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Tracked Changes Version

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nationalgrid

Revision History

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

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 National Grid 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, during the preparation of the DCO application. 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.

~~National Grid has undertaken early preparation of statements with the consultees identified in Table 1.1 below during the pre-application period. Table 1.1 provides a list of those SoCGs currently being developed. Please note this list is subject to change following continued engagement with the consultees.~~

~~National Grid will continue to review and develop the SoCGs with the relevant consultees throughout the acceptance, pre-examination and examination stages of the Project. SoCGs will be submitted to the Examining Authority as required during the Examination phase.~~

~~Reflecting the various types of consultees and their interests in the application, SoCGs have taken different formats:~~

- ~~• Multiple issue SoCGs — for consultees who are interested in multiple disciplines/aspects of the application~~
- ~~• Single issue “letter” SoCGs — shorter document used for consultees who have specific areas of focus~~
- ~~• Heads of Terms — for more commercially sensitive consultees to outline the position reached by the Parties through engagement to date.~~

~~1.1.81.1.2~~ The SoCGs ~~are~~will largely ~~be~~ 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

Table 1.1 — Submitted SoCGs

<u>Examination Ref</u>	<u>Consultee</u>	<u>Second Draft Status</u> <u>Type</u>
<u>APP-0895-9.1</u>	Norfolk County Council (NCC) (incl. LLFA and Highways)	<u>Submitted</u> <u>Multiple issue</u>
<u>APP-0905-9.2</u>	Suffolk County Council (SCC) (incl. LLFA and Highways)	<u>Submitted</u> <u>Multiple issue</u>
<u>APP-0915-9.3</u>	Essex County Council (ECC) (incl. LLFA and Highways)	<u>Submitted</u> <u>Multiple issue</u>
<u>APP-0925-9.4</u>	Thurrock Council (TC) (incl. LLFA and Highways)	<u>Submitted</u> <u>Multiple issue</u>
<u>APP-0935-9.5</u>	South Norfolk <u>District</u> Council	<u>Submitted</u> <u>Multiple issue</u>
<u>APP-0945-9.6</u>	Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils	<u>Submitted</u> <u>Multiple issue</u>
<u>APP-0955-9.7</u>	Tendring District Council	<u>Submitted</u> <u>Multiple issue</u>
<u>APP-0965-9.8</u>	Colchester City <u>Council</u> <u>Council</u>	<u>Submitted</u> <u>Multiple issue</u>
<u>APP-0975-9.9</u>	Braintree District Council	<u>Submitted</u> <u>Multiple issue</u>
<u>APP-0985-9.10</u>	Chelmsford City Council	<u>Submitted</u> <u>Multiple issue</u>
<u>APP-0995-9.11</u>	Brentwood Borough Council	<u>Submitted</u> <u>Multiple issue</u>
<u>APP-1005-9.12</u>	Basildon Borough Council	<u>Submitted</u> <u>Multiple issue</u>
<u>APP-1015-9.13</u>	Natural England	<u>Submitted</u> <u>Multiple issue</u>
<u>APP-1025-9.14</u>	Historic England	<u>Submitted</u> <u>Multiple issue</u>
<u>APP-1035-9.15</u>	Environment Agency	<u>Submitted</u> <u>Multiple issue</u>
<u>APP-1045-9.16</u>	Combined IDBs - Water Management Alliance	<u>Submitted</u> <u>Single issue</u>
<u>APP-1055-9.17</u>	Norfolk Wildlife Trust	<u>Submitted</u> <u>Single issue</u>
<u>APP-1065-9.18</u>	Suffolk Wildlife Trust	<u>Submitted</u> <u>Single issue</u>
<u>APP-1075-9.19</u>	Essex Wildlife Trust	<u>Submitted</u> <u>Single issue</u>

<u>Examination Ref</u>	<u>Consultee</u>	<u>Second Draft Status</u> <u>Type</u>
<u>APP-1085-9.20</u> 5.9.21	National Highways Not used	<u>Submitted</u> <u>Single issue</u>
<u>APP-1095-9.22</u>	Barnards Farm Airfield	<u>Signed and dated – see Table 1.4</u> <u>Single issue</u>
<u>APP-1105-9.23</u>	Thurrock Airfield	<u>Submitted</u> <u>Single issue</u>
<u>APP-1115-9.24</u>	Network Rail	<u>Positive engagement but no substantive updates, agreed with stakeholder not to update at Deadline 1</u> <u>Single issue</u>
<u>APP-1125-9.25</u>	Innova (Battery Storage Systems)	<u>Positive engagement but no substantive updates, agreed with stakeholder not to update at Deadline 1</u> <u>Single issue</u>
<u>APP-1135-9.26</u>	Anglian Water	<u>Positive engagement but no substantive updates, agreed with stakeholder not to update at Deadline 1</u> <u>Single issue</u>
<u>APP-1145-9.27</u>	Essex & Suffolk Water	<u>Positive engagement but no substantive updates, agreed with stakeholder not to update at Deadline 1</u> <u>Single issue</u>
<u>APP-1155-9.28</u>	Exolum <u>International UK Ltd</u>	<u>Submitted (previously referred to as “Exolum”)</u> <u>Single issue</u>
<u>APP-1165-9.29</u>	National Gas Transmission	<u>Positive engagement but no substantive updates, agreed with stakeholder not to update at Deadline 1</u> <u>Single issue</u>
<u>APP-1175-9.30</u>	Scottish Power Renewables (<u>East Anglia 1 and East Anglia 3EA3</u>)	<u>Submitted</u> <u>Single issue</u>
<u>APP-1185-9.34</u>	<u>MSP Fairwind Limited Fairwinds Solar (Lightsource BPAVantage)</u>	<u>Submitted (previously referred</u>

<u>Examination Ref</u>	<u>Consultee</u>	<u>Second Draft Status</u> <u>Type</u>
		to as “Fairwinds Solar (Lightsource BP/Vantage)” Single issue
<u>APP-1195-9-32</u>	Brook Farm Aerodrome	Signed and dated – see Table 1.4 Single issue

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

4.1.93.1.5 As part of ~~the Applicant’s~~ National Grid’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~~some~~ SoCGs were identified as in progress, have been drafted but ~~have not been~~ submitted, as part of the DCO application. These consultees are listed in Table 1.2, ~~Table 1.2~~ below. ~~This is largely due to consultees awaiting sight of the DCO documentation before they confirm their position in relation to the application. National Grid intends to submit these SoCGs at a later date.~~

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

Table 1.2 Engagement in progress

Ref	Consultee	Status at Deadline 1
8.3.1	Dedham Vale National Landscape and Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape	Tarcho <u>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</u>
<u>8.3.2</u>	<u>Suffolk Constabulary</u>	<u>Submitted</u>
<u>8.3.3</u>	<u>Essex Police</u>	<u>Submitted</u>
<u>8.3.4</u>	<u>Lower Thames Crossing</u>	<u>Submitted</u>
<u>8.3.5</u>	<u>Affinity Water</u>	<u>Submitted</u>
<u>8.3.6</u>	<u>Flying Trade Group Ltd</u>	<u>Submitted</u>
<u>8.3.7</u>	<u>Essex International Jamboree</u>	<u>Submitted</u>
<u>8.3.8</u>	<u>Orsett Golf Club</u>	<u>Submitted</u>
<u>8.3.9</u>	<u>Clearserve Limited CSL</u>	<u>Submitted</u>
East of England & Ambulance Service <u>8.3.10</u>	Equinor	Submitted
<u>8.3.11</u> Norfolk Constabulary	Park Farm Solar	Not submitted – duplicate of Crouch Solar Farm (referred to by both names throughout its planning process)
<u>8.3.12</u> Suffolk Constabulary	LIH CEG/ Dunton Hills <u>Limited Garden Village</u>	Submitted
<u>8.3.13</u> Essex Constabulary	Bloor Homes	Submitted
Lower Thames & Crossing <u>8.3.14</u>	Crest Nicholson <u>Operations Ltd</u> /and Bellway Homes <u>Ltd</u>	Submitted

Ref	Consultee	Status at Deadline 1
Affinity Water 8.3.15	Bloy Solar , EDF Renewables	Submitted
UK Power Networks 8.3.16	Brick Kiln Solar Farm (Quintas Group) Mulbarton solar farm	Submitted
8.3.17 British Pipeline Association	Ralos Projects Ltd	Submitted
Fulcrum Pipeline 8.3.18	Innova Renewables Park Gate	Submitted
Transmission Capital 8.3.19	Conrad Energy Solar	Submitted – name of SoCG updated to reflect Conrad Energy's Solar and Gas interests
Virgin 8.3.20	Crouch Solar Farm (Low Carbon Limited)	Submitted
Vodafone 8.3.21	Verdant Energy Bramford Solar Farm	Submitted
Arelion 8.3.22	Eden Renewables Crossing Solar Farm	Submitted
Cityfibre 8.3.23	Grange Farm Solar Development	Submitted
8.3.24	Conrad Energy Networks Gas Engines Assets	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
ESP Utilities Group 8.3.25	Pivoted Power Battery Storage	Submitted
euNetworks 8.3.26	Cadent Gas	Submitted
EXA Infrastructure 8.3.27	Bradwell Monks Quarry (Blackwater Aggregates)	Submitted
8.3.28 GTC	Martells Mineral Site Martell Minerals A85 & A86	Submitted

Ref	Consultee	Status at Deadline 1
Lumen Technologies 8.3.29	Crown Quarry mineral site A79	Submitted
Verizon 8.3.30	Ingrebourne Valley mineral site	Submitted
Zayo 8.3.31	Sheepcote Quarry	Submitted
Gigamon 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.
8.3.33A Associated British Ports (ABP)	Chase Farm Airfield	Submitted
8.3.34P Port of Great Yarmouth	South Norfolk Model Aircraft Club	Submitted
8.3.35P Port of Harwich	Raydon Wings Aerodrome Airfield	Submitted
Flying Trade Group 8.3.36	Priory Farm Airfield	Submitted
8.3.37E Essex International Scout Jamboree	Tibenham Aerodrome Tibbenham Airfield	Submitted
8.3.38O rsett Golf Course	Letter - Wattisham Flying Station	<u>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. Wattisham Flying Station</u>
8.3.39G earserv	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

Ref	Consultee	Status at Deadline 1
e/Orsett Quarry		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
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)

~~The Applicant has~~**National Grid have** 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~~**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.

Please note that while ~~the Applicant has~~**we have** 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 we have not sought SoCGs prior to DCO submission,~~**it is the Applicant's view that SoCGs are not required with stakeholders other than those listed above, and we have not sought SoCGs prior to DCO submission,** neither has a SoCG been requested by them.

3.1.7 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 1.33 SoCGs not currently proposed

Consultee	Justification
Canal and River Trust	No interaction with the project (confirmed in statutory consultation response <u>and relevant representation</u>)
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. <u>Any matters relevant to Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service may be captured as part of Norfolk County Council's SoCG.</u>
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
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

Consultee	Justification
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)	Significant engagement throughout project development, however the AAT were disbanded in March 2025 before a SoCG was able to be agreed. 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.
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.

3.1.8 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
<u>5.9.22</u>	<u>Barnards Farm Airfield</u>
<u>5.9.32</u>	<u>Brook Farm Aerodrome</u>

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