pipelines)	Latest data suggests originally identified interface pipeline now Exolum.
Met Office	Engaged during project development and confirmed no impact.
Openreach	Heads of Terms to be agreed, commercially confidential.

3.1.10 Additionally, since submission of the DCO application, the following SoCGs outlined in Table 1.4 have now been agreed, signed and dated by both parties.

Table 1.4 SoCGs

Ref	Consultee
5.9.22	Barnards Farm Airfield
5.9.32	Brook Farm Aerodrome

National Grid plc
National Grid House,
Warwick Technology Park,
Gallows Hill, Warwick.
CV34 6DA United Kingdom

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